



January 2025

## **The Center for AI and Data Science at Tel Aviv University (TAD)**

### **Call for Research Proposals 2025**

A main mission of TAD Center is to advance innovative research in the fields of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Science (DS) throughout campus, and to foster research collaborations between different disciplines in both core and application subjects. TAD is pleased to announce a new call for the year 2025 which will focus on two tracks:

1. Seed grants to support new collaborative ideas in AI and DS research.
2. Research projects in AI and data science in all disciplines.

For both tracks - proposed projects can be in core or application areas.

**The awarded grants will represent the full diversity of the research areas where AI & DS can play a major role. We expect to award up to 20 grants, out of which approximately five grants will be in the fields of humanities, arts, social sciences, and law to specifically advance research in AI and DS in these fields.**

The calls are open to PIs at Tel Aviv University.

### **Application timeline and mechanism**

Submission deadline is February 16 (midnight). Each proposal should be submitted as a single PDF file, and emailed to: [datascience@tauex.tau.ac.il](mailto:datascience@tauex.tau.ac.il).

\*Please specify in the email the track that your proposal is submitted – (1) seed grants or (2) full grants.

Questions should be sent to Dr. Shiri Stempler at: [shiristemp@tauex.tau.ac.il](mailto:shiristemp@tauex.tau.ac.il).

Award announcement is expected at the end of March 2025.

## 1. Seed Grants

In this track we seek proposals that support new and ambitious ideas in AI and DS with the **objective of getting initial results**. We welcome proposals from all disciplines at TAU. We especially aim to fund collaborations of faculty whose work bridges two or more disciplines and proposals that can make a persuasive case that these initial results will catalyze further funding from external funding sources.

We expect to award approximately 5 grants, up to 60K NIS each for a one year period.

## 2. Call for proposals in AI and DS

The goal of this track is to foster new collaborative projects on-campus between scientists (from any discipline) with challenging DS and AI problems in both (I) core and (II) application areas:

I) To advance the interdisciplinary research and collaboration in the core topics of AI and DS. Core topics may contain the development of new data analysis and AI methods, analysis of existing solutions and so on.

II) To encourage interdisciplinary research and application of AI and DS to advance research throughout campus in the different areas: life sciences, medicine, social sciences, arts and humanities, law, management, physical sciences, engineering and so on.

Each funded proposal in this track will be awarded according to the number of PIs in the team: a budget of up to 120K NIS per year for up to two years for teams of 2 PIs, and a budget of up to 180K for teams of 3-4 PIs.

The submitted projects should be likely to reach a successful outcome in this time frame. There will be a review point after 10 months, and funding for the second year will be conditioned on establishing sufficient progress.

### Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must be **Principal Investigators (PIs) at TAU**.

Research proposals may be submitted by a team of up to 4 PIs. **A single PI can submit as well, preferably with a plan for collaborations in carrying out the project.** Non-core PIs who wish to submit are encouraged to meet with TAD's "Bridge" consulting unit to discuss the feasibility of the project and potential for collaborations.

**Evaluation criteria:** The main evaluation criteria are:

- Scientific merit
- Impact of the proposed research
- Substantial role of AI / DS
- Qualifications of the proposed research team to achieve proposal goals
- Appropriateness of the requested resources

\*Special consideration will be given to projects involving multiple disciplines. New collaborative teams are strongly preferred.

**The proposals should include (in one pdf file):**

1. A short abstract (1/2 page)
2. Research description which includes a description of the scientific problem, aims, the AI/DS approach and preliminary results if they exist (preliminary results are not required for the seed grants track) (up to 2 pages)
3. A description of the expected impact (1/2 page)
4. A list of participants + short bio + 3 most relevant publications in the last 5 years for each (1 page each)
5. A statement of ethical compliance, if relevant
6. Required budget and its usage (1/2 page). The requested budget should be limited to:
  - For seed grants - 60K NIS for one year.
  - For full grants – 120K NIS per year for teams of two PIs; 180K per year for teams of 3-4 PIs.The awarded budget may be smaller.
7. References

**Additional information:**

1. Any ethical aspects which require approval (such as collection of human information) are solely the responsibility of the submitters, and the submitters are required to state and ensure that all approvals will be obtained prior to the implementation of the grant.
2. Collaborating investigators (CIs) may be from other institutions in Israel or abroad.
3. PIs may submit one proposal in each track, and may receive funding in both tracks.
4. All publications, presentations and products from this award should acknowledge TAD.