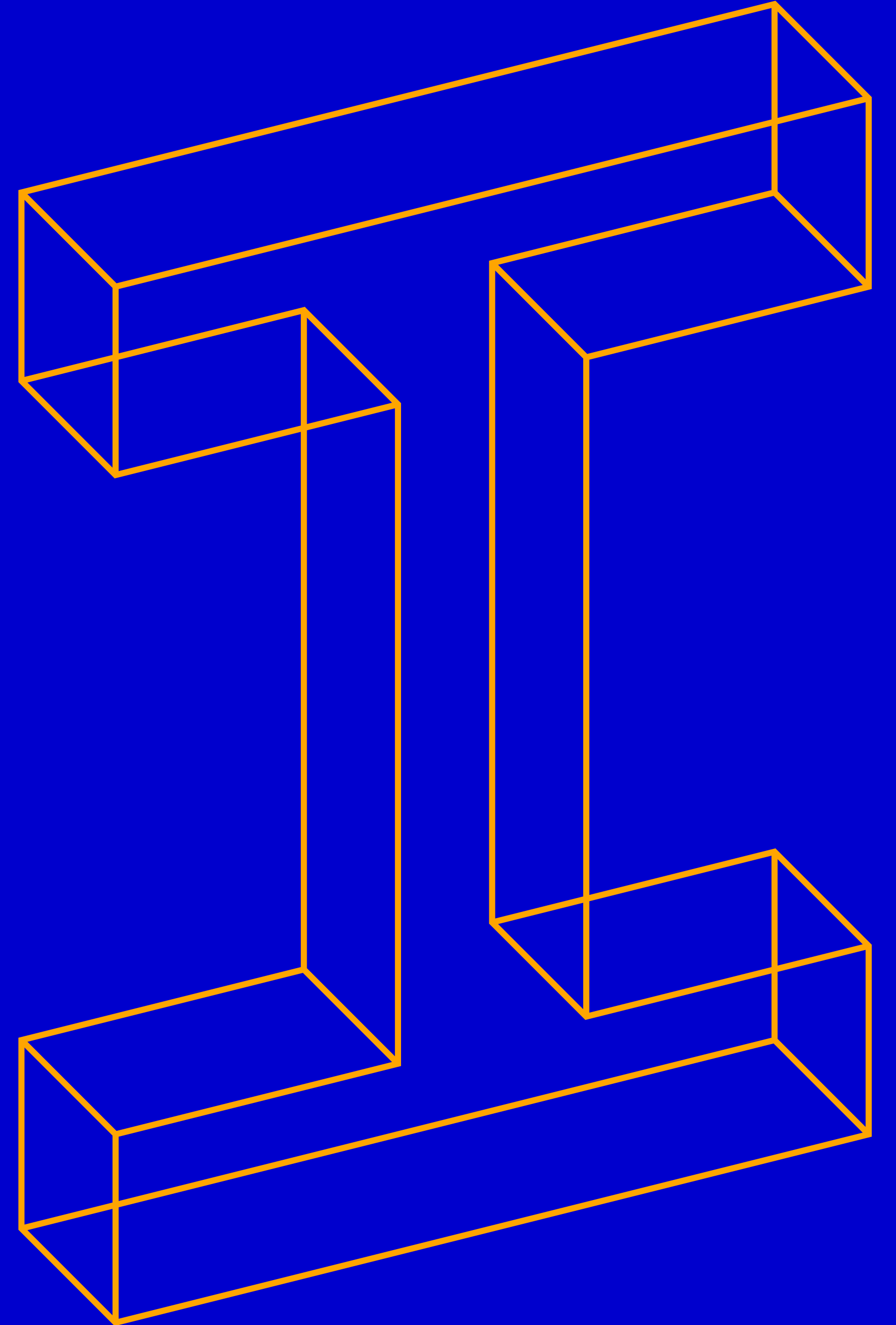


IMPERIAL POLICY FORUM

Imperial AI Policy Fellowship Programme

2025 – 2026

Imperial College London



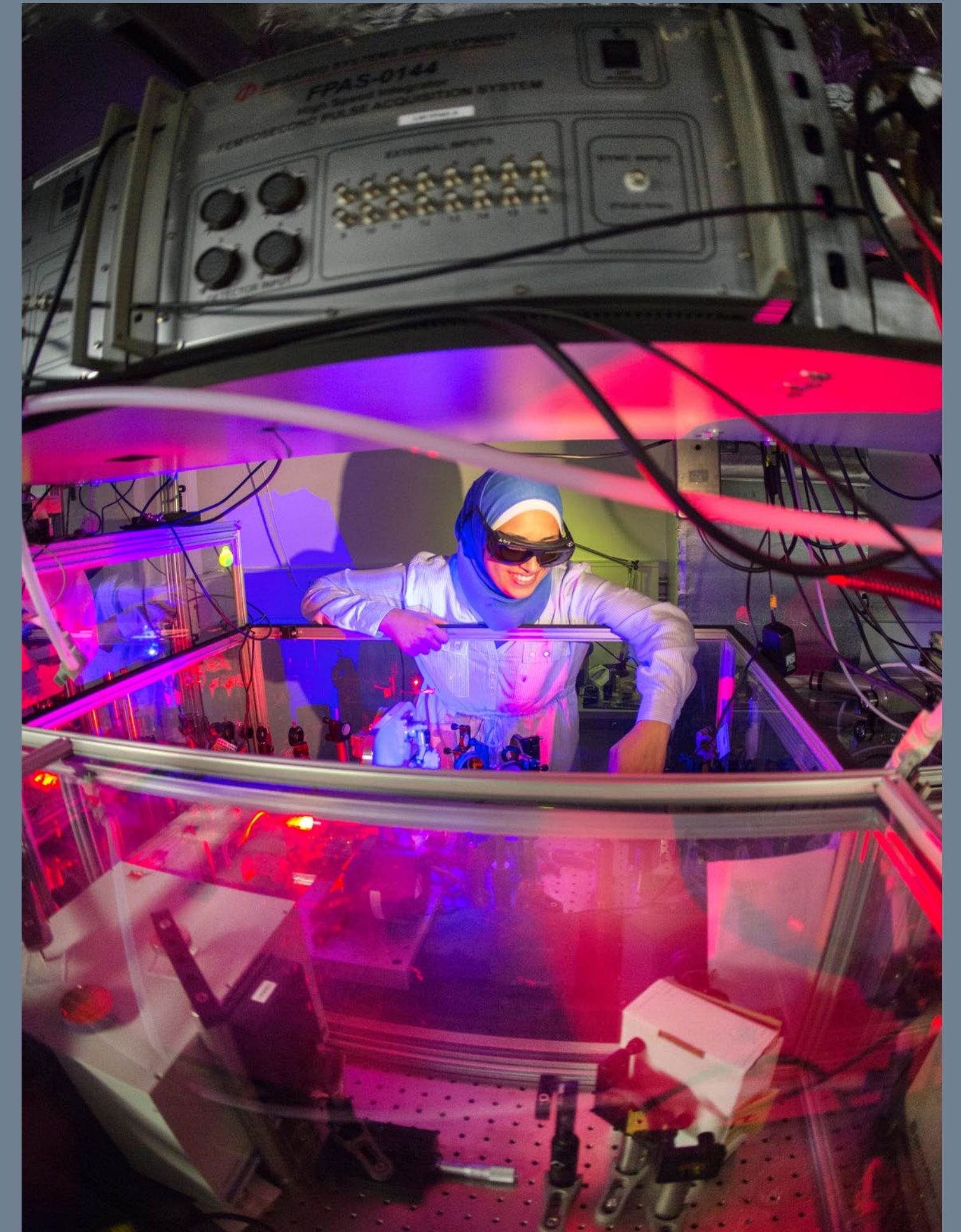
About the programme

The Imperial AI Policy Fellowship is a unique development programme for senior civil servants in understanding the role and impact of artificial intelligence in the public sector. Hosted by the Imperial Policy Forum, the programme combines theoretical learning with practical application, allowing Fellows to refine problem statements related to significant policy challenges and explore how academic research can be leveraged to support policy development, delivery, or evaluation.

