Maynooth University

Ollscoil Mhá Nuad

Doctoral Scholarship in Computer Science, 4 years

Evolving Deep Neural Networks

The Department of Computer Science is pleased to announce that a PhD Scholarship will be available for one student intending to commence PhD studies in February 2021.

Applications will be accepted up to the closing date of 18th October 2020.

Full time research degree students commencing a programme of study in February 2021 (i.e. new entrants) to PhD or PhD-track programmes and who have a relevant first class or 2.1 honours in their primary degree, or have a relevant Masters degree, are eligible to apply for scholarship support in the Department. Students who have fees paid from external sources are generally not eligible to apply.

The scholarship will entail:

1. Full annual tuition fees support;
2. A fixed maintenance award of €16K per annum. Depending on availability of resources there may be some limited supplementary funding for additional computing equipment and/or European-based conference travel where this is deemed appropriate; and
3. Participation in Departmental activities as part of this scholarship with a requirement to undertake teaching support duties for up to 224 hours per year, with generally not more than 4 hours in any one week. These activities will be carried out under the direction of the Head of Department, or a member of staff nominated by the Head.

The scholarship will be awarded to newly registered students only, for four years of study, subject to satisfactory annual review of progress in research.

The scholarship will be awarded by the Department on the basis of research potential of the applicant in an area aligned with the Department's research priorities.

Maynooth University is a young, modern, and dynamic university, situated in a beautiful campus, with academic roots stretching back to the 1700's. The University is located in a bustling town offering students the charming environment of a small Irish town while being only 25KM from Dublin city, one of Europe's most open, exciting capital cities and an ICT hub for the world.

Teaching support

As part of this scholarship, the scholarship holder may be required to undertake duties that complement the studies of the PhD student as may be specified by the Head of Department or his/her nominee within the stipulated maximum of 224 hours per annum. These duties may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- To (co-)supervise undergraduate and postgraduate final year projects;
- To contribute to summer schools through research talks;
- To (co-)organise research symposiums with the goal to disseminate the research carried out in the School of Computer Science as well as engaging in potential collaboration with academic and industry partners;
- To contribute, under supervision to the development of appropriate teaching materials to ensure that content and methods of delivery meet learning objectives;
- To assist the delivery of a range of teaching and assessment activities, including tutorials and laboratory demonstrations, in support of the required teaching commitments of undergraduate students; and
- To assist with and contribute where appropriate to the development of demonstrations for University Open Days, Science Week and other Departmental exhibitions.

Terms and Conditions

The scholarship may be held by new entrant full-time registered students only.

Maintenance Award

A fixed stipend of €16k per annum will be offered. This will be paid in twelve equal instalments from the end of the month of commencement. The scholarship will be awarded for the expected duration of the studies, up to a maximum of four years, subject to satisfactory annual review of progress in research under the university's normal processes. There will be no pension entitlements arising from the scholarship. Scholarship beneficiaries may not undertake any other substantive paid work within the university.

Application and Selection Procedure

As a general guide, applicants will be required to submit the following to by the closing date:

1. **Personal statement:** The applicant should introduce themselves and describe their personal reasons for applying for this scholarship. Maximum 2 pages.
2. **Curriculum Vitae**: Where grades or marks are presented, please provide quantitative context for the marking or grading schemes used within your home institutions e.g. 3.8/4.0 or 8.5/10.00.
3. **Statement of purpose:** The applicant should describe their research experience, scientific interests and technical achievements. A description of the applicant's future career goals should be included. Maximum of 2 pages.
4. **Copy of academic final transcripts and masters and/or degree award** (minimum 2:1) For international applicants, please attach your English language proficiency certificate (please read the Maynooth University's website for details on accepted language tests and scores).

All eligible candidates will be considered for open positions. Applicants may be shortlisted for an interview and, if so, will be contacted directly by the Department of Computer Science. Given the ongoing situation globally with Coronavirus, interviews will be conducted online in all circumstances.

Closing date for applications: 18th October 2020

Successful application to funded scholarship

If a scholarship holder is subsequently successful in securing an externally funded scholarship that covers tuition fees, then this Doctoral Scholarship will lapse at the commencement of the funded scholarship. In those circumstances, and if the scheme remains in operation, then the Departmental commitment will also lapse, and the Department may choose to commence a new doctoral scholarship.

Progression

A doctoral scholarship is contingent on the holder being a registered doctoral student, and meeting all of the requirements for annual progression. The scholarship and any teaching support activities will terminate automatically when the holder ceases to be a registered graduate student. It is a legitimate objective of the university to provide education and training for successive cohorts of postgraduate students. This involves providing appropriate opportunity to students to develop their skills in teaching. Students may be asked to serve as a teaching assistant, tutor or demonstrator. This is an important part of postgraduate training and the University will make such work available to postgraduate students as a priority.

Application Procedure

Closing Date: 23:30hrs (local Irish time) on **Sunday 18th October, 2020.**
Please note all applications must be submitted to edgar.galvan@mu.ie and peter.mooney@mu.ie

Applications must be submitted by the closing date and time specified above. Late applications will not be accepted.