

Doctoral Symposium

Goal

The Doctoral Symposium is a special session within the IT&T Conference, the goal of which is to allow Ph.D. students to obtain critical feedback on their research approach, methodologies and plans. Based on an open submission process, the Symposium Committee will select a small number of students to present their work to an academic panel of experts and an audience comprised of IT&T attendees. For the students that are selected, the experience is intended to be like that of a public Ph.D defense. The benefit to the student, aside from the actual feedback, is gaining familiarity with the style and mechanics of Ph.D assessment, and the opportunity to interact with other students at a similar stage in their careers, established researchers and the broader information technology and telecommunications community. The technical scope of the Symposium is that of IT&T 2009.

Submissions are solicited from Ph.D. students that have progressed far enough in their research to write a research abstract describing their research ideas and proposal, but who will not be defending their dissertation in the next 9-12 months. Research abstracts from successful applicants will be published in the Conference proceedings, and the students will be invited to present a poster at the Conference.

In addition to those submitting applications, students in the early stages of their Ph.D. are also encouraged to attend the Symposium, to allow them to learn about structuring and presenting their research, and to participate in critiquing and providing feedback to the presenters. The Symposium is open to all registered delegates at the IT&T Conference.

Important Dates

Applications to be submitted: August 24th, 2009.

Notification of acceptance or rejection: September 24th, 2009.

Camera-ready copy: October 5th, 2009.

Submission

To apply as a presenter at the IT&T Doctoral Symposium, applicants should prepare a submission package comprising both **(a) a research abstract and (b) a letter of recommendation from their supervisor. Details of the format for the research abstract and letter of recommendation can be found below.**

The research abstract and letter of recommendation should be both in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF), and sent to: **Dr. Fredrick Mtenzi (fredrick.mtenzi@dit.ie) with a subject: "IT&T Doctoral Symposium"**.

Evaluation The Symposium Committee will select participants based on the relevance of their research area to the conference theme and the overall quality of their research abstract.

Organising Committee

Declan O'Sullivan (TCD)

Brian Nolan (ITB)

Fredrick Mtenzi (DIT)

Submission Guidelines

This is the required template for submissions. Both parts are required by the submission deadline.

Part 1: Research Abstract

The research abstract should be a maximum four (4) pages long, formatted in accordance with the IT&T 2008 Guidelines. It should cover: the technical problem to be solved with a justification of its importance; an account of related and prior work explaining why this has not solved the problem; the research hypothesis or claim; a sketch of the proposed solution; the expected contributions of your dissertation research; progress in solving the stated problem; the methods you are using or will use to carry out your research; a plan for evaluating your work and presenting credible evidence of your results to the research community. **Note that this style differs from that of a typical technical paper, with the focus on research goals and methods rather than results.**

The abstract should be guided by the following points:

I Problem Description:

What is the problem being addressed?

What is the significance of this problem?

Why can the current state of the art not solve this problem?

II Goal Statement

What is the goal of your research?

What artifacts (tools, theories, methods) will be used or developed?

How are the artifacts going to help reach the stated goal?

III Method

What experiments, prototypes, or studies need to be produced/executed?

What is the validation strategy?

How will it be demonstrated that the goal was reached?

It should include the title of your work, your name and contact details, a one paragraph short summary in the style of an abstract for a regular paper. All submitted materials must be in English. Submissions should contain no proprietary or confidential material and should cite no proprietary or confidential publications. Submissions which exceed the maximum length may not be considered.

Part 2: Letter of Recommendation

Ask your dissertation advisor for a letter of recommendation. This letter should include (i) your name, (ii) a confirmation that you are a full-time Ph.D. student in good standing, (iii) a candid

assessment of the current status of your dissertation research and (iv) an expected date for dissertation submission.