(MSRF) MICROSOFT RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

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Description/Details

Microsoft Research India (MSR India) Fellowship is a two-year program for UG graduates or those who are in the final year of their UG program in computer science or related areas, who wish to pursue PhD, research later on. The fellowship provides opportunities to work on cutting-edge research projects, collaborate with top researchers in the field, and access to state-of-the-art resources and facilities.

The timeline for the MSR India Fellowship program is as follows:

● Application deadline: 10th Feburary, 2023

● Online interviews: April end

● Fellowship starts: July

During the fellowship, the selected candidates are expected to work on research projects under the guidance of mentors, attend workshops and seminars, and present their work at various conferences and symposiums. They are also expected to contribute to the research community by publishing papers, developing new algorithms or technologies, and participating in collaborative projects. The fellowship also provides a stipend, travel support, and access to resources such as computing infrastructure and software licenses. The program is designed to support the growth and development of young researchers and provide them with a strong foundation for a successful research career.

Application

The application opened during start-mid December to the first week of February. The application was to file with details like a Resume, Transcript, Statement of Purpose, and Research Fellow (RF) interest form, with at least 1 Letter of Recommendation (LOR), along with other contact details.

During my application, I contacted many Principal Research Fellows who worked at Microsoft regarding the application, by taking their emails from the website and mailing them my key interest in a similar project, and desire to work under them along with other documents. Unfortunately, even on reminders, I was not able to get any reply from the above-mentioned Researchers.

The list of Researchers is as follows: They are from NLP*, DL, and ML domains.

ramjee@microsoft.com	Ramachandran	amitdesh@microsoft.com	Amit
monojitc@microsoft.com	Monoj*	kalikab@microsoft.com	Kalika*
navingo@microsoft.com	Navin	sunayana.sitaram@microsoft.com	Sunayana*

Computer Vision: Manik, Amit Deshpande, Navin goyal, Saikat guja, Nipun, Amit Sharma.

I did not stop there but also asked for a referral for the MSRF by a Microsoft employee via LinkedIn. Many employees gave a great deal of advice and Arpit Dwivedi also gave me a referral for the same. For referral, he asked me for my mail id through which I applied and my contact details. After he referred me the application showed a refer by Aprit on my Actions Page.

For the LOR, I contacted my professor under whom I did a research project which was also published at the AAAI conference. Apart from this my previous manager at Mphasis, Abinaya also helped me out with the LOR and application procedure. She was the primary person responsible for making me aware of such a program & pushing me forward to this opportunity.

She also helped me know about the University Reccommedation Program where the institute recommends one person for this MSRF. I contacted my IIT KGP's HoD of the CS department regarding the same. He told me that I would have to mail him all the application details, my resume, transcript, LoR, and any other resources relevant to supporting my candidature to him. As there where multiple applicants, he then chose among the responses from students and thankfully agreed to giving me university recommendation.

Profile

The resume consisted of contact details and achievements with application profile consisting of:

1. **High Grade, Circuital Department (related to CS)**

   9+ CG in the duration of my Btech at IIT Kharagpur, in Electrical Department. Along with doing a Minor in Computer Science Department and Micro Specialization in Artificial Intelligence and Applications.

2. **Relevant Courses**

   While completing such degrees, I took many CS related courses like Information Retrival, Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Computer Architecture and Operating Systems, Algorithms. These where every useful in interviews as well as showing relevant knowledge in the domain. I had also done courses apart from academics from Coursera like Statistics, Data Analysis-Visualization, Computer Vision, and many more.

3. **Projects and Publications**

   I have done total of 5 [Image resolution] projects in my duration of 4 year Bachelors course with having 2 research papers being published. However, in the Resume jointed it down to showcasing 2 projects [Molecular generation, Eye Classification] and 2 publications [Image segmentation, SGLR learning]. Showcasing the handson, research oriented experience.

4. **Internships**

   I had done 3 internship and had briefly discussed the major problem statement I worked upon and describing the results. This provided a balance of corporate and research exposure. [Mphasis, ChiSquareX, Jalla Labs]

Shortlisting Communication

I relieved a mail for shortlisting on 5th April, 2023 from Ravishankar Krishnaswamy. Wherein he discussed the proposed problem statement [Filtered Disk-ANN] and scheduled the interviews on 24-25th April. Apart from him the interview was taken with a panel of 4 researchers [Harsha, Gopal, Suresh] individually. Latter also proposed a separate problem statement and was asked to decide among the two.