



Open Student Travel Scholarships Scheme

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As part of its portfolio of student-oriented activities, SIGAI regularly supports its members through the provision of travel scholarships. To date, these have been primarily allocated to key conferences (co-)sponsored by SIGAI, but as the number of events we support formally (whether through financial sponsorship or “in-cooperation” status) has increased substantially, we have identified a need to reach out to a broader community of students participating in, and contributing to, a broader range of events.

In response to this, we have recently created a separate fund for student travel scholarships open to all SIGAI student members who are attending SIGAI-supported events (in exceptional cases, we may also provide support for participation in events not directly associated with SIGAI). We specifically want to encourage students to apply who come from geographical regions where generally fewer resources for student travel are available, and will generally prioritise students from disadvantaged or minority backgrounds in allocating funds.

This open scheme will run somewhat differently from the traditional student scholarship scheme, which was primarily managed by conference organizers, and where SIGAI only managed reimbursement of expenses and published students’ post-conference reports on its web site. Under the new scheme, applicants are asked to complete an online form directly to apply for a scholarship and to contact the SIGAI Conference Coordination Officer by email.

Applications for travel support are accepted on a rolling basis without any set deadline, and should be submitted by completing a form linked from three months before the start of the event. Applicants must supply personal details, details of the event, the rationale for attendance, and estimated breakdown of costs with a statement about which part of these costs can be covered from other sources.

As before, students must be enrolled for full-time study with a recognized academic institution, and must have been a member of ACM SIGAI at the time of application. It is acceptable to join ACM SIGAI just before making the application, but priority will be given to applicants who have been a member of ACM SIGAI for a longer period of time. Students receiving partial financial support for attendance at the event may request additional funding from ACM SIGAI.

We hope this new scheme will enable us to allocate more funds to support the representation of a diverse range of student attendees, and to better respond to the needs of our student members. As this is a new scheme, we would be particularly interested in receiving feedback on the scheme and suggestions for improvement. Details and the online form can be found at https://sigai.acm.org/activities/student_support.html.



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