

Call for Application for Candidates from Developing Countries for positions in the joint PhD Programme of the United Nations University and the University of Pisa

UNU-IIST, Macao

Art. 1 Announcement

The United Nations University International Institute for Software Technology (UNU-IIST) calls for applications for PhD studentships in **Computer Science** from developing countries.

The selection of the candidates is **based on academic qualifications**. Depending on availability successful candidates may be assigned a **fellowship** as indicated at art. 4.

The programme has a **3-year** duration, and is carried out at UNU-IIST, located in Macao SAR China. PhD candidates must spend 1 year at the University of Pisa, which is partner in the joint programme, during the first two years of the programme. **The PhD degree is awarded by the University of Pisa.**

Art. 2 Requirements

Applications are invited from candidates who:

- are citizens of a developing country;
- do not hold any position in an industrialised country;
- have obtained at least an undergraduate degree whose normal duration is not less than 4 years;

where **developing countries** are those countries whose economies are classified as low, lower-middle and upper-middle income, and **industrialised countries** are those countries whose economies are classified as high income, by the World Bank at <http://www.worldbank.org/data/countryclass/classgroups.htm>.

Art. 3 Application

An application must include:

- Completed Fellowship Application Form;
- Completed PhD Application Form, where the applicant **must indicate** the name of the UNU-IIST academic staff who has agreed to be the main PhD advisor;
- All attachments listed below.

If there are no more UNU-IIST PhD scholarships available, only those applicants who already have an external scholarship/sponsorship to support their subsistence and health insurance in Macau for the 3-year duration of the PhD course may be accepted. In this case applicants will be requested to provide full documentation about the external scholarships/sponsorship they have been awarded.

There is **no deadline** for the application.

Application Forms can be requested via email from **Ms. Alice Pun**, email: pci@iist.unu.edu or downloaded from the UNU-IIST website: <http://www.iist.unu.edu>

All documents should be sent

by mail to: **Ms. Alice Pun**
UNU-IIST
PhD Programme
PO Box 3058
Macao SAR China

or by fax to: **+853 28712940 (Att. Ms. Alice Pun)**

In case of fax transmission, a copy of a valid passport (page containing photo, signature and personal data) must be sent together with the application.

Applications and qualifications that are incomplete will not be considered.

The following documents must be attached to the forms:

- A copy of the certificate of the academic qualification, issued by the University that awarded it;
- Copies of the certificates of English tests or examinations (except for native English speaker or if explicitly waived by the selection committee):
 - IELTS with minimum score 6.5, or
 - TOEFL (TWE of 5.0) with minimum score 550, or
 - TOEFL (computer) with minimum score of 213;
- A CV containing the following information:
 - personal data;
 - academic history;
 - employment history (if any);
 - examinations taken by the candidate, with marks and a short description of their content.
- An abstract of the final thesis/project carried out by the candidate (if any);
- A report on any research carried out by the candidate (if any);
- A list of publications (if any);
- Letters of recommendation by two professors or experts in the field of the candidate (including their email contacts);
- A one to two page research statement that describes the research the candidate would like to carry out during the PhD;
- Any further qualification and information that should be taken into account.

All documents must in English, or accompanied by a translation into English.

The candidate must immediately communicate any changes to contact data.

Art. 4 Fellowship

A successful candidate will receive:

- The use of an apartment in Macao (possibly shared with another UNU-IIST Fellow or PhD Student) for the duration of the programme. No rent payment will be requested, but all utility expenses, such as electricity, phone and gas, will be charged.

Moreover, depending on availability of scholarships, a successful candidate may also receive:

- A grant of USD800 per month for the whole 3 year duration of the course.
- Medical insurance coverage.
- Reimbursement of airfares to and from Macao and Pisa for the most direct economy flights, according to UN rules.

The monthly grant may be increased to support study periods outside Macao.

Art. 5 Admission

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their applications via email. The examining commission may request the candidate to be available for a phone interview and, if this is the case, the interview will be arranged possibly according to the preferences indicated by the candidate in the PhD Application Form. The candidate will be notified of the time of the interview with at least one week notice. Successful candidates who have been interviewed, will be notified of the outcome of the interview no later than two weeks after the interview. All successful candidates will be also notified the latest date for the commencement of the programme.

Successful candidates will have to formally accept no later than one week after receiving the notification and choose the commencement date.

Art. 6 Courses

An accepted PhD candidate is required to gain six course credits, where one credit corresponds to a twenty hour course. Credits may be acquired by attending graduate courses offered by UNU-IIST, by the Department of Computer Science of the University of Pisa, or by other universities or advanced schools. All courses and examinations are in English.

Art. 7 Thesis

A thesis proposal is presented after one year from the commencement date. Each candidate will have two thesis advisors, a main advisor from UNU-IIST, and an associate advisor from the University of Pisa. The advisors will be responsible for monitoring research activities and progress of the PhD candidate. The final thesis is due three years after the commencement date. An extension (without grant) is possible in exceptional cases. The thesis, written in English, is reviewed by two international referees and has to be defended in front of an examining committee.

Art. 8 Administration

The progress of the PhD candidate will be assessed twice, within one year and within two year from the commencement date. The study and the fellowship will be terminated if the PhD candidate fails to demonstrate a satisfactory performance at the yearly assessment. Study and fellowship may also be terminated if the PhD candidate fails to conform to the rules of UNU-IIST and the University of Pisa.