Throughout the programme, each Fellow will be paired with an academic mentor(s) who will help guide their research project, which is tailored to their area of interest. This mentorship, along with additional meetings and touchpoints with the

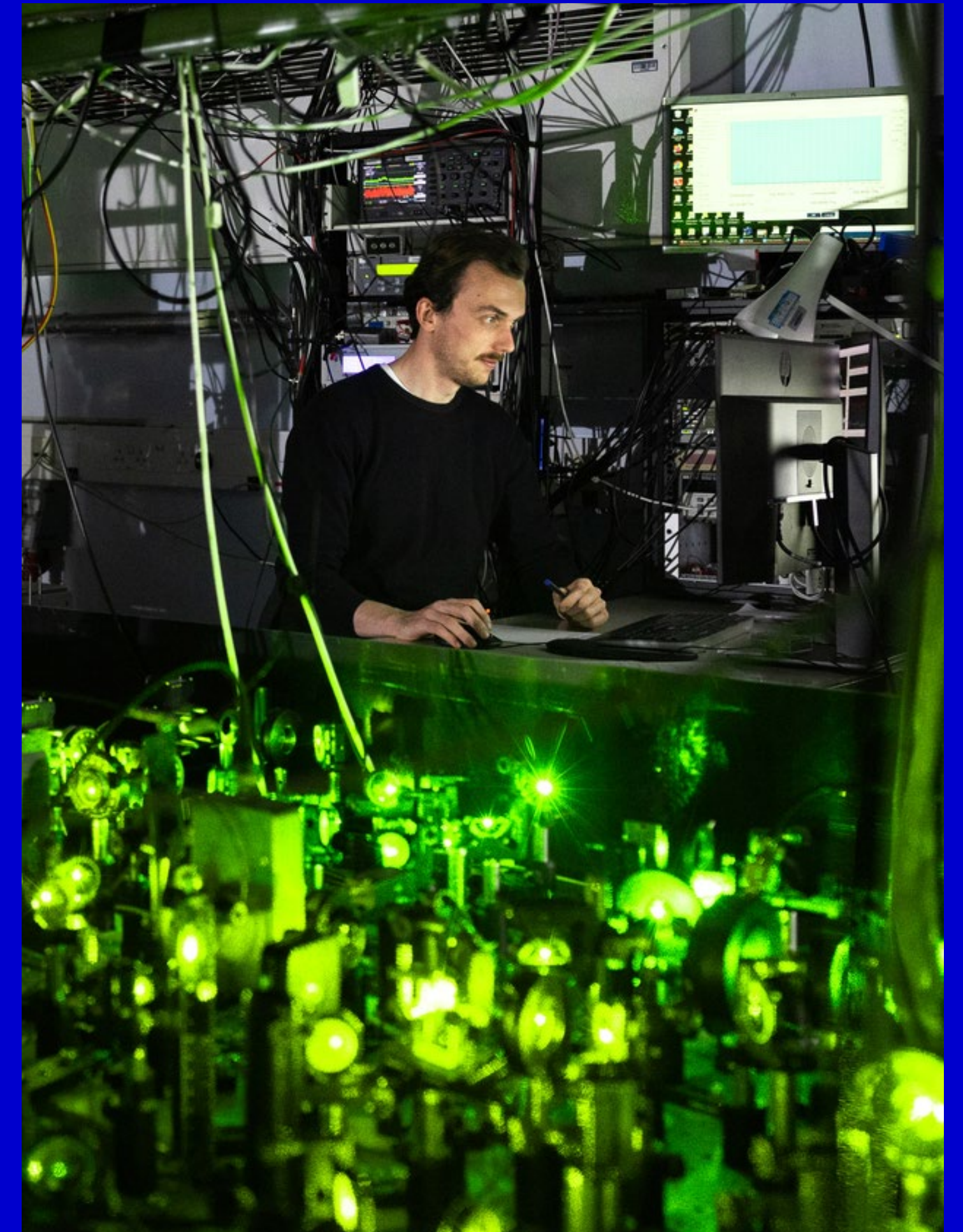
broader Imperial community, will provide a robust support system to ensure Fellows' success. The programme will also include 4 in-person days at Imperial College, featuring expert-led workshops and lectures on AI, as well as networking opportunities with like-minded peers.

The lectures included in the programme will provide the Fellows with an introduction to Large Language Models, AI risks and security, questions around AI deployment, as well as broader issues such as hardware and infrastructure requirements. While based on the scientific and technological knowledge of the Imperial community, the content in those presentations will also suit those without any specific programming or computing background.



