

Funding request

2019 ACM RecSys Summer School

Given the success of the 2017 RecSys Summer School in Bolzano and the ongoing discussion on initiatives to stimulate growth in the RecSys community globally, the RecSys Summer School will be once again held in conjunction with the ACM RecSys conference.

Event Location and timing

The summer school will take place at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, during September 9 to September 13. The ACM RecSys conference will take place in Copenhagen, Denmark, during September 16 to September 20. Gothenburg and Copenhagen are well connected by train, bus, and air with several hourly departures between the cities. Travel times range from 45 minutes (air) to 4 hours (bus). Travel costs between Gothenburg and Copenhagen start at 20\$.

Funding

For the summer school, the organizers request a total of \$53,000. The amount will be used for students support, speakers, etc. according to the following

- Stipends for 10 DS participants: \$15,000
- Travel costs for 8 speakers \$15,000
- Stipends for 10 students from developing/BRICS countries \$15,000
- AV and other equipment \$8,000

A detailed preliminary budget is attached to the application.

A number of companies have expressed interest in sponsoring the summer school. A sponsorship package is currently being prepared.

People

Organizing Committee

Martijn Willemsen - TU Eindhoven

Martijn is handling the program, including invitations of speakers and general planning of the academic program. Martijn is Associate Professor at TUE, he is a prominent figure in the ACM RecSys community and a frequent attendee and presenter at ACM RecSys.

Toine Bogers - University of Aalborg Copenhagen

Toine is managing the program connection between the ACM RecSys summer school and the ACM RecSys Conference which takes place during the week after the summer school. Toine is a representative of the ACM RecSys Steering Committee as well as General Co-Chair of RecSys 2019.

Alan Said - University of Gothenburg

Alan is managing the logistics surrounding the summer school, including venue, budget, personnel, etc. Alan is a representative of the ACM RecSys Steering Committee as well as General Co-Chair of RecSys 2019.

Speakers

Several potential speakers have been approached about speaking at the summer school.

Relevance and value

The RecSys summer school is relevant to MSc and PhD students in related fields, as well as postdocs and industry practitioners working on recommendation, personalization, user modeling, and related. The summer school was last held in 2017 and attracted around 100 international participants from industry and academia alike. Several informal polls performed during 2018 and 2019 gauging the interest in a RecSys summer school have shown there is a significant interest from within the RecSys community as well as from outside.

Organizing the summer school on a biennial schedule gives newly enrolled PhD students the opportunity to meet and learn from experts in the field in an informal setting. Several senior members of the RecSys community have expressed interest in sending their PhD students to the summer school as it provides a unique opportunity for students to gain a deep understanding of the key aspects of recommender systems.

There is also a growing interest in the field from the industry. In 2018, more than 65% of the attendees at the ACM RecSys conference came from industry. The summer school will provide

a venue for hands-on learning from leading experts in the field, whereas the conference instead focuses on presenting the newest research.

Communicating Out

The school will be advertised on regular social media channels tied to the ACM RecSys conference. A post summer school write-up will be made available on the ACM RecSys medium channel. The link will be distributed to SIGCHI-related mailing lists and social media channels. The RecSys 2019 publicity chairs will advertise the summer school through all available channels.