

Centre for Translational Data Science – Research Incubator Funding Scheme

Background

The Centre for Translational Data Science is a multidisciplinary initiative transforming research through the application of data science.

Launched in 2016, the Centre's mission is to equip researchers, scientists and professionals with cutting edge data science tools to exploit the power of complex modern data. We aim to make great leaps in transforming research, advancing scientific discovery and tackling the 21st Century grand economical and societal challenges: from secure/clean and efficient energy, personalised healthcare, sustainable agriculture to smart cities and more.

The Centre brings together researchers from different disciplines: applied mathematics, statistics, computer science, machine learning and visualisation experts who collaborate within interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary teams, together with domain experts, to tackle big challenges and provide automated and tailored solutions.

Purpose of Scheme

This scheme is designed to provide seed funding for innovative, cutting edge data science ideas that can drive forwards the efforts in tackling major societal challenges. Projects should be focused on designing new mathematical/statistical and/or algorithmic approaches, inspired by particular real-world challenges. These projects could be multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary but must bring together knowledge from across different research domains.

Priority will be given to projects aligned with CTDS' fundamental research directions:

- ☐ Data fusion – designs for aggregating multiple sources of information
- ☐ Ethical data science – building frameworks for security, privacy and algorithmic fairness
- ☐ Decision making in data science.

Process and Timeline

Applications must be submitted via the [form](#) on the CTDS website by 21 October 2018. Applications will be reviewed by a selection committee and applicants will be notified of the outcome by 9 November.

Funding and Conditions of Award

- ☐ Funding of up to \$40,000 per year is available for at least three projects.
- ☐ Projects may run for up to two years. A review will be conducted at the end of the first year with the potential for the funding of an additional year.
- ☐ Funds can be used in ways that directly support the project. For example, this could be events and activities to engage with a wider audience (transport, venue hire, coordination support, marketing etc), research support such as access to research infrastructure, field research activities, expert services, personnel including students.
- ☐ A single page report detailing project outcomes must be submitted upon completion of the project.

Eligibility Criteria

- ☐ This scheme is open to all continuing and fixed term academic staff at the University of Sydney who are on the payroll and working in a discipline relevant to the purpose of the scheme.
- ☐ Each project team must be led by an early or mid-career researcher. It must involve researchers from a minimum of two faculties. Projects must involve a clear collaborative plan.
- ☐ We are seeking multi-disciplinary applications but inter-disciplinary projects which tackle real-world challenges are encouraged and welcomed.
- ☐ We also encourage project teams to include one or more of the CTDS's post-doctorate fellows or PhD students. However, this is not essential.
- ☐ No core CTDS members can form part of the team. Once the award is granted, project teams can benefit from advice and support from core CTDS members if required.

Note: For the purposes of this scheme, early career researchers are defined as researchers who have been awarded a PhD within five years; mid-career researchers are researchers who have been awarded a PhD within five to 15 years. Significant career disruptions will be taken into consideration

Selection Criteria

1. Innovation and transformational potential (50%): innovation of the concept.
2. Alignment (20%): with respect to CTDS research strategic framework.
3. Collaboration and team capability (20%): relative to opportunity.
4. Translational potential and societal impact (10%): potential for impact and longevity.

Applications will be sent to selection committee composed of representative from various faculties and chaired by the Deputy Director of CTDS. Projects will be assessed by how well they achieve the outlined criteria.

For further information, please contact ctds.info@sydney.edu.au. Informal enquiries about the technical aspect of the scheme can be addressed to the CTDS Deputy Director, [Dr Lamiae Azizi](#).