Benefits for Fellows

- **Tailored learning experience:** Fellows will receive a personalised programme, addressing their unique needs and interests, ensuring that the course is relevant and impactful to their roles.
- **Practical application through research projects:** Fellows engage in a research project with a mentor, enabling them to directly apply their learning to real-world issues and areas of interest within the public sector.
- **World-Class Expertise:** Learn from Imperial College London's globally renowned faculty, leaders in AI research and application across engineering, medicine, and science.
- **Networking opportunities:** Fellows can connect and collaborate with peers from across the civil service who share similar interests and challenges, fostering valuable knowledge exchange and a cohort community at Imperial.
- **Tailored for Public Sector:** Gain practical insights through a curriculum co-designed with civil servants to address the unique challenges of public sector AI deployment.



Why Imperial?

Pioneering Expertise: Imperial College London is one of the world's best universities in engineering, mathematics, medicine, and science and a globally recognized leader in AI research and education, offering unparalleled access to cutting-edge knowledge and innovative practices in AI. The institution's faculty includes some of the world's foremost experts in foundational and applied AI research.

Tailored Programmes for Public Sector Needs: The AI Fellowship programme is highly tailored towards the Fellows' interests and needs, bringing in relevant expertise to provide insights the unique challenges and opportunities faced by public sector professionals. This alignment with governmental needs ensures practical, applicable insights for policy and service delivery.

Interdisciplinary Approach and Real-World Application Imperial's interdisciplinary approach integrates AI with public policy, ethics, and governance, providing a comprehensive understanding of AI's impact on public services. Participants benefit from real-world case studies and practical applications, enhancing their ability to implement AI solutions effectively within their departments.

Case studies

Fellows will gain access to Imperial's leading experts in AI and the domains in which it is already having a significant impact. They will have structured conversations, designed around the questions and challenges that they are encountering, test their thinking and gain new insights. The in-person part of the programme will provide Fellows with a grounding in the research, policy and regulation questions about AI.

The types of projects that Fellows can develop are varied in form and scope, and could include:

- Co-writing a white paper with recommendations for adoption of AI in a particular part of your department and/or team
- Co-designing strategic planning or technical-level solutions for policy challenges
- Piloting innovative or experimental applications for AI in the public sector
- Providing suggestions for improvement of systems and infrastructure of AI in government including data storage and management
- Running a facilitated workshop for colleagues in your team department





Exploring the Role of AI Across the Design Lifecycle: A Workshop with the Home Office

Can AI replace human interviewers?
Help teams converge faster on design problems?
How can we write better prompts to support our design work?

One of our Fellows from the Home Office collaborated with Imperial's Collective Innovation Lab from the Dyson School of Design Engineering on a workshop which brought both teams together to examine how generative AI could support the design lifecycle, from early-stage user research to problem framing and ideation. Dr Céline Mougenot, an academic mentor on the Fellowship programme, led the workshop together with her team.



Sovereign AI in Defence: Strategic Autonomy and Collaborative Opportunity

As a result of one of our academic-mentor pairings, this paper was written in consultation with the UK Ministry of Defence. The paper, authored by Professor David Shrier and Professor Aldo Faisal, presents a strategic framework for achieving mission-driven and modular AI sovereignty. While the United Kingdom and its Ministry of Defence (MOD) are used as illustrative case studies in this paper, the frameworks and posture model outlined in this paper are globally relevant.

This project has led to further collaboration and ongoing engagement between the Trusted AI Alliance and the Ministry of Defence. Read the full paper here aicollab.org



Explainable AI (XAI) in energy systems

One of our Fellows from the Department of Energy Security & Net Zero collaborated with Assistant Professor Francesco Leofante to produce an exploratory paper for internal use within DESNZ to share learnings across teams. The paper looked at potential applications for AI in the energy sector, the barriers which need to be addressed, the opportunity for explainable AI to help decision-making processes and mitigate risks and considered policy and regulatory frameworks.

This paper is reflective of the UK Government's drive to ensure the UK's energy infrastructure is ready for AI revolution, as demonstrated by the creation of the AI Energy Council in the AI Opportunities Action Plan in early 2025.

I thought I had a reasonable understanding of AI before joining the Fellowship at Imperial, but the time I have spent with my mentor and the other professors has given me a significant boost in my knowledge. The Fellowship has given me a lot of really useful insight into how I can use different types of AI within my portfolio.

