



REFSQ 2018 (www.refsq.org) will host a **Doctoral Symposium** for PhD students whose research area includes elements of Requirements Engineering. The goals of the REFSQ 2018 Doctoral Symposium are:

- to provide PhD students in 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 in advanced stages with an opportunity to present their plans and early results;
- to provide all participating 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. A number of senior researchers will attend the event.

The Doctoral Symposium will host keynote speaker(s) to be announced.

Submission Instructions

Submitting PhD students should have identified a research question in the general area of RE, or in a related field (in which case your topic should have a significant component of RE). Typically, you have progressed beyond your first year in the program, or are close to doing so, but have not submitted your thesis yet. To apply 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 will you demonstrate that 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 short 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).

Submissions will be evaluated based on the quality of the Research Abstract, and of the interest of the research described therein. Accepted papers will be published in CEUR proceedings. Submission link <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=refsq2018> Doctoral Symposium Track.

Important Dates

Submission deadline (Research abstract + Letter of recommendation)	January 15, 2018
Notification of acceptance	February 5, 2018
Camera-ready copy deadline	February 19, 2018
REFSQ 2018 Doctoral Symposium	March 19, 2018

Symposium Chairs

Jolita Ralyté – University of Geneva, Switzerland, jolita.ralyte@unige.ch

Pete Sawyer – Aston University, UK, p.sawyer@aston.ac.uk

Panel of Experts

To be announced