

SFU Press Releases Collection

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MEDIA RELEASE

Media Advisory: SFU launches Canada's first Professional Master's program stream in Visual Computing

September 10, 2018

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Simon Fraser University's School of Computing Science is beginning classes this month for the **visual computing stream** of its Professional Master of Science in Computer Science program — this is the first specialization of its kind in Canada.

A **launch event** with industry guests will be held Tuesday, Sept. 11 from 10:30 a.m. - 1 pm. The first cohort of students will also be available for interviews.

"Our curriculum will focus on computer graphics, computer vision, human-computer interaction and visualization," says program director Hao (Richard) Zhang. "These technical skills can then be applied to areas such as AR/VR/MR, design and manufacturing, education, VFX, medical imaging, robotics and autonomous driving."

The program's introduction coincides with the federal funding announcement earlier this year supporting the Digital Technology Supercluster. One of its key initiatives is to create a "digital learning factory" in B.C.

B.C. is home to Canada's fastest-growing technology sector. It generates \$26 billion a year and continues to attract global companies such as Microsoft, Amazon, Boeing, Disney, Sony and EA. There are 900 companies specializing in digital media and visual computing in B.C. In Vancouver, there are more than 60 visual effects (VFX) and animation studios, which is the world's largest cluster of domestic and foreign-owned studios involved in producing top-grossing films and video games.

SFU ranks **No.13 in the world** in terms of top research publications in computer graphics and computer vision, the core areas of visual computing.

WHAT: Launch event for the visual computing stream of SFU's Professional Master of Science Program in Computer Science

WHEN: Tuesday, September 11, 2018, 10:30AM - 1:00PM

WHERE: ASB10900 (SFU's Big Data Hub), Applied Science Building, SFU Burnaby campus

SPEAKER SCHEDULE/MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES:

Announcement of program launch:

10:30AM - 10:45AM

Hao (Richard) Zhang, Program Director, SFU's Professional Master of Science Program in Computer Science

Guest speakers from industry:

10:45AM - 11:00AM

Ryan Nadel, Senior Program Manager, Microsoft

11:00AM - 11:15AM

Victor Ng-Throw-Hing, Principal Engineer, Magic Leap

11:15AM - 11:30AM

Nima Aghdaii, Software Engineer, Snapchat

(SFU alumnus)

11:30AM - 11:45AM

Maryam Sadeghi, CEO, MetaOptima

(SFU alumnus)

Demos and opportunities for interviews:

12:00PM - 1:00PM

ADDITIONAL EVENT DETAILS:

<https://bit.ly/2wCWceC>

About Simon Fraser University:

As Canada's engaged university, SFU is defined by its dynamic integration of innovative education, cutting-edge research and far-reaching community engagement. SFU was founded more than 50 years ago with a mission to be a different kind of university—to bring an interdisciplinary approach to learning, embrace bold initiatives, and engage with communities near and far. Today, SFU is Canada's leading comprehensive research university and is ranked one of the top universities in the world. With campuses in British Columbia's three largest cities – Vancouver, Burnaby and Surrey – SFU has eight faculties, delivers almost 150 programs to over 35,000 students, and boasts more than 150,000 alumni in 130 countries around the world.

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