Senior Civil Servant, Home Office





Who should apply?

The programme is for senior civil/public servants that are responsible for policy design/delivery in areas that are impacted by AI or are responsible for AI policy/strategy within their department. We are particularly interested in receiving applications from those working at the intersection of AI and healthcare, engineering biology, energy, security, sovereignty and science.

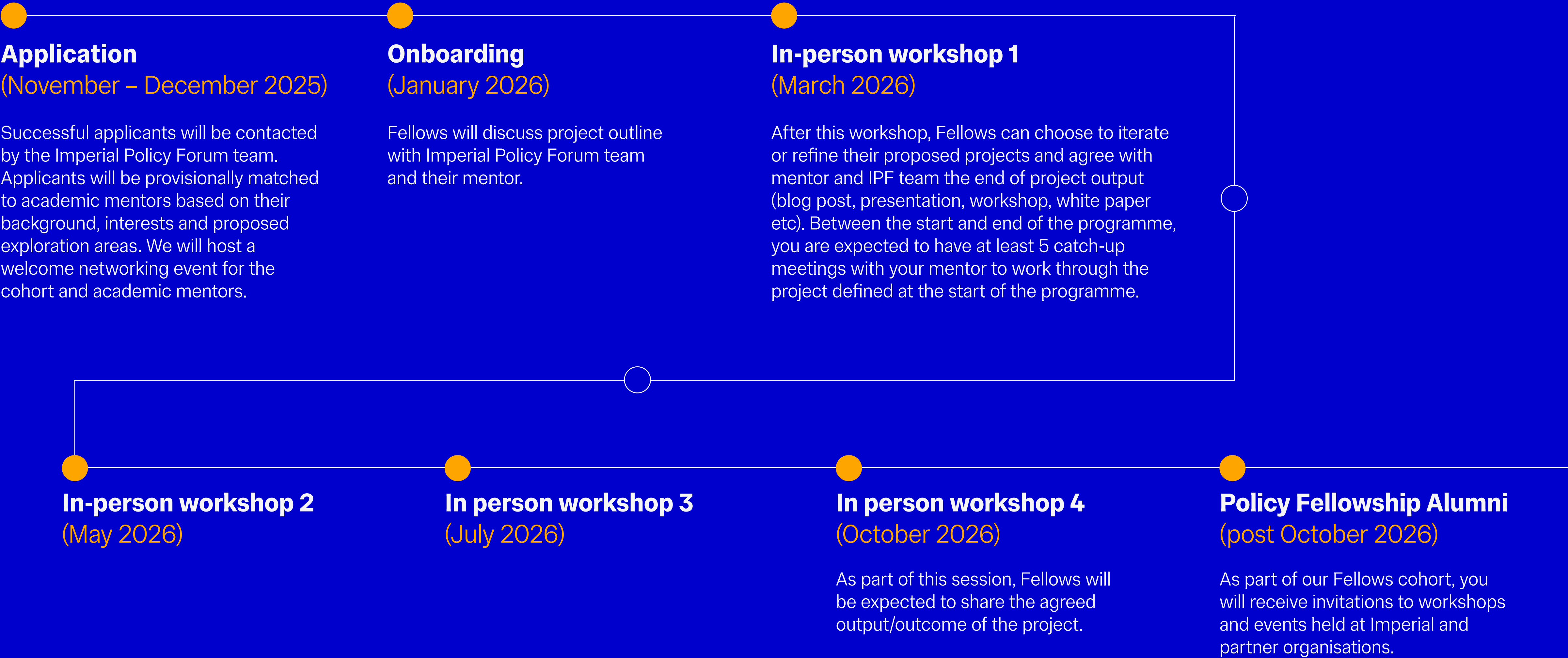
Fellows must commit to 4 in-person days throughout the year and produce a written output at the end of the scheme. This could be in the form of a white paper or a blog post.

Application process

Please complete the application form on the website and return to the.forum@imperial.ac.uk by Monday 3rd November 2025.

Successful applicants will be contacted by the Imperial Policy Forum team to schedule an initial call to understand more about your goals for the programme, and to ensure that we can match you to an academic mentor.

Programme



Get in touch

If you would like to learn more about the Fellowship programme, or have any questions, please contact [Christina Taylor](#), Projects Officer or the.forum@imperial.ac.uk and one of the team will get back to you.

