

As an international grad student and first author of our paper, “KPCA-CAM: Visual Explainability of Deep Computer Vision Models using Kernel PCA,” I’m incredibly proud of our work and eager to present it in person at IEEE MMSP 2024. This would be my first time attending a large international conference, and I’m excited about the chance to experience how research is shared and discussed within the community. However, the costs are quite high. The total cost for travelling, accommodation and registration is \$1766 USD.

As an international student, that’s a significant amount. To give you an idea, I worked hard as a Graduate Research Assistant for a term and earned CAD \$3000 (about \$2200 USD), most of which went toward living expenses. Getting the travel grant and registration waiver would cut my cost significantly and I can manage the other costs.

I’m really passionate about sharing our work with other researchers, learning from what they’re doing, and starting to build a network in both academia and industry. As someone who’s still growing in the field of image processing, I’m especially excited to meet fellow students and early-career professionals. I’m looking forward to the workshops and networking events where I can gain insights into the research world and explore future career paths. I’m also really curious to see how deep learning is being applied to solve real-world image processing challenges. This experience would be a key step in helping me understand what a career in graduate studies and academia could look like.

No matter how I participate, I’m fully committed to preparing for my presentation. I’ll work closely with my coauthors to polish the content, run multiple practice sessions, and even present to our broader lab group for feedback. After the conference, I plan to share what I’ve learned through university channels, encouraging other undergrads to get involved in image processing research.

Attending the conference in person would be so much more valuable, so I genuinely hope I can be there with the support of a travel grant.