

ACM 2022-2023 Student Chapter Excellence Awards Application

For Application Guidelines, see <https://www.acm.org/chapters/student-chapter-excellence-awards>

Award Category: Outstanding Recruitment Program

Chapter Name: *

UC San Diego ACM Student Chapter (181518) ▼

City: *

La Jolla

State/Province:

California

Country: *

United States of America ▼

Outstanding Recruitment Program: Chapter Contact Information

Please provide all required information

URL for your Chapter homepage (for example, <https://www.acm.org>): *

Please ensure your chapter logo abides by ACM's Chapter Logo Policy (<https://www.acm.org/chapters/chapter-policies>).

<https://acmucsd.com>

Facebook:

<https://acmurl.com/facebook>

Who is submitting this application? *

Enter Submitter's name

Shirley Qi

Submitter's Email: *

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Faculty Sponsor Name: *

Joe Politz

Faculty Sponsor Email: *

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Outstanding Recruitment Program: Chapter Achievements

Provide brief descriptions as requested, and stay within the character limit for each

Please provide a brief description of your chapter and school (1500 character maximum) *

The UC San Diego ACM Student Chapter was founded by a small group of students in March 2019. Within a year, we grew over 150 times our original size from 6 members to over 2000 members, and now at 4 years old now have over 3000 members. Our community consists of designers who specialize in computer-human interaction, white hat hackers who hunt down security holes, and software developers who create far-reaching applications. Bringing together this diverse group of people is a tremendous number of activities. Since the beginning of our academic term six months ago, the chapter has hosted over 160 technical workshops, socials, and networking events. Additionally, we've improved the academic, professional, and personal lives of students by offering various programs including mentorship, staff membership, and projects.

Our rapid growth has made us the largest organization within the Jacobs School of Engineering, which was recently ranked 9th in the latest US News and World Report Rankings of Best Engineering Schools (5th amongst public schools). The school currently consists of more than 280 faculty and nearly 9,200 engineering students. Across the west coast, our school has awarded the most bachelor's degrees in engineering and computer science and is a strong supporter of diversity, having awarded the second most degrees to women. Because of this, our chapter is proud to be supported by two departments within the school - the Computer Science and Engineering Department and the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department.

Outstanding Recruitment Essay Guidelines (4000 character maximum) *

Tell us about your recruiting program. How do you let students at your school know about your chapter and how do you get them interested in becoming a chapter member? What factors are most critical to your success? How many chapter members does your chapter have? Please note, this question is referring to your chapter member recruitment, not ACM membership recruitment. Please be sure to use your chapter's official name - do not refer to your chapter as 'ACM,' 'ACM-W' or 'WICS.' Please note, links to essays will not be accepted and will disqualify your chapter.

For recruitment this year, UC San Diego ACM Student Chapter focused on improving our designs for marketing materials, such as flyers and social media posts. Our goal was to make our marketing eye-catching and unique, so students would want to look at our flyers and ask about our organization and what we do on campus. This proved to be very effective, with our Instagram gaining over 1000 followers this year and our membership increasing by over 1300 members. Additionally, we made promotional videos for each of our major programs and communities, which we could easily share to students at UCSD to get them interested in our activities. We promoted ourselves as a fun and inclusive community where you could not only learn about the various facets of computing, but also where you could make lifelong friends and connections and grow your network.

We also hosted a variety of programs that aided in member recruitment. Two in particular that were especially helpful to member recruitment are our quarterly projects system and our mentor mentee system called Bit-Byte.

Our 10-week long quarterly projects program is going strong with over 250 applications Fall 2022 and over 150 applications Winter 2023. Each quarter we admit over 40 students participating in around 8 teams of 4-6 students. This year we have three communities that define our project topics: ACM AI for traditional AI and machine learning projects, ACM Hack for web development and project management, and ACM Design for user research and User Interface/User Experience (UI/UX) design. We also implemented a new mentoring system that creates a one-to-one ratio of mentors to teams. We found that having mentors accessible kept teams on track and helped them learn more. The program culminates in a showcase event that receives around 100 attendees. The completed projects pay dividends for students as it improves resumes, provides hands-on knowledge, and inspires their future projects.

Additionally, we ran the fourth iteration of our Bit-Byte (mentee-mentor) program and really focused on building long-lasting and fulfilling relationships between the 100+ students that applied. We fostered these mentor-mentee relationships through many events and activities in Fall quarter, such as Bit-Byte Speedfriending, Bit-Byte One on Ones, and many fun social events like our beach bonfire, laser tag, cafe, and game night. This all culminated into our Allocation in Week 8, where we revealed the final matches through an exciting series of activities. We continued to and will continue to host fun social events in Winter and Spring to help deepen these new friendships even more. Bit-Byte makes ACM not just a place where students can develop their technical skills but a place where they can gain lasting and valuable friendships as well.

We also recruited interns for our board positions in Fall quarter. These interns, called Diamond Staff, would be assigned a specific mentor from our board and learn about their position, get assigned work related to that position, and get an inside look as to how our student organization runs. This year, we had over 80 applicants for our Diamond staff program, and accepted 20 exceptional candidates to intern for us. These

interns have hosted various technical and social events, contributed to our website, helped with funding through fundraisers, and more.

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