

# Phạm Anh Cường

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This is my CV of failures, inspired by the one that I read from Professor Jia-Bin Huang. In my opinion, I don't know if it would hurt me sometimes but I think updating this CV of Failures from the initial step of my graduate studies is not a bad idea.

## Degree programs I failed to get into/got into but not enough scholarship

- 2026 **PhD in Computer Science**, *International Max Planck Research School for Intelligent Systems (IMPRS-IS)*, Germany  
No admission and scholarships.
- 2024 **EMJMD in Big Data Management and Analysis (BDMA), Europe**  
Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters offered by Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium), Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (Spain), TU Eindhoven (Netherlands), CentraleSupélec - University Paris-Saclay (France) and University of Padova (Italy). Admission and partial scholarship.  
**MS in Mathematical Engineering**, *Politecnico di Milano*, Italy  
Admission but no scholarships.  
**MS in Computer Science and Engineering**, *Pohang University of Science and Technology*, Korea  
No admission but have external scholarship (POSCO Asia Fellowship).  
**EMJMD in Interdisciplinary Mathematics (InterMaths), Europe**  
Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters offered by University of L'Aquila (Italy), TU Wien (Austria), Hamburg University of Technology (Germany), Autonomous University of Barcelona (Spain), University of Côte d'Azur (France). Admission but no scholarships.  
**MS of Applied Sciences and Engineering: Computer Science**, *Vrije Universiteit Brussel*, Belgium  
No admission and scholarships.  
**EMJMD in Communications Engineering and Data Science (CoDaS), Europe**  
Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters offered by Aalto University (Finland), Técnico Lisboa (Portugal), Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (Spain), TU Braunschweig (Germany), Grenoble INP-UGA (France). Admission but no scholarships.  
**MS in Electrical Engineering**, *Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology*, Korea  
No admission but have external scholarship (POSCO Asia Fellowship).
- 2023 **MS in Computer Science**, *Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology*, Korea  
No admission and scholarships.  
**EMJMD in Interdisciplinary Mathematics (InterMaths), Europe**  
See description above. Admission and partial tuition fee waiver.  
**EMJMD in Artificial Intelligence (EMAI), Europe**  
Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters offered by Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Spain), Sapienza University of Rome (Italy), Radboud University Nijmegen (Netherlands), University of Ljubljana (Slovenia). No admission and scholarships.  
**MS in Information Science**, *Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology*, Japan  
Passed the lab's interview but was not nominated for MEXT scholarship. Not sure if it was admission or not.

## Awards and scholarships I failed to get/got but cannot activate

- 2024 **EMJMD scholarship for BDMA program, Europe**  
#5 on the waitlist for the scholarship (~ #28/1044 applicants), then was promoted to the main list (~ 1300 EUR/month and 8000 EUR/year tuition fee waiver for 2 years) for 2 months, then the program downgraded it and offered the consortium scholarship (1000 EUR/month but no tuition fee waiver for 2 years) and I declined. [Award Letter]  
**EMJMD scholarship for InterMaths program, Europe**  
#141 overall ~ #108 on the waitlist (per 1340 applicants).  
**Invest Your Talent (Italian Government Scholarship), Italy**  
Applied for the MS program at Politecnico di Milano, was waitlisted.  
**Master Mind scholarship, Belgium**  
Applied for the MS program at VUB.  
**EMJMD scholarship for CoDaS program, Europe**  
Not waitlisted (out of top 133 per 1643 applicants).
- 2023 **POSCO Asia Fellowship, Korea**  
Got the fellowship (1M KRW/month), but cannot get admission to a top Korean university to activate the funding [Sponsorship Letter].

### **EMJMD scholarship for InterMaths program, Europe**

#39 overall ~ #18 on the waitlist (per 920 applicants). I knew the around waitlist #13 was promoted but it was still too far. Was also offered 700 EUR/semester tuition fee waiver but declined.

### **EMJMD scholarship for EMAI program, Europe**

I was not waitlisted (out of top 50 per over 600 applicants).

### **KAIST scholarship, Korea**

### **MEXT scholarship, Japan**

## Competitions I failed to gain prizes/compete

2021–2023

### **Vietnam National Mathematical Olympiad for Undergraduates, Vietnam**

Top 5 of the university's Olympiad will compete in the National Olympiad (5 for Linear Algebra, 5 for Calculus). At the university level, I was #5 LA in 2021 but the National Olympiad was canceled due to COVID-19, #6 LA & #7 Calculus in 2022, #5 LA in 2023 (but that year, there are a battle for #5, #6, #7 to find the last national slot, and I failed), so I could not compete in 2022 and 2023 version.

2019

### **Vietnam National Olympiad, Vietnam**

0.25/40 more to get the consolation prizes (that also means I was near the top 40% of national that year).

## Internship applications rejected

2025

### **Master's Summer Internship cycle**

I think my targets are too hard compared to my CV, so I got 0 offers (that led to the MBZUAI RA internship), got rejected/no response from:

- **04/25:** IST Austria (Austria), RIKEN GRP (Japan), NTU (Singapore).
- **03/25:** UAB (Spain), MPI for Demographic Research (Germany), Aalto University (Finland), CTU in Prague (Czech Republic), NUS (Singapore).
- **02/25:** Max Planck Institutes (collaboration of MPI for Informatics, MPI for Software Systems and MPI for Security and Privacy, in Germany), CISPA Helmholtz Center for Information Security (Germany), KAUST (Saudi Arabia).
- **01/25:** Tuebingen AI Center (Germany), ETH Zurich (Switzerland), EPFL (Switzerland), CERN (Switzerland), SIPGA program at A\* STAR (Singapore).

## Papers submission rejected

2025

### **ICML (x1), CoRL (x1), NeurIPS (x1)**

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