NTU AI4X-PDF FAQs

Contents

1. Eligibility 2
2. Application Requirements & Guidelines 2
2.1. Research Proposal 2
2.2. Research Track Record & Evaluation Criteria 3
2.3. Mentor and Mentor's support letter 3
3. Fellowship Experience & Expectations 5
3.1. Work Arrangement & Employment Status 5
3.2. Timeline & Commitment 5
3.3. Roles, Engagement and Development Opportunities 5
3.4. Post-fellowship outcomes 6
4. Research Grant Provision 7
5. Others 7

Last updated on 04 August 2026

1. Eligibility

Q: Can I apply if I have not yet received my PhD certificate?

Yes. Applicants may apply before receiving their PhD certificate, provided their PhD is formally conferred early enough to complete the necessary administrative processes and commence the fellowship by **31 March 2027**. As a guide, applicants are encouraged to have their PhD conferred **around the end of December 2026** to allow sufficient time for administrative processing.

Q: What alternative documents can I submit if I have not yet received my PhD certificate?

A: If you have not yet received your official transcript/degree certificate, please provide **a letter from your institution confirming your current academic status and expected date of graduation**. Once you have received your official certificate or transcripts, please provide an updated copy for our records.

Q: Are there any specific age requirements for this position?

A: There are no specific age requirements for this postdoctoral fellowship. However, applicants must have had their PhD conferred within the last 3 years (i.e., in 2023 or later) in a STEM field to be eligible.

Q: Do applicants need prior AI knowledge or experience? Can applicants without an AI background still be eligible if their proposed project plans to incorporate AI?

A: Applicants are not required to have prior AI knowledge or experience to be eligible. However, it is essential that the research proposal clearly integrate AI to solve a scientific problem and their PhD must be in a STEM field.

Q: Can I hold this fellowship together with another fellowship or grant?

A: Generally, fellows may not hold concurrent fellowships with overlapping objectives and funding. Any exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis in line with NTU and NRF policies.

2. Application Requirements & Guidelines

2.1. Research Proposal

Q: Can I suggest new research title for this, or do I need to choose existing research in NTU?

A: Applicants are required to develop and propose their own research title and proposal that clearly integrates AI to solve a scientific problem as part of the fellowship application.

Q: Are there any AI-related research areas that are prioritised or encouraged?

A: Applications are welcome from AI-related research areas across all disciplines of STEM including medicine. There is no specific prioritisation of research topics, and applications will be evaluated based on their merit.

Q: Can my research be purely AI-focused?

A: The fellowship can support a small number of projects that focus primarily on AI development. However, applicants are strongly encouraged to have their primary research in a STEM field and to clearly demonstrate how AI will be applied to significantly advance scientific outcomes in that domain.

Q: Does the two-page limit apply to the entire research proposal submission?

A: The 2-page limit applies to the main content of the research proposal. References and appendices are excluded from the 2-page limit and may be included on additional pages.

Q: Can I submit multiple proposals?

A: No. Each applicant may only submit **one** proposal per call.

2.2. Research Track Record & Evaluation Criteria

Q: Are there specific expectations regarding the number of publications or citation metrics for applicants?

A: Although the number of publications and citation metrics are considered, they are only part of a broader evaluation. Applications are assessed based on multiple factors including:

- Research Proposal Quality (e.g. Clarity, Originality, Scientific Merit, Robust Approach)
- Achievements and accolades (e.g. Awards, Honours and other recognition)
- Leadership potential in carrying out independent research (e.g. role in past projects, performance during evaluation panel interview)

Q: Does Singapore citizenship confer any additional consideration or advantage in the application process?

A: Our evaluation process is merit-based, with priority placed on research excellence, potential, and impact. Nationality may be considered at a later stage to help ensure diversity across the cohort, but it does not take precedence over merit. We encourage you to highlight your strongest achievements and plans in your application.

2.3. Mentor and Mentor's support letter

Q: Am I required to contact a potential NTU faculty mentor directly to secure a Mentor Support Letter before applying for the fellowship?

A: Yes, applicants are required to identify and contact an NTU faculty member to serve as their potential Project Mentor before submitting their application, as a mentor support letter is one of the required documents for the fellowship application.

Q: How can I find a mentor from NTU related to my research?

Depending on your research interest, you may wish to explore the research groups and faculty profiles within NTU's Colleges and Schools, and connect directly with faculty members listed there.

