



ACM Student Chapter Excellence Awards Application

Chapter Group ID: 110169
Name of Chapter: UPV ACM Student Chapter
Chapter Address: Edificio 1H Despacho 0.7 ETSINF, Universitat Politècnica de València, Camino de Vera s/n, 46022 Valencia (SPAIN)
URL for your Chapter homepage: <https://acmupv.webs.upv.es/>
Category you are applying for: Outstanding School Services

Chapter Officers

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Please provide a brief description of your chapter and school including number of chapter members (1500 character maximum):

The ACM UPV Student Chapter was founded in 2013, and we currently have 175 members, from which 12 are very active collaborators and coorganizers for the chapter activities. Our chapter is hosted at the Computer Science Faculty of the Polytechnic University of Valencia. Ours is a technical university, with plenty of options to study engineering and technological related degrees. The School of Computer Engineering teaches two official degrees, one in Computer Engineering and a double major in Computer Engineering + Administration and Business Management, as well as two associated and official Master degrees. The main student associations in our School are the students' delegation, dataUPV group, ACM UPV and ACM-W UPV. The School also has spaces for entrepreneurship, is a reference for Erasmus students in terms of teaching quality and study programme, and has contact with many local businesses that offer employment to our graduated students. It also has an active calendar of activities throughout the year, some of them coming from the ACM and ACM-W UPV chapters.

Number of students at your school who take computer science and related courses, and typical majors of your chapter members (1000 character maximum):

The school in which our Chapter is hosted is the School of Computer Engineering from the Polytechnic University of Valencia. There are around 2100 students total each year in our School. The typical majors of our chapter members, who are mostly students at the School of Computer Engineering within the Computer Science degree, are Software Engineering, Computing Engineering, Computing, Information Technology and Information Systems.



An essay on the category for which your chapter would like to be considered (4000 character maximum - approximately 500 words):

Our ACM-UPV Chapter is applying for the Outstanding School Service award. We have been growing our community since the foundation of the chapter in 2013, and this last year has been very exciting for us.

We have hosted three networking events in the form of “[afternoon snacks](#)”. These were informal gatherings in which food and tea were served. During the meeting, we greeted the students that attended and presented them the activities ACM & ACM-W UPV host during the year, opportunities by being part of an ACM Student Chapter, and we also gave them a list of resources such as scholarships to apply for, competitions they can join, communities to be part of, events to participate in... Overall, these were very fruitful and fun experiences and we felt the students enjoyed a lot while taking home a lot of information for their future. Some of them even joined our chapter as very active collaborators! In addition, we always present our chapters in a more formal scenario during the [university welcome days for new students](#).

During the Hour of Code week, we had three wonderful Hour of Code sessions for secondary school and high school students([1,2,3](#)).Our ACM Student Chapter collaborators presented the basics of Scratch to the students. After that, students were given a bulletin with steps they had to follow in order to create their first Scratch program. Many of them finished the whole bulletin and started creating their own variations, asking very insightful questions! The students as well as their teachers were delighted with the results and we hope some of them will continue working on their programming skills. During these activities, our ACM collaborators also improved their soft skills and experience presenting, teaching and resolving questions.

Throughout the year we have organized or hosted several programming competitions at our Faculty. For example, we have been a hub for the [Google HashCode](#) for two years in a row. Moreover, last year we organized a cryptography contest based on RSA cryptanalysis in collaboration with an associate professor from the Information Systems and Computing Department (DSIC). The competition was really exciting as the scoreboard could vary in short time and anyone could ascend unexpectedly. This has fostered students’ curiosity and motivation towards learning new skills, and many of them have asked us to host preparation sessions for upcoming competitions.

Finally, one of our biggest objectives is that students from our faculty (and other faculties!) would want to join our collaboration team and be able to expand our activities even more. To accomplish this, we came up with innovative ways of promoting our chapter. One of them was during the annual communities fair at our university. We created a poster with photos of some of the most important female who significantly contributed in CS and challenged UPV students to guess their names and accomplishments. They were allowed to check any source they needed as the main goal was not winning the prize, but knowing who they were/are and what they did/do. We also prepared a second activity, this time for CS students. It was a competition similar to a [gymkhana](#), which was composed by several tasks containing hints, each one leading participants to another clue. [The solution](#) of the whole activity required to access our website, visit our office and explore a bit the web to find out about ACM, aside from solving CS flavoured challenges. Both activities allowed participants to learn a bit more about CS in an amusing way, and allowed students to know our chapter and the activities we have or that we are planning for the future.

In addition, the ACM UPV Chapter was invited to the annual [Forum Lluís Vives 2017](#) in Valencia. The main theme of the Forum was HumanisTICS, and representatives from our chapter were invited to host a discussion panel around technology and young generations for an audience outside the university, with people coming from all around our city.