

## Scenario analysis group for AI safety strategy: Year 1

This is a companion doc to [this post](#), which proposes setting up a scenario analysis group for AI safety strategy. It's a rough illustration of what some of the details of the operation could look like in the first year.

### Team

- **1 director** with experience in scenario analysis / crisis planning
- **2 supporting generalist researchers**
- **1 operations specialist**

### Annual cost (very rough estimate): ~\$500,000

- Staffing:  $\$93,000 \times 3^1 + \$134,000^2 = \$419,000$  (I think this is more likely to be an underestimate than an overestimate)
- 3 in-person events (eg simulation exercises):  $3 \times 30 \text{ participants} \times \$900^3 = \$81,000$  (I think this is more likely to be an overestimate than an underestimate)

### Timeline

	2023 Q4	2024 Q1	2024 Q2	2024 Q3	2024 Q4
Hire team, set up and launch project					
Project 1 (pilot, see below)					
Develop research agenda					
Project 2 (analyzing a set of scenarios)					
Project 3 (cross-comparing scenarios)					
Simulation game 1					
Simulation game 2					
Simulation game 3					

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<sup>1</sup> Based on Rethink Priorities' [recent estimate](#) of what it costs to train an AI policy researcher, which I interpret as equivalent to the cost of hiring a junior researcher for 1 year, but subtracting the operations cost (since I account for this separately). I assume that hiring the operations specialist will cost the same.

<sup>2</sup> Assuming it would cost 50% more to hire a director compared to research staff.

<sup>3</sup> Based on the higher end estimate for the cost of an EAGx ([here](#)).