



REFSQ2011 will host a **Doctoral Symposium** for PhD students whose research area includes elements of Requirements Engineering.

The Symposium is intended to bring together PhD students, facilitate the establishment of links among them and with senior researchers, and give students the opportunity to present and discuss their research among colleagues in a constructively critical atmosphere. A number of senior researchers will attend the event.

The goals of the REFSQ2011 Doctoral Symposium are:

- to provide PhD students in the early stages of their research with an opportunity to survey the field and get a feeling for what their colleagues are working on;
- to provide PhD students at a more advanced stage with an opportunity to present their plans and early results;
- to provide all participant students with advice and suggestions from a panel of senior researchers,
- to facilitate interaction among all the participants.

Following the time-honoured tradition of REFSQ, the Symposium will revolve around structured presentations and matching discussions, with ample time devoted to comments from the floor. Authors of sufficiently advanced proposals will be invited to prepare a poster for the main conference.

Presenters and Participants

To **present** your work at the REFSQ2011 Doctoral Symposium you must be enrolled in a PhD program at a recognized institution at the date of the conference. You should have set on a dissertation topic in the general area of Requirements Engineering, or in a related field (in which case your topic should have a significant component of RE). Typically, presenters have progressed beyond their first year in the program, or are close to doing so, but have not submitted their thesis yet. If you have completed your PhD already, the main conference will be of more interest to you.

To **attend** the REFSQ2011 Doctoral Symposium, you should be either a student enrolled in a PhD program at a recognized institution, or a researcher in the area of Requirements Engineering, possibly with PhD supervision experience. These qualifications are not mandatory though, and attendance is open to all.

Submission Instructions

To apply as a presenter to the Doctoral Symposium, you will need to submit an application consisting of:

- A **Research Abstract** (max 6 pages + 1 for references, LNCS style) describing the **problem** you are addressing (what is unsatisfactory in the current state of the world?), its **relevance** (why would anyone care if the problem was solved?), your proposed

solution (how do you plan to attack the problem?), the **novelty** of the problem, of the solution, or both (nobody identified the problem or provided the solution before you – i.e., what is your original contribution), the **research method** you are applying (which method are you following to get to the solution, and how do you prove it solves the problem?), and the **progress** in your research (where are you, how long to the final destination?). The Research Abstract should contain a short survey and pointers to relevant literature.

- A **Letter of Recommendation** from your primary supervisor or advisor. The letter need not discuss the research (which is already covered in your abstract) but should include a statement about your position as a PhD student, the starting and expected completion date of your PhD, and an assessment of the current state of your research (including expectations about the final delivery). If your research topic is not clearly in Requirements Engineering, the letter should briefly make a case for relevance.

Both documents should be submitted, in PDF format, via email to **both** co-chairs at the addresses provided below, by **January 7th, 2011**. To facilitate handling of the submissions, the Subject line should include the tag “[REFSQ2011-DS]”.

Evaluation Criteria

Submissions will be evaluated based on the quality of the Research Abstract, and of the interest of the research described therein. In particular, the following three criteria will be considered:

- How useful the presentation will be to fellow PhD students attending the Symposium, in order to strengthen and improve their own research;
- How useful the feedback obtained at the Symposium will be to the presenter in order to advance their work;
- How relevant the subject of the presentation is to the main conference topic, namely Requirements Engineering.

It is understood that submissions are authored by young researchers at the early stages of their career, so perfection is not expected – but potential is!

Important Dates

Submission deadline (Research abstract + Letter of recommendation)	January 7 th , 2011
Notification of acceptance	February 1 st , 2011
Camera-ready copy	TBA
REFSQ2011 Doctoral Symposium	March 31 st , 2011

Symposium Co-Chairs

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