

September 11, 2015

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Dear Chandrashekar Narayanan,

You are invited to the Department of Computing Science as a **Self-funded Researcher** for a period of 4 months beginning on or about October 1, 2015.

During your stay, you will be working on a collaborative research project with Dr. Csaba Szepesvari, which involves linear programming applied to reinforcement learning. The visit enables broadening and deepening the investigation, which already led to some results under publication. More specifically, the purpose of the visit is to derive so-called finite-time performance bounds. The visitor and his supervisor are experts on the topic, while the host is expert on finite time bounds and reinforcement learning, leading to a truly synergetic cooperation.

These activities will take place in Computing Science, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

While at the University, your source of financial support will be through personal savings.

The University of Alberta will also provide you with financial in the form of accommodation and living expenses up to \$1000.00/month. This amount will be paid in Canadian funds and may be subject to taxation if required by Canadian taxation law.

It is understood that at the end of your stay at the University of Alberta you will return to your home country.

Under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act and Regulations R186(a)*, a Self-Funded Researcher with autonomous funding arrangements other than an award, **does not require a work permit**.

To enter Canada you must provide Canadian immigration authorities with:

- this letter of invitation
- a valid passport

Contact Canadian immigration authorities (<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/offices/apply-where.asp>) directly to determine if other documentation is required, such as:

- temporary resident visa (<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/apply-how.asp>)
- electronic travel authorization (<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta.asp>)
- police certification* (<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/security/police-cert/intro.asp>)
- medical examination* (<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/medical/medexams-temp.asp>)

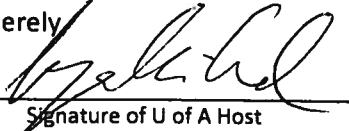
*If a medical and/or police clearance are required, allow for additional processing time.

Contact immigration authorities responsible for your country of residence to determine whether you require an exit visa or re-entry permit.

Present this letter to the admitting Customs/Immigration Officer at the Canadian border crossing or airport.


Once you arrive, the department will begin the process of registering you with the Academic Visitors Office.

Sincerely



Signature of U of A Host

Dr. Csaba Szepesvari
Professor,
szepesvari@ualberta.ca



Signature of Dean, Director or Chair

Dr. Mario Nascimento
Chair and Professor, Department of
Computing Science

Copy: Academic Visitors Office 1-03 SAB

IMPORTANT INFORMATION for Foreign Visitors

- **Work Permit Application and Fees** <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/work.asp>
- **Temporary Resident Visa and Fees** <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/apply-how.asp>
- **Processing Times** <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/times/temp/workers.asp>
If a medical and/or police clearance are required, allow for additional processing time.
- **Medical Examination** <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/medical/medexams-temp.asp>
- **Police Certification** <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/security/police-cert/intro.asp>
- **Canadian Consulates, Embassies & High Commissions** <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/offices/apply-where.asp>
- **Health Care Insurance**
If your work permit is valid for at least one full year, you may be able to obtain Alberta Health Care Insurance. If your stay in Canada is less than one year and /or you do not require a work permit, you must provide proof of medical insurance prior to coming to Canada.
Ensure that your medical insurance covers both on and off campus activities.
- **Social Insurance Number (SIN) and Payment of University of Alberta Financial Assistance**
<http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/en/sc/sin/index.shtml>
If you receive a work permit, but do not have a SIN, you must obtain one. If you already hold a SIN, update it after your work permit arrives. Send a copy of your SIN and work permit to:
Payroll and Benefit Services, 2-60 University Terrace, 8303-112 St., Edmonton, AB, T6G 2T4
- **Accompanying Spouse/Partner Employment** <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/work/arriving.asp#spouse>
If you receive a work permit and it is valid for at least six months, your spouse/partner may apply for an open work permit without advance confirmation by Service Canada. The open work permit can be obtained either at the same time, or after you apply for your own work permit. Your spouse/partner will need to provide evidence supporting his/her relationship to you.
- **Accompanying Children**
If your children accompany you to Canada and will attend school in this country, immigration may require that you obtain study permits for them. Contact the nearest Canadian Consulate, Embassy or High Commission for instructions.
- **Inviting Non-Canadians to Canada**
If you would like to invite a foreign national to visit, contact our University Immigration Specialists at: immigration.services@ualberta.ca, prior to extending the invitation.
- **University Policies and Procedures:**
<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Pages/A---Z-Listing.aspx>
University of Alberta students, staff, and visitors are subject to university policies and procedures.
Details regarding Intellectual Property can be found at: <http://www.gradstudies.ualberta.ca/gpm/Section10.aspx>

- **Changes To Your Stay In Canada**

If there are any changes to the duration of your stay, financial support, or the location/type of activities that you will carry out while in Canada, contact our University Immigration Specialists at immigration.services@ualberta.ca, before implementing these changes.

- **Additional Resources**

Bringing Pets To Canada: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/imp/petani/petanie.shtml>

Bringing Vehicles To Canada: <http://www.cbsa.gc.ca/publications/pub/bsf5048-eng.html>

Canada Border Services Agency: <http://cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/menu-eng.html>

Citizenship And Immigration Canada: <http://www.cic.gc.ca>

Information Designed To Assist Those Planning To Settle In Edmonton: <http://www.movetoedmonton.com/>

Settling In Canada (Bringing Personal Effects): <http://cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/publications/pub/bsf5114-eng.html#s5>

Tax Information For Non-Canadian Citizens: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/nrrsdnts/menu-eng.html>

Travelling With Children: <http://cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/publications/pub/bsf5082-eng.html#s1x2>

Employment & Social Development Canada: http://www.esdc.gc.ca/eng/jobs/foreign_workers/reform/info_fw.shtml