

Title: Request to use the “Conference Development Fund” for UMAP 2017 Student Support

Conference: 25th UMAP Conference on User Modeling, Adaptation and Personalization, Bratislava, Slovakia, July 9-12, 2017

People:

- General Chairs: Maria Bielikova (Slovak University of Technology Bratislava), Eelco Herder (Radboud University, Nijmegen)
- Program Chairs: Frederica Cena (University of Torino), Michel Desmarais (Polytechnique University, Montreal)
- Steering Committee Chair: Paul De Bra (Eindhoven University of Technology)

UMAP – User Modelling, Adaptation and Personalization – is the premier international conference for researchers and practitioners working on systems that adapt to individual users, to groups of users, and that collect, represent, and model user information.

Since 2016 UMAP has become an ACM conference, which was an important step in gaining more visibility in the scientific community. In 2016 User Modeling Inc. provided 10.000 euro in support (coming from previous conference) to get more students to participate in the conference. ACM UMAP 2016 made quite a profit which went to ACM, SIGCHI and SIGWEB and will hopefully continue to be available for future conferences. To grow the UMAP community from the base up we need to stimulate young researchers to attend UMAP and become full-blown members of the community. To this extent we want to attract students through three channels:

1. **International Students.** There are students from all over the world who are advancing the state of the art in a mature level that passes the strong review process and results in accepted full or short papers or posters. In order to fully participate in UMAP many students need more financial support than just a lowered registration fee. UMAP needs them to be present to present their research. Student travel support enables the students to grow from beginner to senior community members.
2. **Doctoral Consortium.** UMAP organizes a DC in which PhD students present their research plans and initial results to a committee of professors (and the public) to get in-depth feedback on the feasibility of the plans and on the progress. While some universities may offer travel support for the DC many will only finance “proper” paper presentations. In order not to put students from less generous Institutions at a disadvantage, travel grants must be made available.
3. **Conference Participation by Student Workshop Presenters.** Often students do not yet reach the quality level required to pass the reviewing process of the main conference, but can present their results at one of the workshops organized by UMAP. In many cases the universities will only support attending the workshop and not the main conference (carrying a higher fee and requiring a longer stay). It is vital for students to get support for attending the main conference to become better integrated in the community.

The estimated cost for this plan is:

For the support of the above explained structural activities we estimate that registration + accommodation + travel will vary between 1.000 and 1.500 euro per student. (Registration 390, hotel ca. 400, travel 200 to 700 depending on where students come from.)

With about \$4.500 support from ACM SIGCHI, an equivalent amount from SIGWEB (distributed in a different way), \$5.000 donation from Microsoft, and \$15.000 donation from NSF (for US-based students only) we should be able to support around 30 students (for all 3 categories combined), offering up to 1.000 euro each.