

# Proposal to SIGCHI Specialized Conferences Development Fund

**Objective:**

Increasing the Participation and Diversity of Early-career Researchers in Doctoral Colloquium

**Conference:**

2018 ACM International Joint Conference on Pervasive & Ubiquitous Computing (UBICOMP 2018) in Singapore on October 8 - 12, 2018

**People:**

General Chairs: Rajesh Krishna Balan (Singapore Management University)  
Youngki Lee (Singapore Management University)

Broadening Participation Chairs: Nova Ahmed (North South University)  
Hwajung Hong (Seoul National University)

Accessibility Chair: Pin Sym Foong (National University of Singapore)

Doctoral Colloquium Chairs: Jason Kyungmin Lee (Facebook)  
Seungwoo Kang (Korea University of Technology and Education)

Steering Committee Chair: Julie Kientz (University of Washington)

**Subject matter:**

We propose to improve the UBICOMP/ISWC conference in attracting and supporting early career researchers to participate in the Doctoral Colloquium (DC). The DC is a unique opportunity for Ph.D. students to present their key concepts and ideas to a premier scientific audience and to receive high-quality feedback from excellent external reviewers, a global scientific audience, and their peers. The doctoral colloquium offers PhD students the valuable opportunity to engage in in-depth discussion on their work and gain exposure to a variety of perspectives that can help to strengthen and shape their work as they progress towards their degrees. Lively discussions, insights and novel ideas, mentorship connections, and new opportunities for cooperation between research groups are also likely outcomes from participation.

The DC is an important event to foster talented young researchers who have a strong potential to lead the community. This event also considers diversity in different aspects, including, regions, genders, and research fields. DC is a unique opportunity to build long researcher friendship among the same PhD generation. A successful DC is thus critical for this year's and future UBICOMP conferences.

**Duration:**

This is a one-time funding request specific to UBICOMP 2018 in Singapore.

**Schedule:**

UBICOMP 2018 will be between 8th and 12th October. The DC will be held on October 8th.

**Relevance:**

As the main target of the DC is Ph.D. students who will graduate in 2 - 3 years, an early career generation of SIGCHI members is strongly relevant. Events like the DC are common at other SIGCHI conferences, and serve as an intellectual gathering for early career researchers. In addition, the funds provided by this grant will be prioritized for students from underrepresented groups and universities.

**Product:**

DC participants will do a poster presentation during the main conference. They will present their Ph.D. work as well as lessons learned from discussions and interaction with fellow participants and mentors during DC.

**Delivery Vehicle:**

The conference attendees and broader community members will be able to see their proposals at the ACM digital library. The student members of DC will be announced on the conference website.

**Dependency:**

The DC strongly emphasizes on diversity. Therefore, participation from a variety of countries and regions is critical. However, Ph.D. students from underrepresented countries and universities may not have sufficient funding for travel to a conference, and we need to lower such a barrier.

**Previous work:**

We have run a DC at UbiComp since 2002, and we will use previous years' experience to organize this year's DC. Lessons learned from this experience allow us to understand what expenses need to be taken into account as well as how to approach and encourage participation of students from all over the world.

**Dissemination:**

We distribute the event results through various online channels, including the conference website, mailing list and social media. If possible, we will make visual materials (e.g., promotional videos) for future DC events.

**Potential value:**

This proposal will directly benefit early career researchers who will be the next generation of SIGCHI community members. DC participants will have poster presentations during the main conference, and thus it will also indirectly benefit a larger set of UBICOMP attendees through

interaction with DC participants. Lessons learned from this year's experience will be incorporated into future years' conference to ensure that financial support for early career researchers and new community members will be provided.

**Funding requested:**

We estimate the cost of supporting the doctoral school will be approximately \$15,000 total (details provided below). As UbiComp is jointly sponsored by SIGCHI and SIGMOBILE, we seek an equal contribution from the SIGCHI and SIGMOBILE development fund towards supporting our DC.

**Additional funding:**

In addition to funding from SIGMOBILE (if we are able to receive), we will also be using industry sponsorship for this project. However, their budget is extremely limited this year, and there are also many projects that need to be supported. Thus, this funding from SIGCHI is critical to run DC, in particular to support international travels. Funding from SIGMOBILE will be used for other expense, including hotel accommodations for both DC and the main conference, and socialization at night.

**Expenses details:**

We estimate the total expenses to be approximately \$15,000. These expenses are for providing travel support for DC participants. We expect approximately 10 participants for the event. To maintain the diversity of participation, we plan to have 5 students from Asian countries except for Singapore, 5 students from the other regions, and 2 students from Singapore. We will provide \$1,000 and \$1,500 for each DC participant who will come from Asian countries except Singapore and the other regions, respectively. In addition, we would like to cover their accommodation necessary for participation in DC.

To summarize,

- \$6,000 for 5 DC participants from Asian countries except Singapore (\$1,200 x 5)
- \$8,000 for 5 DC participants from the other regions (\$1,600 x 5)
- \$1,000 for research discussions and socialization over lunch (for students, mentors, and chairs)