



University
of Exeter

Institute for Data Science
and Artificial Intelligence

IDSAI Research Awards – Round 8, Autumn 2023

Deadline for full applications: **09:00 15th January 2024**

Awards: **Resource is available to fund two projects in this round to be supported by an IDSAI Research Fellow.**

Aim

IDSAI Research Awards aim to support early-phase development of ideas for innovative, interdisciplinary data science and AI research across Exeter.

It is expected that by the end of an IDSAI Research Award the recipients will have generated new pilot data to underpin future applications for funding or which will provide the foundations for research publication(s).

This is the sixth call for IDSAI Research Awards.

Scope

Applications for IDSAI Research Awards are invited from academic members of staff in all Exeter Colleges and departments.

Research awards will support pilot research projects in interdisciplinary data science and/or artificial intelligence aligned to the aims of the [IDSAI](#). We are therefore seeking applications to utilise data science/AI approaches to address research challenges in any area of the sciences, arts and humanities. Please note that applications where the majority of the work is considered to be routine data analysis will not be supported.

To ensure that projects are interdisciplinary, applications should be led by two PIs from different disciplines. Typically, this would include one PI from a data science discipline; however, effective project teams may be composed differently. Please get in touch if you are not sure whether your project team meets this requirement.

Proposals may include additional external collaborators where these individuals bring skills or resources not available within Exeter.

IDSAI Research Awards provide researcher resource to kick-start new projects. Through working with an IDSAI Research Fellow, we hope to see transfer of skills and knowledge exchange within the applicant team which will enable promising projects to be taken forward after the end of the award.

Projects will preferably represent potential for novel data science/AI, as well as innovation in the area of application.

Funding available



Applications for IDSAI Research Awards may request the following:

- Fully-funded time of an IDSAI Research Fellow up to 0.5 FTE, for a maximum of 6 months. Applicants are able to suggest projects of differing duration and resourcing as long as this limit is not exceeded.
- Up to £500 for associated research costs, including (but not limited to) HPC time/credits, travel and subsistence costs associated with visits to project partners, minor computing hardware/software. (Please note that Research Fellows have their own equipment sufficient for most data science research needs).

How to Apply

Applications are invited via a **two-step process of an expression of interest (Eoi) followed by a full application**. Please note that project teams and ideas can continue to evolve between the Eoi and full application stage and that the Eoi will help the IDSAI to support project teams in developing their ideas.

Full Application submission

Applicants wishing to submit a full application after this scoping meeting, should send the following completed documentation to idsai@exeter.ac.uk by 5pm on the application closing date.

- Case for support (max 3 sides of A4, at least 11pt font with 2 cm margins), with details under each of the following headings:
 - Project aims and potential for innovative, interdisciplinary data science/AI research
 - Outline research methodology
 - Data science/AI skills needed to complete the project (to enable us to match you with an appropriate IDSAI Research Fellow)
 - Collaborators and what they will contribute (if appropriate)
 - Expected outputs
 - Potential for academic and/or societal impact
 - Plans for future funding
 - Resources requested – please state the proposed duration and %FTE of researcher time required. Please justify any additional research costs up to a maximum of £500.
 - You may use up to 1 extra side of A4 (in addition to the 3 sides - case for support) for references if required.
- Data annexe – max 1 side of A4, detailing the availability and nature of data to be utilised in the project. Please detail any pre-work needed to make the dataset suitable for use in the project and how this will be resourced.

Assessment



Applications will be assessed by members of the [IDSAI Management Group](#), with input from the IDSAI Research Fellows, based on their fit to the following selection criteria:

- Quality, novelty, ambition and timeliness
- Interdisciplinarity and alignment to the aims of IDSAI
- Appropriateness of the proposed research methodology
- Potential for academic impact and knowledge exchange

Projects awarded funding will be required to:

- Attend a kick-off meeting where a project plan, start and end dates will be agreed.
- Attend a mid-project review meeting
- Write a final report at the end of the award and present the outcomes of their project to the IDSAI Management Group.
- Present their work at IDSAI events if requested

The IDSAI retains the right to review project progress at any time and to halt or stop any projects as necessary.

[Call timetable](#)

Call for applications issued	2 nd November 2023
Information webinar – open to all	14 th November 2023, 14:00 (tbc)
Expressions of interest submission deadline	4 th December 2023, 09:00
Project scoping discussions with Research Fellows	Week commencing 11 th December
Deadline for full applications	15 th January 2024, 09:00
Sift panel meets	Week beginning 22 nd January 2024
Decisions communicated	Week ending 2 February 2024
Projects start	March 2024
Maximum possible end date	6 months from the start of the project

[Contacts](#)

For additional information or general enquiries about this call please email idsai@exeter.ac.uk or contact Emily Paremain, IDSAI Manager.



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