

## CALL FOR DATAIA FELLOWSHIPS 2024

### Background

The DATAIA Institute – the AI Institute of Paris-Saclay University – is the French convergence institute dedicated to data science, artificial intelligence, and the impact of their applications on society. It gathers over 1,000 researchers and professors from thirteen institutions (see *Appendix 2*). It has an industrial affiliate program that promotes collaborations between Paris-Saclay University academics and industrial actors on research projects of mutual interest in data sciences and AI.

Selected by the National Research Agency (ANR) as part of the “*Investments for the Future*” program, DATAIA aims to:

- Structure a broad multidisciplinary expertise to create new knowledge;
- Develop training, courses, and master and doctoral programs that encourage interdisciplinary research;
- Promote international and high-level scientific collaborations related to its overarching challenges.

**In 2025, DATAIA will support research in data sciences, AI, and their impacts on society through its “*Call for DataIA Fellowships*”.**

### Scientific Scope and Objectives

Project proposals should discuss how they contribute to the objectives of DATAIA Institute and, in particular, to structuring the data science and artificial intelligence fields within Paris-Saclay University. As a result, proposals must fit into at least one of the three main challenges of DATAIA (see *Appendix 1*).

### Terms of Project Proposal Submissions

This call is restricted to teams within the scope of the DATAIA convergence institute. Only the laboratories belonging to the partner institutions listed in the funding agreement can be project leaders and managers of the allocated funding (see *Appendix 2*). Consortia may have partners outside the founding members of DATAIA, but these will not be entitled to funding. The total funding for this call is 600,000€, with a maximum funding per project of 120,000€ per post-doc and 75,000€ to fund 50% of a PhD contract.

Priority will be given to projects hosted by two different institutions (see *Appendix 2*) and two different laboratories of DATAIA;

This 2024 call aims to boost excellence in IA and data science research at Paris-Saclay University. The amount of the allocated funding will be 120,000 € and fund only one of the following cases:

- A PhD thesis;
- A post-doctoral fellow.

## Submission Process

Proposals are required to have a scientific description of the project and a financial appendix. Only complete proposals submitted before the deadline will be reviewed.

### Proposal Format

Project leaders will submit a document that includes the following information:

- ACRONYM and title of the project;
- Names of laboratories and project leaders and their contact information;
- Names of laboratories (or teams) of the convergence institute that will benefit from the funding;
- Names and contact details of the scientific and administrative managers within each laboratory (team) of DATAIA partners receiving funds;
- Duration and estimated starting and ending dates of the project;
- Description of the scientific project (5 pages max. including references, Arial 11, single line spacing). The description must specify:
  - o *Background of the project and the state of the art;*
  - o *Objectives of the research work;*
  - o *Innovative features, challenges, and added value of the project;*
  - o *Criteria of success;*
  - o *Possible areas for further research;*
  - o *Application areas, as well as adequacy with the objectives and overarching challenges of the Institute.*

The following criteria will be used for the evaluation of the project:

1. Scientific excellence;
2. Synergy between partner institutions;
3. Potential application impact on the chosen subject.

**Proposals must use the template available at:**

<https://www.dataia.eu/sites/default/files/2024-11/CALL%20FOR%20DATAIA%20FELLOWSHIPS%202024%20-%20Form.docx>

**Closing date for submissions: January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 23:59 (Paris time).**

**For any questions, please contact: [submission-dataia@inria.fr](mailto:submission-dataia@inria.fr)**

## Selection process

First, the DATAIA executive committee will examine the eligibility of the projects. Then, the steering committee will preselect eligible projects. They may ask external experts to review the proposals. Finally, the steering committee will audition project holders for the pre-selected proposals and choose the projects to be funded. The date of the auditions will be notified to the project managers one week in advance.

**The final decision will be published on March 2025.**

## Validity of the funding

Selected research projects are funded for a maximum period of 2 years, and funding will be available from September 2025. **The allocation must be used by 31/12/2027.**

## Project acceptance and commitments

When the project is accepted, CVs of the selected post-doc and PhD candidates should be sent to the Convergence Institute as soon as possible. Candidates chosen for PhD funding must get approval from doctoral schools to hold these positions. Project leaders agree to use the funding described in the project proposals validated by the DATAIA steering committee and report on the scientific activity and expenses annually. At the end of the project, they will provide DATAIA Institute with a report summarizing the achievements and enumerating all publications produced and submitted as an outcome of the received funding.

All **beneficiaries of support** from the convergence institute **must include the following acknowledgment in all scientific communications** related to the 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.***

If upon analyzing annual reports, the convergence institute considers that the funding has yet to be used following the objectives stated in the project proposals, a refund may be requested. Similarly, unused funding will be claimed by DATAIA Institute, paid back by the partner institution.

## Appendix 1

### Subject areas

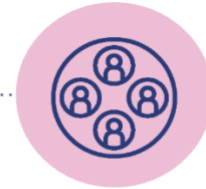
The scientific program of each proposal should explicitly address at least one of the three interdisciplinary challenges of DATAIA:



#### FROM DATA TO KNOWLEDGE AND DECISION



#### LEARNING & AI



#### SOCIETAL IMPACTS OF THE DIGITAL TRANSITION

### RESEARCH THEMES

- Maths & AI
- Physics & AI
- AI for medicine
- AI for the environment
- Data protection and ethics in AI
- Digital sobriety and trustworthiness
- Data and resources management
- AI for Teaching and Learning (AI) at Scale
- Pre-trained Models for Data Frugality
- GenAI or Foundation Models

Projects may address topics more specific to application areas. However, it is requested that projects address data science issues of general interest and are not explicitly restricted to a field of application.

## Appendix 2

### List of DATAIA Institute partners

- AgroParisTech
- CentraleSupélec
- CEA Saclay
- CNRS Saclay (DR04)
- ENS Paris-Saclay
- IFP Energies-Nouvelles
- Inria-Saclay
- Institut Mines-Télécom Business School
- INRAE Île-de-France Versailles-Saclay & Île-de-France – Jouy-en-Josas – Antony
- ONERA
- Université d'Evry-Val-d'Essonne
- Université Paris-Saclay
- Université Versailles-Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines