Calls for Proposals

The Board of Directors of the Israel Data Science and AI Initiative (IDSAI) has decided to support activities during the 2024-2025 Academic year that will promote Data Science (DS) and AI research and applications. Two tracks will be considered:

- support for organizing and running expert workshops open to Israeli researchers at all recognized institutes of higher education
- seed funding for inter-disciplinary and inter-center research projects.

Directors of DS/AI University Research Centers are asked to let their colleagues know about the following two calls, and in the case of the 2nd call, to pre-screen submissions.

1. **Call for proposals for running expert workshops**

   a. The workshop format may be over a single day, over several contiguous days, or to be held periodically – all during the academic year (2024-2025).

   b. Registration must be open to all researchers and graduate students in recognized Israeli institutes of higher education

   c. Participants must be required to pay a (modest) fee upon registration

   d. The budget request may include:

      i. Travel, accommodation and honorarium for a guest lecturer from overseas or from Israel

      ii. Subsidies for facility costs, lunches and coffee breaks

   e. Proposals should be submitted to the Director of IDSAI by 31/01/2025

2. Call for proposals for inter-disciplinary, inter-center research projects

    a. The goal of this call is to encourage interaction between DS/AI researchers and researchers in application areas, as well as to encourage collaborations between researchers in the different university DS/AI research centers. The seed funding (up to 100,000 ILS for the year) should be regarded as providing the basis (or proof of concept) for developing a major project that will successfully apply for support from research funding organizations.

    b. Proposals should include:

        i. Names of investigators:

            1. from at least two disciplines, one being core DS/AI and at least one being an application area.
            2. from at least two of the seven DS/AI research centers supported by the original IDSAI initiative

        ii. A maximum of 5 pages describing the scientific project, its potential research impact, its key methodologies, and the contribution of each investigator

        iii. A one-page plan for the development of a consortium and expanded project that will be submitted to research funding organizations

        iv. A list of publications for each investigator – may be restricted to the last 5 years and may be accessible via a link.

        v. A budget request with justification, and which may include:

            1. Student scholarships,
            2. Salaries for research or technical assistants,
            3. Cloud computing costs (no equipment will be funded)

    c. Proposals should be submitted to one of the seven VaTaT/MaLaG supported DS/AI research centers. Each research center will be able to submit a maximum of 2 proposals, and it is responsible for screening proposals submitted to it. The screened proposals must reach the IDSAI director by 14/02/2025.

    d. Proposals will be evaluated by a panel of 3 judges who will be selected after the submissions to avoid any potential conflicts of interest. The judges will reserve the right to not recommend any proposal for funding. It is envisioned that altogether, up to two proposals will be funded.