



INFORMATION SESSION

# Multidisciplinary DSI Postdoctoral Fellowships

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# TODAY'S INFORMATION SESSION

-  What is the DSI?
-  Postdoctoral Fellowships
-  Call for Applications
-  Q & A



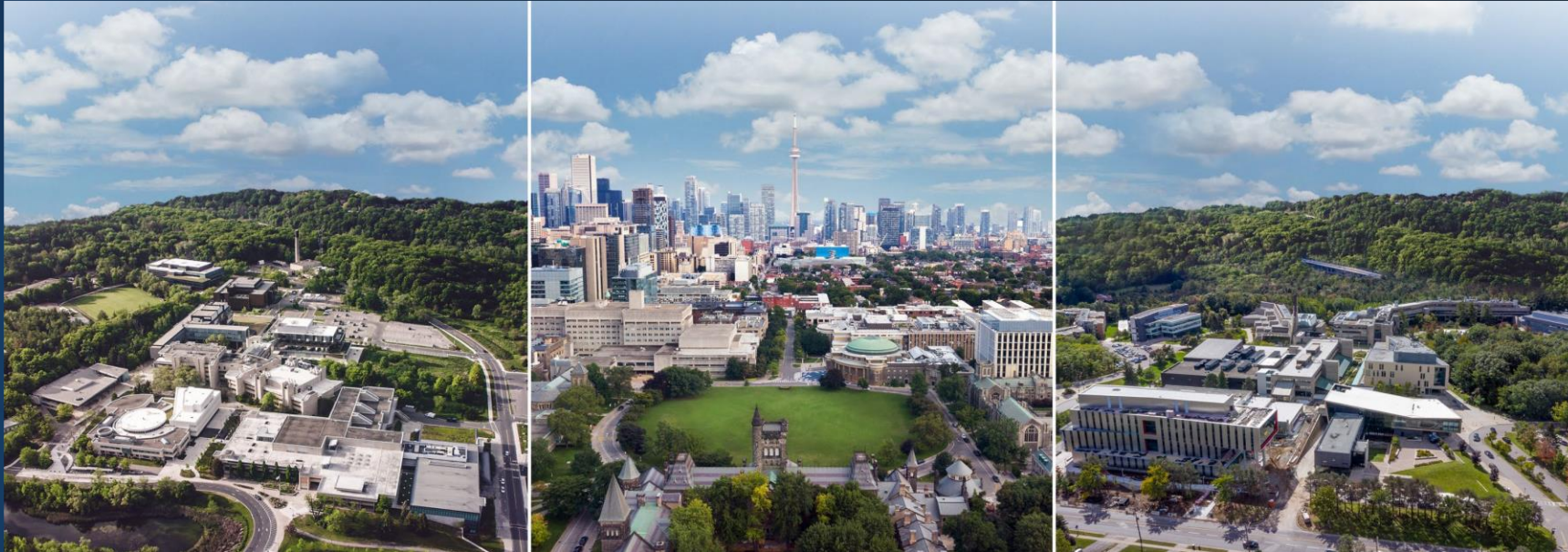
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# About Us



## What is the Data Sciences Institute (DSI)?

A multi-divisional, tri-campus, multidisciplinary hub for data science activity at the University of Toronto.



**Goal:** To accelerate the impact of data sciences across disciplines to address pressing societal questions and drive positive social change.



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# Collaborative Research Teams (CRTs) & Supports

Catalyze new forms of collaboration by funding partnerships that bring methodologists and domain experts together at the inception of projects in collaborative research teams (CRTs).

- Catalyst Grants
- Data Access Grants
- **Postdoctoral Fellowships**
- Doctoral Fellows
- Research Software Development Support
- Summer Undergraduate Data Sciences Research Opportunity





# Big Questions: Initial Thematic Programs



Thematic Programs are expected to be in place for 1-2 years, depending on input from the DSI community.



