ACM/SIGART and AAAI invite students to participate in the Fourth SIGART/AAAI Doctoral Consortium. The Doctoral Consortium (DC) provides an opportunity for a group of Ph.D. students to discuss and explore their research interests and career objectives together with a panel of established researchers.

The consortium has the following objectives:

- To provide a setting for mutual feedback on participants' current research, and guidance on future research directions
- To develop a supportive community of scholars and a spirit of collaborative research
- To support a new generation of researchers with information and advice on academic, research, industrial, and non-traditional career paths
- To contribute to the conference goals through interaction with other researchers and participation in conference events.

The Doctoral Consortium will be held as a workshop on July 18-19, 1999, concurrently with other workshops preceding the main conference. Student participants in the Doctoral Consortium will receive complimentary conference registration and a travel reimbursement of $750. In addition, participants' thesis summaries will be published in the AAAI-99 conference proceedings.

Review Process

The consortium organizing committee will select participants on the basis of their anticipated contribution to the workshop goals. We look forward to a diverse group of students who reflect a wide range of topic areas and methodologies within artificial intelligence. Students will be selected who have settled on their thesis directions, but who still have significant research left to do. The perfect stage is having just had a research proposal accepted by the thesis committee. Students will be selected based on clarity and completeness of the submission packet, stage of research, advisor's letter, and any other evidence of promise such as published papers or technical reports.

The Submission Packet

Applicants to the Doctoral Consortium should submit a packet consisting of six copies of the following four items. Hardcopy submissions are required; no electronic submissions will be accepted.

1. Thesis Summary. A two page thesis summary which outlines the problem being addressed, the proposed work plan, and a description of the progress to date. Please be sure to distinguish between work that has already been accomplished and work that remains to be done.

2. Additional Information. Information (at most two pages) on your background and relevant experience. This should include information typically found in a curriculum vitae, plus additional information that may indicate your potential contribution to the DC.

3. Letter of Recommendation. A letter of recommendation from your thesis advisor. It must include an assessment of the current status of your thesis research, and an expected date for thesis submission. In addition, your advisor should indicate what he or she hopes you would gain from participation in the DC.

4. Participant's Expectations. A short (one page or less) statement of what you expect to gain from presenting and participating in the DC, as well as what you think you can contribute to the DC. This will help the organizers structure the DC to better serve your expectations.

Mail your submission packet to:
AAAI-99 Doctoral Consortium
445 Burgess Drive
Menlo Park, CA 94025-3442
(Tel: 650-328-3123)

Submission Due Date

Submissions are due February 5, 1999.

Upon Acceptance

Notifications will be mailed to applicants March 15-19, 1999. A one-page camera-ready copy of the thesis summary (in the standard AAAI format) is due at the AAAI office by April 6, 1999. Transfer of the copyright of the one-page thesis summary will be required.

At the Conference

The organizers invite all students to attend and participate in the Doctoral Consortium, whether or not they apply to present their work. In previous years, many non-presenting students said they found it useful to observe their peers' presentations and participate in the ensuing discussions.

All participants selected to present their work at the Doctoral Consortium are expected to be present throughout the consortium. We believe that participants gain almost as much by interacting with their peers as by having their presentations critiqued by the faculty panel. As such, we expect a commitment from participating students to attend the entire DC.

To support additional feedback on students' research, each DC participant will be given a place at the AAAI Poster Session to be held the evening of Tuesday, July 20, in conjunction with the AAAI-98 reception. Further information about the Poster Session will be sent along with acceptance letters.

Additional Information

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the chair of the organizing committee:

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