

MSRA & CS-HKUST

Doctorate Joint Supervision Scheme

INTRODUCTION:

This program aims to promote deep collaboration between the Department of Computer Science of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (hereafter referred to as “CS-HKUST”) and Microsoft Research Asia (hereafter referred to as “MSRA”) with the establishment of a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) joint supervision scheme (thereafter referred to as the Scheme)

Role of MSRA and CS-HKUST

- Either MSRA and CS-HKUST can nominate appropriate candidates for admission to HKUST’s PhD program in Computer Science;
- The candidates shall be reviewed and approved by both parties;
- The thesis research work of the candidates admitted through this scheme will be jointly supervised by HKUST faculty and senior research staff of MSRA.

Admission Requirement

- A candidate for the Scheme nominated must satisfy at least following requirements:
 - a. all CS-HKUST postgraduate program admission requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Science (including TOEFL requirement), and preferably,
 - b. a master’s degree, and
 - c. Has passed the GRE SUB in Computer Science attaining the HKUST requirement.
- The appropriate candidate will be reviewed by the designated people from both parties
- The qualified candidate will be admitted by CS-HKUST to read for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Science.

When students come to MSRA to carry out research work at MSRA under this Scheme arrangement, they shall submit a request to MSRA and will be reviewed by MSRA, if appropriate, be admitted at MSRA’s sole discretion according to MSRA intern enrolment procedure.

Registration

- A student selected by the Scheme should register for full time mode of study at least for the first two semesters at HKUST to complete all course requirements and the final semester to defend the dissertation at HKUST and pass the thesis examination.
- The student is expected to fulfil the PhD qualifying examination requirement by the end of his/her first year of study.
- Regardless of the duration and the progress of the initial period of study at HKUST, the

student must satisfactorily complete all the necessary coursework as well as the qualifying examination within the first four semesters of study.

- Failing such, the student may be deemed to have failed in maintaining good academic standing, which may result in discontinuation of studies.
- While a student may take study leave at HKUST when he/she is carrying out research at MSRA, ideally the student should maintain a continuous registration link with the University as a part-time student by taking at least a one-credit course during the semesters the student is engaged in his/her thesis research work at MSRA.

Termination of Registration

In the event a student does not perform up to the expectations of HKUST and/or MSRA, a written warning will be issued to the student. If performance does not improve within the following semester, the student may be required to withdraw from the program of study in the semesters that follow.

Tuition Fee Payment

The student will pay full tuition fees for semesters while he/she is studying at HKUST and pay partial fee according to the credit of course(s) enrolled in other semesters.

Financial Aid

HKUST will provide financial support in the form of postgraduate studentship to the PhD student during the period when the student is registered as a full-time research student at HKUST, subject to satisfactory performance and the availability of funding. MSRA will provide allowance to the students when they are doing research at MSRA according to the local practice.

Residency Requirement

The normal residency requirement for PhD students recruited through this Scheme may be waived.

Degree Requirement of HKUST

The student must, in accordance with HKUST policies and regulations, fulfil all degree requirements of the PhD program in Computer Science of HKUST in order to be awarded a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Computer Science by HKUST.

Thesis Supervision

Each doctoral student admitted through this Scheme is co-supervised by at least one HKUST faculty member and one MSRA established researcher who should have qualifications and research experience at least equivalent to those of an assistant professor of HKUST. Being supervised by a joint supervision team does not exempt the student from the requirement of the establishment of a thesis supervision committee as required of all research students. The profile of the researcher from MSRA will be reviewed by CS-HKUST prior to his/her appointment as co-supervisor. The thesis and the thesis examination should be open to the public. HKUST will give MSRA the option of receiving an acknowledgment in publications

pertaining to thesis for the supervision and sponsorship of MSRA.

The student is required to complete a progress report for each semester of thesis work done both at HKUST and MSRA. The report documents should include information on the student's own research progress, and research-related activities the student has engaged in, such as attending seminars and other academic activities. This semester report will be reviewed by the PG committee of CS-HKUST. In addition, an annual progress report exercise is required of all research students. This report may replace the semester report for the semester the annual progress report form is submitted, subject to the agreement of CS-HKUST.

Thesis Examination Committee

The membership of the thesis examination committee should adhere to the regular composition of thesis examination committees stipulated by HKUST. The co-supervisor from MSRA will be appointed as an additional member to the thesis examination committee by CS-HKUST.

Intellectual Property

The intellectual property (including but not limited to ideas, developments, designs, concepts, techniques, inventions, discoveries, works of authorship, and derivative works or technology, collectively called "Intellectual Property") generated by the student while working at HKUST belongs to HKUST. When the students carry out research work at MSRA, the IP generated by the student while working at MSRA belongs to MSRA, according to the then effective MSRA IP arrangement for all MSRA interns. In other situations where the demarcation of intellectual property rights cannot be clearly defined, agreement should be reached among MSRA, CS-HKUST and the student involved.

Postgraduate General Policy and Regulations

Students of the Scheme are bound by other policies and regulations as stipulated by the University and the Department of Computer Science, which may be amended from time to time. Like wise, when the students carrying out research work at MSRA, the students shall follow MSRA internal policies which may be amended from time to time, including MSRA intern policies.