Building the foundations for future science

The ORCHID Doctoral Training Programme is looking for the brightest computer scientists, mathematicians, engineers, economists and physicists to build the next generation of intelligent information systems – Human-Agent Collectives (HACs). ORCHID offers fully-funded scholarships for 3.5 year PhDs, with a stipend ranging from £14,000-£18,000 (depending on background and experience), working alongside internationally leading academics based in the Universities of Southampton, Oxford or Nottingham. There are opportunities for a placement with industrial partners such as BAE Systems, Secure Meters UK and the Australian Centre for Field Robotics.

To be eligible for this competitive scholarship you must demonstrate a relevant connection with the UK*. ORCHID students will play an active role within the team, from agenda setting to building demonstrators and applying research in commercial settings. In return you will work on a flagship project, join a vibrant working environment with your own dedicated space and personal laptop and have the ability to travel to present results at international conferences.

Informal applications via email:

info@orchid.ac.uk

You are encouraged to briefly introduce yourself and outline the area of research and the supervisor you are interested in working with.

To find out more:

www.orchid.ac.uk
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*You need to be ordinarily resident for a period of three years immediately prior to the date of application, excluding any period of residence mainly for the purposes of full-time education. EU nationals are eligible for fees-only awards if they are resident in their own country for a period of three years immediately prior to the date of application, excluding any period of residence mainly for the purposes of full-time education.
To provide **flexible autonomy** that will allow agents to sometimes take actions in a completely autonomous way without reference to their human owner, while at other times being guided by much closer human involvement in key decisions.

To discover the means by which groups of agents and humans can exhibit **agile teaming** and come together on an *ad hoc* basis in order to achieve a goal that none of the individuals can achieve in isolation and then disband once the cooperative action has been successful.

To elaborate the principles of **incentive engineering** so that rewards are designed to encourage autonomous participants to generate socially desirable outcomes.

To design and develop an **accountable information infrastructure** that provides a step change in situational awareness by blending sensor and crowd generated content in a robust and reliable way and developing mechanisms that allow the provenance, veracity and accuracy of information to be confirmed and audited.

To demonstrate the impact of **Human-Agent Collectives on society**, where people become increasingly dependent upon a plethora of smart and proactive computers that we carry with us, access at home and work and are embedded in the world around us.