

School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science

EPSRC supported CASE PhD Studentship: “Intelligent Interfaces for Accelerating Piano Learning”

Applications are invited for a PhD Studentship to undertake research on **intelligent interfaces for accelerating piano learning**, starting September/October 2012.

This project forms part of an existing collaboration between the Centre for Digital Music (EECS) and the Yamaha Research and Development Centre London. Formally, Prof. Elaine Chew (www.eecs.qmul.ac.uk/~eniale) of EECS will be the main supervisor.

Ubiquitous access to digital music, and the hours of practice required to master new pieces, has led to a decline in amateur instrument playing. Cognisance of music structure can facilitate planning and sequence production, and enhance music making pleasure. Machine intelligence can help diagnose areas of difficulty and offer targeted constructive assistance. The student will propose/evaluate score-based visualisations of music structure and gestures that accelerate intermediate piano piece mastery for young and adult learners.

Further background and details of the proposed work can be found here:
www.eecs.qmul.ac.uk/phd/funding.php

This studentship, funded by a Queen Mary EPSRC Doctoral Training Account, will cover student fees and a tax-free stipend starting at £15,590 per annum. This studentship is a CASE award and attracts an additional stipend of £5,200 per annum. Further details of the EPSRC scheme including terms and conditions can be found here:

www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/students/dta/Pages/default.aspx

Applicants must be UK nationals or residents as defined here:

www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/students/pages/eligibility.aspx

Candidates should have a first class honours degree or equivalent (and preferably a Masters Degree) in any relevant area including Electronic Engineering, Computer Science, and Music Technology. The ideal student should be proficient at programming, experienced with user interface design, have some background in statistics, and be at least an amateur pianist.

Informal enquiries can be made by email to Prof. Elaine Chew (elaine.chew@eecs.qmul.ac.uk). **To apply please follow the on-line process** (see www.qmul.ac.uk/postgraduate/apply) **by selecting “Electronic Engineering” in the “A-Z list of research opportunities” and following the instructions on the right hand side of the web page.**

Please note that instead of the 'Research Proposal' we request a 'Statement of Research Interests'. Your Statement of Research Interest should answer two questions: (i) Why are you interested in the proposed area? (ii) What is your experience in the proposed area? Your statement should be brief: no more than 500 words or one side of A4 paper. **In addition** we would also like you to send a sample of your written work. This might be a chapter of your final year dissertation, or a published conference or journal paper. More details can be found at: www.eecs.qmul.ac.uk/phd/apply.php

The closing date for the applications is 31st. January 2012.

Interviews are expected to take place during February 2012.