



Eric and Wendy Schmidt AI in Science Global Faculty Fellowships

Guidance for Host Supervisors

Background

The [I-X Centre for AI in Science](#) runs the Eric and Wendy Schmidt AI in Science [Global Faculty Fellowship](#) (GFF), supported by Schmidt Sciences. This programme assists talented faculty members from global partner institutions to use AI to enhance their scientific research, while also building sustained local capacity at their home institutions.

The programme supports three cohorts of eight fellows, each on a two-year programme. The programme will enable colleagues from partner institutions to co-locate at I-X, Imperial's flagship AI initiative, to enhance their expertise in AI and its application. A deep knowledge of AI is not a precondition for this fellowship: only an appreciation of the need for AI and a willingness for skill acquisition in AI. Candidates do not need to come from Computing departments or have degrees in the subject: the majority of applicants will not be from Computing departments.

The following partners are participating in the programme:

- [Indian Institute of Science](#)
- [National Centre for Biological Sciences, India](#)
- [University of Ghana](#)
- [University of Sao Paulo](#)
- [Universiti Teknologi Malaysia](#)
- [Universitas Gadjah Mada](#)

Finance and Support

The fund will provide:

- A tax-free stipend of £48,000 for the year in London to cover living expenses.
- A £30,000 'flexi-fund' allowance to cover conferences, consumables and related travel.
- Funding given directly to the partner home institution for the second year of the fellowship to fund a partial buyout of the Fellow's time.
- Return economy class travel.
- Payment for the visa application for the Fellow, as well as for dependant family (including NHS surcharge fee).
- Dedicated support staff to help with AI training and career development.
- Membership of the international Schmidt Sciences AI in Science Fellow network with its associated event series and alumni network.
- Host departments are expected to waive bench fees for these placements and arrange a suitable induction/supervision plan.

Selection process

1. Each partner institution will formulate an internal review committee that ranks the proposals submitted by candidates from their institution.

2. Applicants must identify and contact academics at Imperial to secure interest as part of their application.
3. The partner institution committee submits a ranked list of the top three (or less) candidates to the selection committee at Imperial.
4. The selection committee at Imperial will conduct interviews as needed and would seek to select on average one successful candidate each from each institution, with three successful candidates from University of Sao Paulo (USP).

Becoming a host supervisor

Applicants **MUST** secure the support from an Imperial Academic host prior to submitting their application.

Potential applicants are encouraged to browse Imperial's webpages and review the potential host department/institutes, based on what best aligns with their research focus. Applicants contact academics directly to explore the possibility of a visit.

We encourage preexisting links between collaborators at international institutions and Imperial.

Am I eligible to host?

- Host academics must be a permanent member of staff within the Academic and Research Family at Imperial.
- Hosts must have capacity to support the visitor throughout their time at Imperial and ensure the department makes provision for necessary workspace/induction material etc.
- Generally, we recommend 1 Fellow per host, to balance fairness across departments and ensure Fellows have dedicated time and support. If you are interested in hosting multiple Fellows (if awarded), you must have sought approval from your department and the I-X Centre for AI in Science in advance.
- The department hosting the research visit must agree to bench-fee waiver, workspace/lab access, induction/supervision plan.

Expectations of the host supervisor

- **Accepting a visitor:**
 - If you are happy and willing to host a Global Faculty Fellow, you will be asked to complete this [Letter of Support](#) by the candidate as part of their application. This

solicits an evaluation of the Fellow's proposed and previous work and confirms your commitment to host them.

- The letter of support must be counter-signed by the HoD (confirming fee waiver, department support etc)
- The Imperial host might play a mentoring role to the fellow depending on their career stage.
- Since Fellows are not subject to the full enrolment process at Imperial, we do not ask them to provide an IELTS/proof of English qualification. Though we would expect that the prospective host has spoken with the Fellow over a short call or through emails and can attest from this that they possess a sufficient level of English to carry out the Fellowship effectively.
- All visitors will be classified as 'visiting academics'. This is the term used by the university for visitors at Imperial.
- **Arriving on campus:**
 - The I-X Fellowship Administrator will coordinate with your team to arrange the Fellow's arrival on campus.
 - The Fellow will have permanent desk in I-X (Imperial's interdisciplinary AI initiative) co-located with I-X AI faculty and the ~25 AI in Science Fellows. Our anchor days are Tuesday and Thursdays.
 - The host department must ensure the visitor is set up for the first day in their department. This includes day one safety forms/inductions, ID cards and desk/lab space (where required).
 - I-X will make the Fellow's travel arrangements and pay their stipend.
 - The £30,000 Flexi-fund will be managed by Imperial in Year 1 and the remainder transferred to the home institutions in Year 2 – thus following the geographical location of the Fellows.
- **Visa compliance:**
 - The Fellowship Administrator will provide comprehensive administrative support throughout the ATAS and Visa application stages. The host will be expected to sign-off on ATAS Certificate, but the rest of the process will managed by the I-X team.
 - Global Faculty Fellows must apply for [ATAS clearance](#) to carry our research at Imperial, unless they are from an exempt country. Researchers in The Faculty of Medicine or Imperial Business School are exempt.

Additional Information

Please contact the university's Global Faculty Fellowship for further support or advice:

GFF@imperial.ac.uk

For information on arriving to the UK as a visiting academic, please use the [International Relations Office FAQs page](#) as a resource for supporting visitors.