## REPRODUCIBILITY

Develops widely adoptable methodology, processes, and infrastructure to share data and code locally and in privacy-compliant ways, and develops infrastructure, methods, and models that support reproducible and reliable research.



## INEQUITY

Encourages the generation of evidence and tools to enhance our understanding of inequity and support equitable social change.



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# Postdoctoral Fellowships

Support multidisciplinary training and collaborative research in data sciences. Research project has a data sciences focus, through the development of novel methodology or the innovative application of existing approaches, to address major societal issues.



CAD\$60,000 + benefits/year



2 years



Access to \$1,500 in travel funds each year to present their work at academic meetings, or to participate in workshops/training courses



Application deadline:  
January 4, 2022



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**All Postdoctoral  
Fellows  
will form an  
integrated  
cohort**

- ☐ Invited to participate in networking, academic and professional development activities
- ☐ Present their research at the annual DSI Research Day

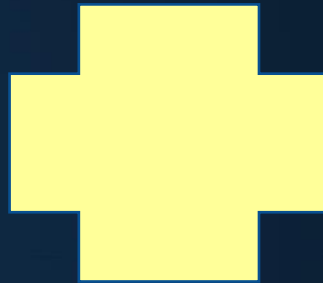




# Fellowships



Applicants must pursue a research project that has a **data sciences focus, through the development of novel methodology or the innovative application of existing approaches, to address major societal issues.**



Applicants identify **at least two faculty members from complementary disciplinary** backgrounds to serve as co-supervisors, who together can supervise the different multidisciplinary aspects of the research project. Co-supervisors can be drawn from the same academic unit, as long as they represent different disciplines.

*The DSI is strongly committed to diversity within its community and especially welcomes applications from racialized persons / persons of colour, women, Indigenous / Aboriginal People of North America, persons with disabilities, LGBTQ2S+ persons, and others who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas.*



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# Eligibility

## Applicants

- Open to both domestic and international post-graduates. Successful international candidates must meet all Canadian immigration requirements.
- Applicants must:
  - Demonstrate academic excellence and high potential for success in their chosen fields
  - Begin the Fellowship between May 1 & December 1, 2022
  - Have completed all requirements for their doctorate degree by the Fellowship start date
  - Must be able to begin the Fellowships within 5 years of their PhD defense
  - Not hold a faculty position or be on leave from such a position
  - Not hold concurrently another major fellowship

## Supervisors

- **Budgetary appointment** at U of T or at a DSI Funding Partner. Currently, DSI Funding Partners are: Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute, University Health Network, and The Hospital for Sick Children. For U of T, budgetary appointments are continuing, full-time academic appointments with salary commitments from a U of T academic unit.
- U of T supervisors must be Members of the [School of Graduate Studies](#) and be eligible Principal Investigators, according to [U of T PI eligibility criteria](#). External funding partner supervisors must be appointed as a Principal Investigator and be eligible to hold tri-council funding at their institution and be Members of the [School of Graduate Studies](#).



# Application Sections

Fillable Adobe PDF File – available on the DSI website; submit to [awards.dsi@utoronto.ca](mailto:awards.dsi@utoronto.ca)

Deadline: **January 4, 2022**

- 1 Applicant information, co-supervisor information and research environment
- 2 Candidate Statement: suitability for Fellowship, training goals, and commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion.
- 3 Abbreviated CVs of applicant and co-supervisors
- 4 Names, institutional affiliations and emails of (3) referees who will be asked to provide a reference based on a [structured reference form](#).
- 5 Research Proposal:
  - Title
  - Project rationale and alignment with DSI mission, including relevance to [the DSI Thematic Programs](#) if applicable.
  - Research objectives
  - Research approach
  - Feasibility and timeline
  - Impact
  - (Reference lists or bibliographies are not necessary for the proposal)





# Supervisor Application

Fillable Adobe PDF File – available on the DSI website

**Supervisors** submit directly to [awards.dsi@utoronto.ca](mailto:awards.dsi@utoronto.ca)

**Deadline: January 4, 2022**

1

## Supervisor's Statement:

- Applicant's research potential
- Quality of the proposed research
- Research environment and resources that will be available to the applicant
- How the fellowship will advance the applicant's career development

2

Form must be signed by the Chair or Director of the supervisors' units before being submitted. Co-supervision requires signatures of the Chairs and/or Directors from the units of all supervisors.



