

SCIS DEAN’S LIST AWARD

The SCIS Dean’s List Award for PhD students recognises outstanding SCIS PhD students who have consistently shown exceptional research achievements in their research.

LEGEND:

 ACHIEVEMENTS IN AY2025-26

 PREVIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS



Brahmanage Janaka Chathuranga THILAKARATHNA

 IJCAI 2026 *0.5 | ICAPS 2026

 AAAI 2025 | NeurIPS 2023

Think from first principles and always ground your ideas in the basics. Avoid overcomplicating solutions, start with simple, clear baselines and iterate fast. Value consistent feedback from your advisor and peers and try to stay emotionally detached from your results so setbacks become learning opportunities.



BUI The Viet

 ICML 2026 | NeurIPS 2025

 ICLR 2025 | NeurIPS 2024 *2 | ICML 2025 | AAMAS 2023

My success stems from great supervision from Prof. Tien and support from SMU faculty and friends. My advice: fully embrace your academic community. Actively seeking mentorship and collaborating with peers is the best way to expand your knowledge, diversify research, and achieve your goals.



HU Changshuo

 Ubicom 2026 *1.3 | SenSys 2026 *0.5

 BodySys 2025 Best Paper Award *0.5 | Ubicom 2024 *2 | Ubicom 2024 Distinguish Paper Award

(1) Focus on important problems that have real impact, rather than starting from a preferred technique; (2) Read broadly and critically. The limitations of existing work often reveal valuable research opportunities; (3) Communicate frequently with supervisors, seek their advice early, and stay open to critical feedback. Good research usually emerges through repeated discussion, refinement, and validation.



LIANG Jinggui

 EMNLP 2025

 ACL 2025 | EMNLP 2024

There is no single secret to good research. Start with a question that genuinely matters, and keep the core idea simple enough to explain clearly. Read broadly, test assumptions early, and seek honest feedback. Treat setbacks as signals for refinement rather than failure. High-quality research grows from sustained curiosity, careful execution, and the patience to improve one step at a time.



LYU Yunbo

 ASE 2025 | ASE 2025 SIGSOFT Distinguished Paper Award | ACM MM 2025

 TSE 2024 | ICSE 2023 *0.5

PhD research is a marathon, not a sprint. Read papers daily, move forward steadily, and treat rejection as an opportunity to learn. Rather than settling for incremental work, think more deeply and pursue meaningful questions. In collaboration and reviewing, always be KIND—and do not hesitate to ask about opportunities. A strong conference presentation can leave a lasting impression. Finally, protect your well-being through regular aerobic exercise and hobbies, whether badminton, playing Counter-Strike, or poker with labmates.



NONG Minh Hieu

 ICML 2026

 ICML 2025 | AAAI 2025

Always keep a ledger of conjectures/unsolved problems/failed approaches for later revision. You may encounter the proof idea while working on other projects. If the solution to a hard problem you have been working on turns out to have a trivial answer, do not be disappointed. Think of interesting constraints, relax assumptions, or just accept you learned something new. Small progress is still progress.

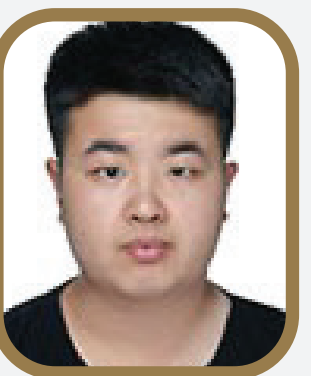


PHAM Quang Anh

 ICML 2026 | NeurIPS 2025

 AAMAS 2025

Choose a research problem that genuinely interests you and take time to understand it deeply. Try to question assumptions, validate ideas through both theory and experiments, and learn from every failed attempt. Discuss your work regularly with supervisors and collaborators, remain open to feedback, and focus on steady progress. Consistency, curiosity, and persistence often matter more than short bursts of productivity.



QIAO Hezhe

 NeurIPS 2025 *0.5 | ICML 2026 *0.5 | KDD 2026 *0.5

 KDD 2025 *0.5 | NeurIPS 2024 | IJCAL 2025 *0.5 | TKDE 2024 | NeurIPS 2023

(1) Practical problems should guide methodological innovation; (2) A simple and well-motivated idea is often stronger than an unnecessarily complex method; (3) Producing one high-quality paper is often more meaningful than publishing many less-developed papers; (4) Publication is not the end of a paper's journey; it is often the beginning of its real impact.



SUN Zhensu

 ASE 2025 | ICSE 2026 *0.5 | ICSE 2026 ACM SIGSOFT Distinguished Paper Award *0.5

 TOSEM 2025 | ISSTA 2024-ACM SIGSOFT Distinguished Paper award | ByteDance Scholarship

Before starting a project, clearly define an interesting research question to guide your work. More importantly, prioritize 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.



TIAN Zichen

 ICLR 2026

 CVPR 2025 | Highlight Award from CVPR 2025 (top 0.6%) | NeurIPS 2024

(1) Question deeply and continuously; (2) Engage closely with your collaborators and supervisor; (3) Practice writing with very high priority; (4) Frequently evaluate your research as a strict AC/reviewer; (5) Thought is creative, so always be positive and faithful; (6) Remain grateful for supervisor and environment.



ZHANG Zhihan

 ACM MM 2025 | ACL 2026

 ACL 2024

(1) Read broadly: Explore diverse disciplines to spark innovative ideas and uncover hidden connections; (2) Validate early. Run quick preliminary experiments to spot practical challenges and refine your direction; (3) Stay resilient. Approach setbacks with curiosity and adaptability to maintain long-term progress.



ZOU Xiandong

 ICML 2026

 ICLR 2026 | ICML 2025

I am grateful for Prof Zhou's guidance and the support of SCIS faculty and fellows, which have shaped how I approach research. The first lesson is to cultivate research taste: identify problems that matter and recognize promising directions. The second is to sharpen research sense: reason from first principles and tackle technical bottlenecks systematically.