

Computing the Value of New Experiences

Dimitris Chatzopoulos

PhD in Computer Science & Engineering



Achieving Research Goals

Most of the challenges for PhD students are related to remaining goal oriented, time management and maintaining a work-life balance. For Dimitris, it is concentrating on the first of these problems that has been essential to maintaining his research output.

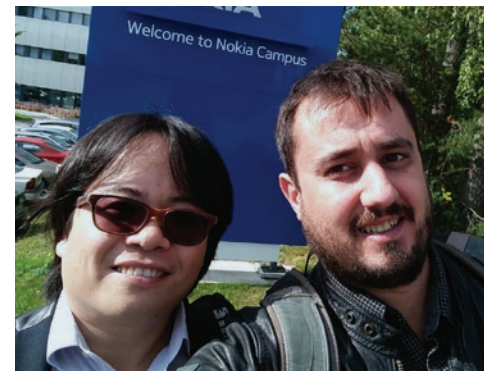
“The rule is simple: ‘First things first’. Doing a PhD in a world-class university implies that you have to do world-class research and publish your work in world-class conferences and journals.”

In his fellow postgraduate students, Dimitris has found a support network that has been vital to maintaining academic excellence and a healthy work-life balance. Be it through constructive feedback, group discussions or relaxing over delicious food, the atmosphere in the lab has been essential to both his personal and academic development.



In addition, Dimitris has found that a close relationship with his supervisor, Professor Pan Hui, has been crucial to the success of his research.

“I am very lucky to have Prof Hui as a supervisor. He is friendly and very supportive. I can see a huge difference in my research skills from the day I arrived at HKUST to now. Without his patience and constructive feedback, I wouldn’t have achieved what I have achieved today.”



Global Opportunities

After meeting Prof Hui while he was working at Deutsche Telekom T-labs in Berlin, Dimitris became aware of the academic opportunities available outside of the USA and Europe. Moreover, Dimitris has found some of the most valuable opportunities available to him were a product to HKUST’s international profile.

“The fact that I am a student at HKUST has allowed me to visit other well-known universities. With the financial support of HKUST, via the Overseas Research Award, I studied for six months at the University of Cambridge.”

In addition to Cambridge, he has studied at the prestigious École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne in Switzerland, and in both of these placements made vital connections from all over the academic sphere.

Upon the advice of Prof. Hui, Dimitris was accepted to attend the 2017 Heidelberg Laureate Forum, a networking event where prospective scientists meet mathematicians and computer scientists who are Turing award, Fields medal and Abel award recipients.



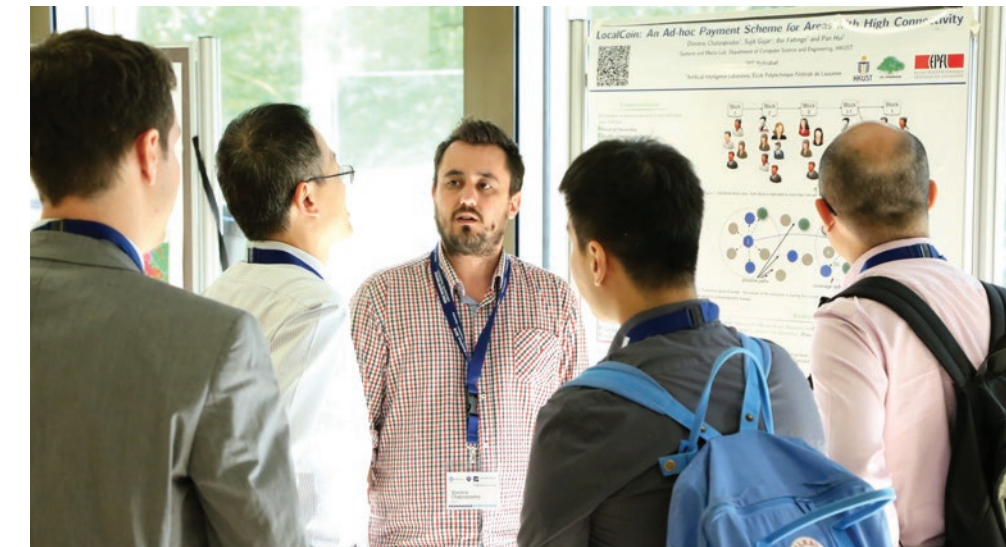
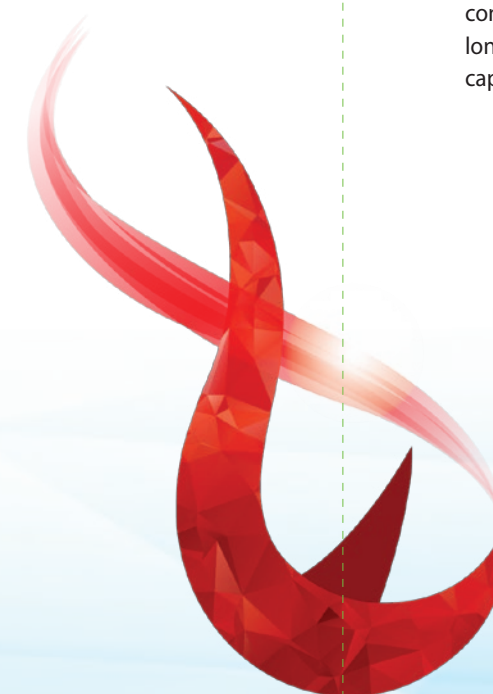
An Asian Experience

One of the primary attractions of HKUST for Dimitris was the location of the university itself. Offering a distinctive combination of vibrancy and cultural diversity, Hong Kong proved to be a uniquely attractive place to study.

“Life in Hong Kong is faster and more dynamic. As an international hub, Hong Kong gives me the opportunity to interact with people from all over the world, learn about the culture of many other countries and try a variety of cuisines. It also allows me to travel to amazing places and see things that do not exist in Greece or in Europe.”

Such is his satisfaction with both the university and the city, Dimitris is of the view that any interested international students should absolutely seize the opportunity to study in Hong Kong.

“They will be able to interact with so many people with different cultural backgrounds while studying in one of the best universities in Asia and in the world. I advise them not to focus on the distance from their home but on the distance to their goals instead.”



Looking to the Future

In the short term, Dimitris intends to continue his research at HKUST, use the international connections he has made to collaborate over new research and complete his PhD. In the longer term, he will look for new research and teaching opportunities in academia, capitalizing on his time at HKUST to demonstrate his research skills and knowledge base.

