DATAIA Institute

PhD tracks Program 2019

Background

The DATAIA Institute is the French convergence institute specialized in data science, artificial intelligence and society, or how big data technologies and artificial intelligence intersect with the human and social sciences so that artificial intelligence benefits to society.

Selected by the National Research Agency (ANR) as part of the "Investments for the Future" programs, the DATAIA Institute aims to consolidate and structure a wide multidisciplinary expertise to better meet the major challenges in data science, artificial intelligence and their applications, by removing barriers between mathematics, computer science, humanities and social sciences.

Right from the beginning, it has gathered more than 130 researchers and professors from seventeen institutions. The Institute is also launching an industrial affiliate program that enables close collaboration with companies.

Scientific Scope and Objectives

This PhD tracks program offers Master students around the world the opportunity to do their PhD in DATAIA ecosystem, to use the resources and facilities at DATAIA Institute, and to work with researchers in areas of mutual interest.

Applications' proposals should demonstrate how they contribute to the objectives of the Institute, in particular to the structuring of the field of data science within the Paris-Saclay Campus. All proposals must fit into at least one of the 4 main challenges of DATAIA and can impact an application domain (see the list of "Subject areas" in Appendix 1). The excellence of PhD candidate will be considered.

PhD projects will involve collaboration of at least two people from two DATAIA partner institutions (see the list in appendix 2) who do not belong to the same laboratory or to the same host institution. As a consequence, PhD students will be supervised by two research directors from two different laboratories of the institute. DATAIA funds **students' gross salary up to € 95 400 (36 months) as well as an allowance of € 10 000** that covers travelling fees (conference, workshop…).

Duties and Responsibilities

During their PhD, students should present their findings in the research seminars of the host laboratories and should also participate in DATAIA Institute seminars. The host laboratories will give DATAIA Institute a two-page summary on activities related to the PhD topics, one month after the students' graduations at the latest.

All beneficiaries receiving support from the convergence institute, must include the following text in all scientific communications linked with funded activities:

This research was supported by DATAIA Convergence Institute as part of the « Programme d'Investissement d'Avenir », (ANR-17-CONV-0003) operated by [DATAIA Partner] XXX.

Terms of application submissions

Only the laboratories of the partner institutions listed in the financing agreement can be project holders and managers of the allocated funding. Consortia may have partners outside the founding members of DATAIA but these will not be financed.
Candidates must be eligible to apply for a PhD degree in one of the doctoral schools of DATAIA partner institutions.

Application process

Host laboratories must send applications by email to submission-dataia@inria.fr. For any questions, please contact com-dataia@inria.fr.

The application must include

- Administrative information as below:
    - Names of the research directors and host laboratories from DATAIA partner institutions as well as their contact information
    - Name of the selected doctoral school (if known)
    - PhD start and end dates
    - Choice of at least one DATAIA subject areas (see Appendix 1)
    - Expected benefits for DATAIA Institute

- And a description of the PhD topic with the following items:
    - PhD candidate CV (2 pages with contact information, status, institution, education)
    - Cover letter
    - 1 or 2 Recommendation Letters
    - Research work program (max 1 page)

Closing date for submissions: 15/06/2019

Selection Process

Applications will be handed by the DATAIA Institute executive committee (Bureau) and will be reviewed by external reviewers. The committee will inform the candidates and the research directors of their decision, one month after the closing date of the submissions.

Appendix 1
Subject Areas

The scientific program of each proposal should explicitly address at least one of the four subject areas outlined on the link below; these are the four interdisciplinary challenges of DATAIA: see http://dataia.eu/en/institute/overarching-challenges

Projects may address topics more specific to application areas. A non-exhaustive list of these areas is available on link below. However, it is requested that projects address data science issues of general interest and are not restricted specifically to a field of application: see http://dataia.eu/en/application-domains

Appendix 2
List of DATAIA partners

Agro ParisTech
CEA
CentraleSupélec
CNRS
Ecole polytechnique
ENS Paris-Saclay
ENSTA ParisTech
GENES (ENSAE)
HEC Paris
IFP-EN
Inra
Inria
Institut Mines-Telecom (Télécom ParisTech, Télécom Sud Paris, Institut Mines-Télécom Business School)
Université d'Evry Val d'Essonne.
Université Paris-Saclay
Université Paris-Sud
Université Versailles St-Quentin-en-Yvelines