

Call for PhD Scholarship Applications

Two fully funded PhD scholarships are currently offered for highly motivated students (one at the University of Newcastle, Australia and one at the RMIT University, Australia). The research areas are software engineering, machine learning, and deep learning. The students will be jointly supervised by Associate Professor Hongyu Zhang (Newcastle) and Dr Huong Ha (RMIT).

- For the PhD scholarship at the University of Newcastle, Australia, the principal supervisor is A/Prof. Hongyu Zhang, and the co-supervisor is Dr Huong Ha.
- For the PhD scholarship at RMIT University, Australia, the principal supervisor is Dr Huong Ha, and the co-supervisor is A/Prof. Hongyu Zhang.

A/Prof. Hongyu Zhang and Dr Huong Ha are experienced researchers with strong track records of publications in premier research venues of software engineering and machine learning/deep learning, including IEEE TSE, ICSE, NeurIPS, ICML, FSE, AAAI, ASE, AISTATS. A/Prof. Hongyu Zhang is currently an Associate Professor at The University of Newcastle, Australia. Previously, he was a Lead Researcher at Microsoft Research Asia and an Associate Professor at Tsinghua University, China. He received his PhD degree from National University of Singapore in 2003. His research is in the area of Software Engineering, in particular, software analytics, testing, maintenance, and reuse. The main theme of his research is to improve software quality and productivity by mining software data. He received three ACM Distinguished Paper awards. He has also served as a program committee member for many topmost software engineering and machine learning conferences including ICSE, ICML, NeurIPS, FSE, ICLR, AAAI. Dr Huong Ha is currently a Lecturer at RMIT University, Australia. Previously, she was a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Applied Artificial Intelligence Institute, Deakin University, Australia. She obtained her PhD degree from the University of Newcastle in 2017. Her research is in the area of trustworthy machine learning, automated machine learning, and data-driven software engineering. She has served as a program committee member of various prestigious machine learning conferences such as ICML, NeurIPS, AAAI, ICLR. She also received multiple awards including the Postgraduate Research Prize - Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment of the University of Newcastle 2016, the Intel Factory Award 2012, the Second Prize National Mathematics Competition for Students - Ministry of Education and Training, Vietnam 2008.

The University of Newcastle is a research-intensive institution and is ranked in the top 10 Australian universities based on research excellence. The campus is located in the beautiful city of Newcastle, which is a city rated in the Top 10 cities in the world to visit by Lonely Planet's "Best in Travel 2011". The campus is only about two hours' drive from Sydney. An introduction to Newcastle is at Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eaTkNCRJxik>. RMIT University is ranked within the Top 100 in the world in Computer Science (US News & World Report) and Top 150 in Computer Science and Information Systems (QS Rankings 2020). RMIT University is located in Melbourne, a beautiful city which is constantly ranked as one of the most liveable cities in the world since 2000 till now.

Each successful candidate will receive a PhD tuition fee waiver, the standard living allowance of approximately 30k AUD/year for three years with the possibility of a six-month extension, and some research related expense (approximately 1.5k AUD/year).

To apply for the PhD scholarships, the candidates must already complete, or are about to complete, a four-year undergraduate degree (or a master's degree) and a research thesis in computer science, software engineering or related areas. Previous research publication is a plus, although it's not mandatory as long as you have a strong background in programming, machine learning, data analytics, and/or mathematics. The candidates need to have IELTS scores of 6.5 or above; equivalent TOEFL scores are also acceptable, and if you haven't had IELTS/TOEFL scores now but you believe you can get them later then you can still apply for the scholarships. Finally, but most importantly, the candidates need to have a good attitude towards research, understand the difficulties they might face during the PhD journey and be willing to work hard to overcome these obstacles.

Interested candidates can contact both Associate Professor Hongyu Zhang (hongyu.zhang@newcastle.edu.au) and Dr Huong Ha (huong.ha@rmit.edu.au) to apply for the scholarships. In the application, the candidates should include their comprehensive CV (with all the previous awards/publications if there are any) and academic transcripts.

Applications are now open. Please submit your application as soon as possible. The positions will be closed when suitable candidates are found.