SimTech – Cluster of Excellence

The Cluster of Excellence Simulation Technology (SimTech) is an interdisciplinary research network at the University of Stuttgart. It was founded in 2007 as part of the Excellence Initiative, which is administered by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the German Science Council (Wissenschaftsrat). In 2012, the funding of the Cluster of Excellence has been renewed until 2017.

Today, SimTech has about 200 scientists working on advancing Simulation Technology from isolated numerical methods to an integrative systems science.

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Overview

The Graduate School Simulation Technology (GS SimTech) is the interdisciplinary and internationally oriented PhD Programme of the Stuttgart Research Centre for Simulation Technology (SRC SimTech) at the University of Stuttgart, Germany.

The GS SimTech grants its PhD students financial support for research projects up to three years. It further supports the doctoral students by offering

- an excellent research environment at the SRC SimTech, encouraging interdisciplinary exchange
- intensive supervision by renowned scientists from different disciplines
- a comprehensive range of lectures
- a research stay at an institute abroad for up to three month

Education

About 150 doctoral students from different research areas are currently involved in the GS SimTech, and 40 have already successfully obtained their doctoral degree in the field of simulation technology.

The structured education at the GS SimTech lasts between three and five years. Each PhD student works on a particular research project. Two senior researchers from different research areas of the SRC SimTech provide guidance for the development of the doctoral thesis.

With the assistance of the supervisors, the PhD student compiles an individual curriculum of lectures and seminars, offered by the University of Stuttgart. In the course of the customised curriculum, the PhD student acquires the necessary expertise and skills to work on the PhD thesis.

The GS SimTech also offers special seminars to advance interdisciplinary networking within the GS SimTech and to broaden the scientific horizon of its members.

In addition, the PhD students are given the possibility to participate at soft skill-workshops like Scientific Writing in English or Project Management.

The PhD students are in close contact with their supervisors and have the chance to discuss their results regularly. The yearly Status Seminar of the SRC SimTech gives every PhD student the opportunity to present the latest discoveries or discuss methodological questions.

After 18 months in the GS SimTech, there is the obligatory Milestone Presentation. On this occasion every PhD student has to present the status quo of the research project under way.

Thereafter it is recommended to plan a research stay overseas, which normally lasts three months. The PhD students of the GS SimTech can rely on a vast network of international partner institutions.