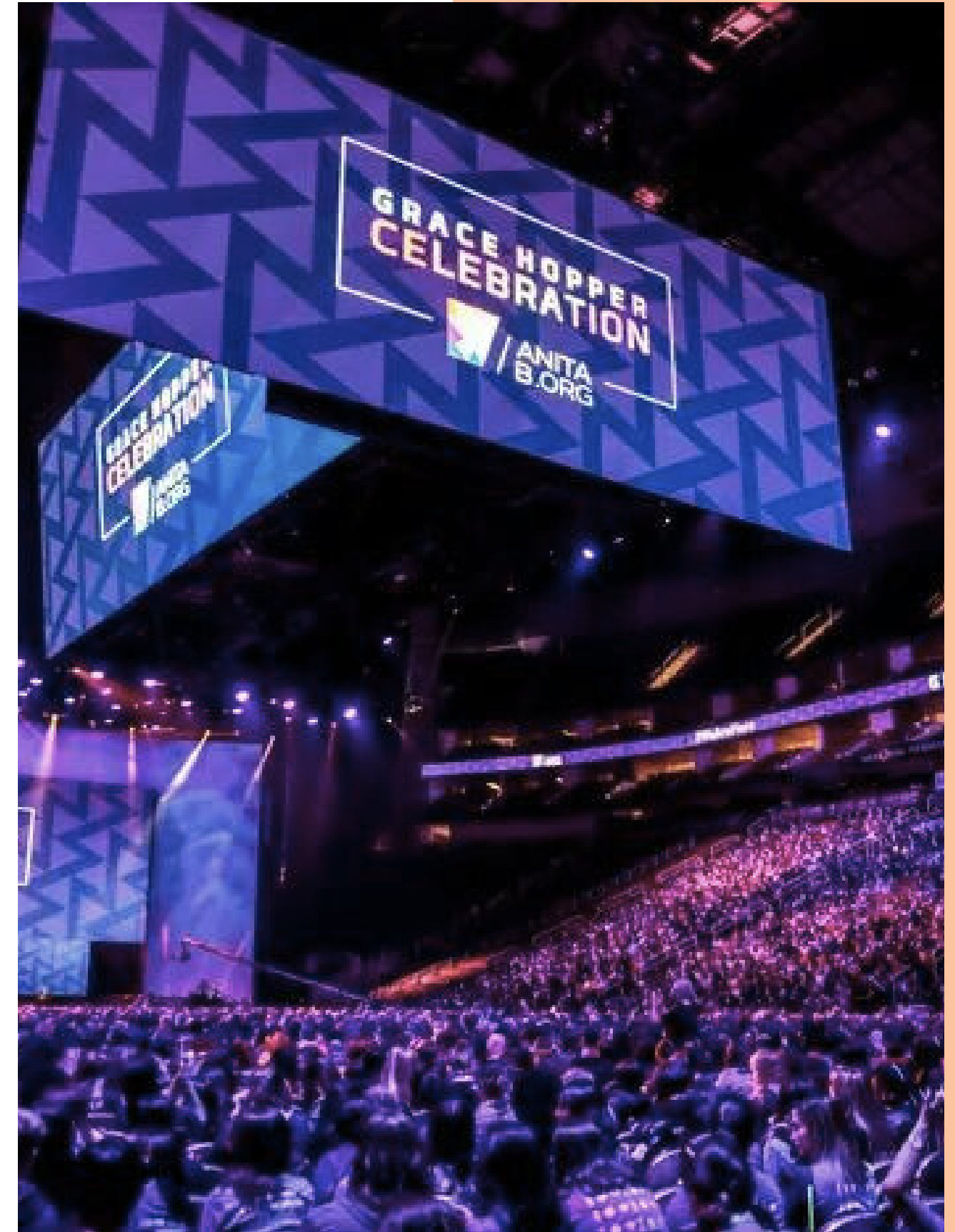# Tech Conferences

Getting the most out of your experience!

Agenda

- Opportunities at Tech Conferences
- Notable Tech Conferences
- Securing Scholarships
- What to expect
- Preparing for Tech Conferences

Why attend a tech conference?

Opportunities at Tech Conferences

- Gain insights about the tech industry about new innovations, current initiatives, tech culture, and the job market
- Listen to different keynote speakers
- Talk to different company recruiters all in one place
- Attend career workshops
- Network with individuals from ALL different parts of the industry, from students to C-Suites!

Grace Hopper Celebration (GHC)

- World's largest gathering of women technologists
- At the end of September
- Hosted by Anita B
- Both virtual and in-person
- Many companies sponsor employees and students to attend
- Many workshop, networking, and career opportunities

TAPIA

- Bring together undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, researchers, and professionals in computing
- Hosted by CDMIT/ACM
- Mid September
- Huge career fair and many workshops

WE23

- The World's Largest Conference for Women In Engineering and Technology
- Hosted by Society of Women Engineers
- In mid to late October
- SWE chapters at colleges sponsor many students to go
- Lots of networking events and a career fair

Securing Scholarships

- Gain scholarships by applying through large tech companies i.e. Google, Microsoft
  - will send compiled links via discord!
- Look for discounted student/early bird rates from conferences themselves
- Organizations like Anita B, NCWIT, and RTC often publish scholarships
- Remember that all conferences are different! So scholarships are different!!

What to Expect

- Plan for travel and lodging costs (some companies provide travel stipends in addition to the registration cost!)
- Reach out to other attendees and potentially split costs for hotel rooms/uber rides/etc.
  - Conferences will often have designated meeting spots or shuttles for attendees at the airport
- Attend with a plan, preview the daily schedule, and plan events that you want to attend/listen to beforehand

Preparing for Tech Conferences

- Fill out your LinkedIn Profile + bring copies of updated Resumes!
- Maximize your experience by reaching out to other attendees beforehand!
- Do your research beforehand and come up with questions that you can get answered!

Personal Advice

- Find your niche! What are you interested in and what can make you stand out?
- Talk to everyone! Learn from the experiences of others.
- Even if you don't attend a conference, most have open resume databases
- If you are doing research, many conferences have research showcases
  - UCD can pay for your expenses