

Financing Your Graduate Education

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2018 CRA URMD Grad Cohort Workshop



Questions

1. MS or PhD student?
2. Are you happy with your current funding situation?
 1. If not, then what would ideal funding situation?
 2. If so, how did you arrive at this point?

Funding for PhD students

- PhD students in Computer Science should receive financial support
 - Fees
 - Living expenses
 - Professional travel
 - Equipment

Funding Sources

- Teaching Assistantships
- Research Assistantships
- Fellowships
- Alternative sources
 - On or off campus jobs
 - Travel grants
 - Educational loans
 - Friends and relatives
 - Personal savings/Inheritance/Gambling

Teaching Assistantships

- Pros
 - Gain teaching experience
 - Best way to learn is to teach
 - Practice presentation skills
 - Not tied to a research group / faculty advisor
- Cons
 - Must do research in addition to teaching obligations
 - May be more than a teaching assistant
 - Not tied to a research group / faculty advisor

Research Assistantships


- Pros
 - Getting paid to do research that hopefully is related to your Masters/PhD degree
 - Tied to a research group / faculty advisor
- Cons
 - Tied to a research group / faculty advisor

Finding an RA

- Participate!
 - Attend research group meeting
 - Explore before you commit
- Talk to professors early
- How to choose?
 - Do you need a rich advisor?

Fellowships

- Pros
 - Flexibility
 - Prestige
- Cons
 - Flexibility
 - Responsibility

Name	Years funded	Women Only	Minorities Only	US Citizen only	Deadline
Microsoft	3				Oct
Hertz	5				Oct
IBM	3				Oct
NSF	3			Yes	Nov
NPSC	2-6			Yes	Nov
American Association of University Women	1	Yes			Nov
Google Anita Borg	1	Yes			Jan
AT&T	3	Yes	Yes		Jan
Dept. Homeland Security (DHS)	3			Yes	Jan
NDSEG	3			Yes	Jan
DOE	4			Yes	Jan
SMART	2-3			Yes	Jan
NASA-GSRP	3			Yes	 Feb July
Women in Defense	1	Yes		Yes	

CRA

Computing Research Association

Applying for Fellowships

- Don't be afraid to apply!
 - Interested and meet the specified (not imagined) qualifications
 - Worst case: Don't get fellowship and you learn from the experience
- Ask fellow students for their applications
- Steps for a good essay/statement
 - Start early then revise
 - Be specific and concrete
 - Follow the rules
- References are crucial

Conference funding

- Many conferences have funding for students
 - “Free” conference registration
 - Travel support
- Look for external funding sources (e.g., travel grants through IEEE and ACM)
- Be a conference student volunteer

Final notes

- Don't panic in the event of a funding lapse
- Loans
- Funding opportunities exist
- Be persistent in seeking the funding that best suits your situation.
- Never talk yourself out of an opportunity.