

Ad hoc admissions

All candidates who wish to pursue a doctorate in *Computer Science in Saarbrücken* must join the Graduate School, independently of their prior education and experience and current research affiliation. The *admission* and *progress committees* of the Graduate School administer the admission of advanced candidates for the Faculty. The idea behind the central admission procedure is that the whole Faculty wishes to take responsibility for and set similar requirements and standards for all its doctoral candidates, in keeping with the *PhD regulations* of the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics at Saarland University (available online).

Candidates who hold a strong postgraduate degree in computer science or a closely related field may be forwarded for direct admission given the clear support (including funding) of a faculty member with PhD supervision rights and assuming that no more than one semester's (six months) worth of time in the *preparatory phase* of their doctoral studies is required before they can take the *qualifying exam* (cf. separate information sheets). This is always decided on an individual basis.

Candidates who are selected via one of the other institutional selection procedures at one of the cooperating partner institutions (e.g. IMPRS-CS at MPI-Informatics), in which the responsible Graduate School committees are directly involved, will be granted *ad hoc admission* according to the decision made in that procedure.

The admission process:

Advisors who wish to propose a doctoral candidate for the Graduate School should please do so as early as possible in their internal selection process, i.e. when (or actually prior to) hiring a researcher with the implicit promise of being able to pursue a PhD. Advisors should introduce a potential doctoral candidate to the responsible committees by submitting (or having the candidate submit) the following documents and information electronically (in PDF format please) to the Graduate School Office (gradschool@cs.uni-saarland.de):

- *letter from advisor* confirming supervision and financing as well as providing an assessment of the candidate's degree of preparation (e.g. regarding further course requirements, required time until QE) and suggestions for complementary requirements, as deemed necessary.
- *CV*
- *complete academic transcripts*
- *other supporting materials*, if relevant (publications, English proficiency)

The admissions committee will then decide on an individual basis whether and which kinds of additional course requirements are expected of each candidate. This ranges from none to maximally 30 ECTS points (one full semester of coursework). If academic requirements are expected to exceed this amount, the *ad hoc admission* procedure should not be called upon (with exception of admission to the preparatory phase via other institutional selection procedures).

Next steps:

Until they have taken the *qualifying exam*, candidates are expected to enroll as PhD students in the preparatory phase at Saarland University.

The QE should be taken within about 6 months of arrival, or very shortly after fulfilling prescribed additional course requirements. After successful completion, they enter the *dissertation phase* of their doctoral studies.

Affiliation:

No matter which research group/hosting institute doctoral students are working in, they must include the Saarbrücken Graduate School of Computer Science in their affiliations on all publications and in presentations on work done while pursuing their doctorate in Saarbrücken.