Doctoral School of Computer Science

The aim of the School is to support postgraduate studies at the University of Szeged, leading to the degree of PhD in computer science (informatics). The School operates within the Institute of Informatics. The research work in the school belongs to the following research areas: Theoretical Computer Science, Operations Research and Combinatorial Optimization, and Applications of Computer Science.

In Theoretical Computer Science the research topics range from the theory of automata and formal languages, which is now considered a classical field, to the most up-to-date topics such as advances in computational complexity, term rewriting, tree automata and tree transformations, mathematical semantics of programming languages, process algebras, theory of fixed points, temporal logic, semirings.

The research topics offered in Operations Research and Combinatorial Optimization include topics from the fields of theory of economic decisions, multicriteria decision making, group decisions, fuzzy theory, learning algorithms, global optimization, online optimization, reliable numerical procedures, interval inclusion functions, process network synthesis, bin packing algorithms, scheduling problems, graph theory.

In the area of Applications of Computer Science the research topics range from software engineering to artificial intelligence and image processing.

Software engineering topics: advanced programming paradigms, theory of compilers, compilation of embedded systems, legacy system analysis, software maintenance and reengineering, object-oriented design and development, web programming, databases and data mining, network protocols, formal specification and testing of protocols, distributed programming.

Artificial intelligence: frame and rule based knowledge representation, machine learning algorithms (decision trees, inductive logic programming, genetic algorithms, neuron networks), complexity of the machine learning algorithms, natural language processing, speech recognition, robotics.

Image processing and medical applications: image processing in nuclear medicine, image reconstruction from projections, discrete tomography, picture archiving and communication systems, segmentation of medical images, image registration, skeletonization, thinning and its applications, geographic information systems.

There are two ways of obtaining the PhD degree: by following a three-year study program, or by individual preparation. The program of which the duration is 3 years prescribes the accomplishment of 180 credits, active participation in the Institute's seminars, and the conduction of research under the supervision of a thesis adviser appointed by the Council of the Program. The completion of 8 courses is included, the courses embrace a number of fields in computer science without the intention of being exhaustive. A course may be offered as a reading course if enrollment is low. In such cases consultation is provided. The language of education in the three-year program is mainly Hungarian, but for foreign students, each course may be offered in English.

The teaching and research stuff of the Program consists mainly of scientists working at the Institute of Informatics and the Research Group on Artificial Intelligence of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Some members of the Department of Medical Informatics, Faculty of Medicine, the Department of Computer Sciences, Juhász Gyula Teacher Training College Faculty also participate in the School.

The requirements for obtaining the PhD degree are the following. Each candidate has to pass a comprehensive doctoral examination which consists of a single main subject area for those who successfully completed the study program, and a main subject area and two complementary areas for those who did not. The main subject area of the examination is closely related to the research area of the candidate. Regarding language skills, a state examination or equivalent at a level not lower than intermediate is required in a foreign language accepted by the School, preferably English.
A lower level examination is required in a second foreign language. Special rules apply to foreign students. As a third major requirement, each applicant has to fulfil the publication requirements of the Program. As a last major requirement, each candidate has to prepare and defend a doctoral thesis containing new scientific results in computer science, or high-level applications of computer science in other areas. A dominant part of the results included in the thesis has to be published before submission.

For consideration for doctoral studies in the three-year study program, one must file a formal application during the spring semester. The forms are available at the Dean's Office (Aradi Vértanuk tere 1, H-6720 Szeged, Hungary). Along with the forms, one has to submit the copies of diplomas (MS degree is required), transcripts, certificates of language proficiency. Each applicant has to arrange two letters of recommendation, submitted in sealed envelopes, or sent directly to the Dean's Office. All these will be assessed by the Council of the School. The Council may also require an interview of the applicant in order to obtain further information.

Students enrolled in the three-year study program are usually required to conduct course exercises up to 4 hours per week at the Institute of Informatics, at the graduate and/or the undergraduate level. The Program usually receives up to 5-6 new fellowships per year from the State of Hungary to be given to students who are citizens of Hungary. Foreign students are not entitled for such fellowships. The rate of tuition for foreign students is $ 2500 per semester.

Additional information

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The previous homepage of the Doctoral Program on Computer Science at the School on

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