


AY2025

SCIS PhD RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARD

The SCIS Research Excellence Award recognises self-financed SCIS PhD students for their research achievements.


LEGEND:  ACHIEVEMENTS IN AY2024-25



CAI Xuemeng
 SANER 2025


Start small, but think deeply, as even simple observations can lead to the valuable insights.



CHEN Junkai
 ICSE 2025
ISSTA 2025


1. Carefully evaluate before committing to a research direction.
2. Seek help early—avoid getting stuck alone.
3. Failure is a natural part of research—stay steady.



GE Zichang
 AAMAS 2025


Start simple, then refine. It's easy to get caught up in complex solutions, but starting from clear and simple baselines helps build solid intuition. Through iteration and refinement, deeper insights tend to emerge naturally.



HE Junda
 TOSEM 2025
EMSE 2025


Always make yourself happy. Adopt a mindset of simplifying complexity rather than complicating what is simple. Think top-down and act bottom-up until they reach the middle. Prioritise collaborative endeavors over working in isolation. Recognise that extended hours are counterproductive; adequate rest is essential for maintaining the energy and focus needed for the journey ahead.



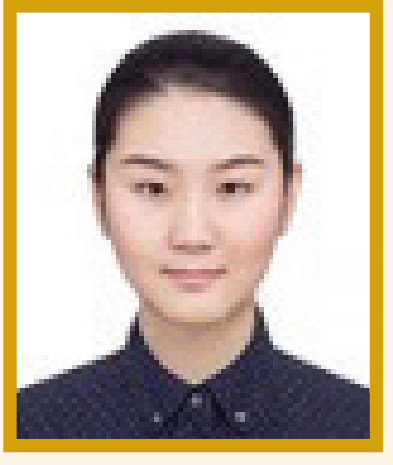
KONG Jiaolong
 TOSEM 2025
FSE 2025


"Learning by doing." I have always believed that hands-on experience and actively engaging with challenges are the best ways to grow as a researcher.



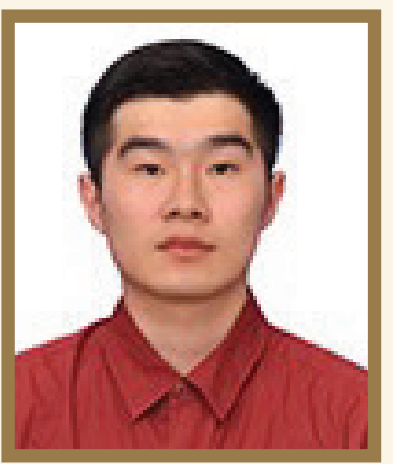
LYU Yunbo
 TSE 2024


Work harder, sleep better. Think about some fundamental problems.



ZHANG Ruihan
 CAV 2024
TReI 2025


Choose a research area you truly enjoy—one that excites you and is meaningful to the community. When you're confused or stuck, read papers—not just to understand, but to find calm and inspiration for your next step. And most importantly, avoid the sunk cost fallacy: if a direction feels wrong, don't hesitate to change course, regardless of past effort. Staying curious, calm, and flexible helps pave the way for impactful research.



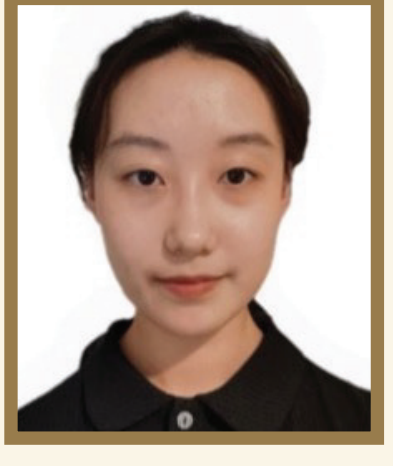
SHI Jieke
 TOSEM 2025 * 2


- Read and internalise papers extensively—your brain is your best recording device. The more you retain, the more agile your thinking becomes.
- Ensure your work meets your own quality standards before sharing.
- Maintain a clean codebase—it always pays off in the long run.
- Visit your office regularly and seek feedback from your supervisor and peers.
- Sleep well, and don't hesitate to relax when needed.



SUN Zhensu
 TOSEM 2025
ISSTA 2024

Before starting a project, clearly define an interesting research question to guide your work. More importantly, prioritise completion over perfection—finishing a first draft or prototype quickly allows for feedback and improvement, while chasing perfection early often leads to delays or unfinished work. Progress matters more than flawless beginnings.



ZHANG Zhihan
 ACL 2024

1. Read broadly. Engaging with diverse literature across disciplines cultivates fresh perspectives and can lead to unexpected, innovative research ideas. Interdisciplinary exposure often reveals conceptual connections that deepen understanding.
2. Validate early. Conducting preliminary experiments before settling on a final direction helps uncover practical challenges and sharpen research questions.
3. Maintain positive. Research inevitably involves setbacks and uncertainty—staying curious, adaptable, and positive is essential for sustained progress and long-term success.