



תשפז – Call for proposals: Seed research funding

The goal of the AI Research Center of the University of Haifa is to advance multidisciplinary AI or Data Science Research across all the faculties, schools, and departments, and advance collaboration with the public sector and industry to better our society.

Scope of research topics. We follow the [MALAG/VATAT's DS and AI Initiative](#)'s definition:

Research in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data science (DS) encompasses the collection, management, processing, analysis and visualization of data associated with a wide range of academic disciplines and commercial applications, as well as the analysis of meaning, drawing conclusions and developing tools that rely on the data collected, both to distil knowledge and to generate coherent responses to new queries. Depending on the context, data may include numeric measures, texts, images and videos.

Seed research funding scheme. The goal of this funding program is to provide a small amount of funding for one year to allow the researchers to obtain enough preliminary results so that they could apply for external funding programs.

1. Up to 5 seed research projects will be funded for 1 year, supporting one student and research expenses.
2. Only those projects involving collaboration of at least two faculty members, one working on core AI/DS research and the other specializing in an application domain.
3. The committee will consider all proposals that involve AI/DS directly, including application of existing methods to explore new types of data or problems that haven't been addressed thus far by AI/DS methods (as a starter grant).
4. Researcher matching of 20% is required.
5. Amount requested may vary, depending on the research planned. Seed research would usually be planned for **40,000 NIS (+10,000 matching by the researchers)** for the current academic year.
6. Researchers and students who are funded are expected to participate in the activities of the AI Research Center, **including presentation at the Poster Day**.
7. Upon receiving the grant, datasets collected should adhere to privacy and ethics principles, as common in the academic world, and at the University of Haifa specifically (see Ethics Review Board and Privacy Notice). Note that gathering data through Amazon Mechanical Turk may



pose ethical/privacy problems, and special care should be taken to secure the privacy of the workers and the subjects of the study (if personal information of subjects is used).

8. Upon receiving the grant, projects involving data collection from human subjects must get a preliminary approval of the university's ethics committee.
9. **All publications supported by AIRC funding should acknowledge the "AI Research Center at the University of Haifa".**
10. Researchers supported by AIRC funding should prepare at the end of the 1-year funding period **a report of their achievements**, resulting publications and presentations, and plans for submitting external grant applications, as well as a [blog](#).

Instructions for preparing the Seed Funding Proposal

Please prepare a 2-page description in English of your proposal, including:

1. Title of proposal, and introduction including the importance of the proposed topic
2. The innovation of the proposed project
3. Information on the collaborating team and the role of each of the team members
4. Detailed budget request including the different expenses (e.g., purchase of a data set, purchase of equipment)
5. Seed money should not fund existing research but new research. Following the seed research, the researchers are expected to submit a proposal for external funding. Please specify your plans for external funding.
6. Please send your proposal to Moran Altman (maltman@univ.haifa.ac.il) by **November 16, 2026**.

Decisions will be made and communicated to those applying by December 15, 2026.

Researchers who would like to find assistance in locating partners for collaboration are welcome to view the Center's [web site](#).

Thanks,

Prof. Mor Peleg, DSRC/AIRC Founding Director