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# Adjudication



Applications will be assessed by a selection committee made up of researchers from the **DSI Research & Academics Committee** using the criteria.



- The extent to which the training and project are multidisciplinary;
- Alignment to the DSI mandate including thematic areas if applicable; and,
- Strong research record of accomplishment and future potential.





# Reporting



Postdoctoral Fellows will provide a yearly activity report and respond to an exit survey.

Fellows are required to acknowledge the DSI in publications, presentations, and communications resulting from the Project.



# Important dates



**January 4, 2022:** Applications are due at 20:00 EST; Application form and Supervisor Form sent to [awards.dsi@utoronto.ca](mailto:awards.dsi@utoronto.ca)

**February 2022:** Notification to applicants and supervisors.

**May 1 to December 1, 2022:** Fellowships begin





# Frequently Asked Questions

**I received my Ph.D. degree from a university in 2011. Am I eligible to apply?**

No. Applicants must be able to begin the Fellowships within 5 years of their PhD defense. Career interruptions (e.g., parental leave) will taken into account.

**I am a faculty member of another university and will be on leave during the fellowship. Am I eligible to apply?**

No. Applicants must not hold a faculty position or be on leave from such a position.

**Will you fund candidates who have completed their degree in another country?**

We welcome applicants with a degrees from both Canada and other countries.

**What makes a strong candidate?**

Applicants will need to demonstrate academic excellence and high potential for success in their chosen fields supported by evidence (e.g., publications)

**Should applicants already have strong background in data science, or will strong computational skills and research potential suffice?**

This depends on the proposed project and research environment. The data science skills of the applicant should align well with the proposed project.



# Frequently Asked Questions

What areas of research are a good fit for the position?

Research can be from any area – social sciences, humanities, life and physical sciences. Research can include any aspect of basic, applied, or clinical research.

Please define what data sciences encompasses

With increasingly larger and more complex data comes the challenge of **collecting, manipulating, storing, visualizing and extracting information from the data, in reproducible, fair and ethical ways.** (See DSI website)

What should research goals be focused on for this application specifically?

Proposed research projects should have a data sciences focus, through the development of novel methodology or the innovative application of existing approaches, to address major societal issues.

Do you have examples of previously funded research?

This is the first offering of DSI Fellowships.

If I already have a paid postdoc position at UofT, and I also apply for DSI Fellowship, can I receive both the salary from the lab and also the fellowship? or I would need to choose between them?

Applicants cannot concurrently hold another major competitive fellowship; however, supervisors can top-up this award at their discretion.



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# Frequently Asked Questions

**Can PI apply for the fellowship before a candidate is identified?**

No. Potential Postdoctoral Fellows apply.

**Do I have to align with one of the DSI thematic programs?**

No. Fellowships will be funded in any area, but if you do align with one of the DSI's thematic programs you are asked to include this in your proposal.

**Does the applicant follow up for references?**

Once we receive the application, we will review for eligibility. The DSI will then write to referees specified in the application for those applications that meet the eligibility criteria.

**Are PIs required to demonstrate additional financial support in the application?**


No but Supervisors may provide additional funding. Supervisors are required to speak to the research environment and resources available to the applicant as part of their Supervisor statement.

**Is it necessary for the applicants to have a primary supervisor and two co-supervisors?**


Applicants require a primary supervisor and at least one co-supervisor from a complimentary field.




# THANK YOU

 Send us your questions  
[Awards.dsi@utoronto.ca](mailto:Awards.dsi@utoronto.ca)

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<https://datasciences.utoronto.ca/maillinglist/>

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