Alternatively, you can search for potential NTU faculty mentors whose work aligns with your interests by browsing NTU's academic profiles at the following link: https://dr.ntu.edu.sg/explore/researcherprofiles

Q: Is there a template for the Mentor Support Letter required for the AI4X Postdoctoral Fellowship application?

There is no prescribed template for the Mentor Support Letter. However, the letter should clearly indicate the prospective mentor's willingness to support the applicant's fellowship application and serve as their mentor throughout the fellowship period.

Q: Can one faculty member be the Project/AI Mentor for multiple applicants?

A: Yes. A faculty member may serve as the Project Mentor for more than one applicant, provided they have the capacity to guide each project effectively and are able to commit the necessary time and resources to support all mentees.

Q: Is it possible to proceed with this opportunity with two professors serving as co-supervisors?

A: It is possible for two professors to co-advise the fellow in day-to-day research activities. There are no restrictions on the number of faculty members the fellow can work with.

However, in the online application form, applicant can only select one faculty member as the Project mentor. For administrative purposes, this Project Mentor will also be assigned as the RO in Workday, as the system currently supports only one RO. This is an administrative requirement and does not limit the collaborative nature of the mentorship arrangement.

Under this fellowship, each selected fellow will have both a Project Mentor (indicated in the application) and an AI Mentor (assigned or selected post-award). Applicants who wish to be advised by two professors may consider having one serve as the Project Mentor and the other as the AI Mentor, where appropriate.

Q: Who can serve as an AI Mentor for my research project?

A: The AI Mentor should be an NTU faculty member with expertise in AI and who is primarily conducting AI-focused research. The key consideration is the mentor's expertise and ability to provide professional guidance on the AI aspects of the proposed research, including AI methodologies, integration of AI into the research project, and broader AI research directions. There is no restriction on the mentor's School or College within NTU, provided that their expertise is relevant to the proposed project's needs.

Q: Do I need to identify an AI Mentor before submitting my application?

A: Identifying an AI Mentor is **not required at the application stage.** Following the award of the fellowship, awardees may discuss potential AI Mentors with their Project Mentor. If an awardee already has a suitable AI Mentor in mind, the University can help facilitate the appointment. Alternatively, if no suitable AI Mentor has been identified, NTU will assist in identifying and assigning an appropriate AI Mentor whose expertise aligns with the project's AI-related research needs.

3. Fellowship Experience & Expectations

3.1. Work Arrangement & Employment Status

Q: Is this fellowship fully onsite or are hybrid work arrangements allowed?

A: The fellowship is a full-time, on-site appointment at NTU. Hybrid or remote arrangements are not permitted.

Q: Does this position require relocation to Singapore?

A: This fellowship does require the awardees to relocate to Singapore, as they will be employed as full-time research staff under NTU.

3.2. Timeline & Commitment

Q: Will successful applicants remain employed by their current institution while receiving the research grant, or will they be required to resign from their current position and become employed by NTU?

A: Awardees of this fellowship will be employed as full-time research staff under NTU. Therefore, they will need to resign from their current position if awarded.

Q: When is the earliest possible start date for the fellowship?

A: If successful, the project start date will be the awardee's commencement at NTU as an AI4X Postdoctoral Fellow. Once all admission requirements have been completed (e.g., work pass application and pre-employment formalities), the awardee may commence the fellowship at the earliest available opportunity, but no later than 31 March 2027.

3.3. Roles, Engagement and Development Opportunities

Q: Beyond conducting research under the fellowship, are there any explicit deliverables or expectations from fellows?

A: Awardees will be required to set targets/milestones before the commencement of the fellowship. The following are the expectations for AI4X-fellows:

- Strengthened career trajectory towards academic

- Improved teaching capability through the opportunities such as lecture or tutorial teaching duties provided by host school
- Tangible contributions to AI-for-Science knowledge and applications
- Deliverables such as publications, prototypes, or tools that demonstrate AI integration in STEM

Q: Could you provide more specifics about the structured AI training component, including its format, duration, or delivery?

A: AI4X Postdoctoral Fellows will have access to a comprehensive range of training and development opportunities to strengthen both their AI knowledge and research capabilities.

- Fellows may sit in AI-related undergraduate or postgraduate modules at NTU to build or reinforce their foundational expertise in AI and machine learning. In addition, regular AI for Science workshops and seminars will be organized to support technical development and expose fellows to the latest methodologies and applications across disciplines.
- Fellows will also benefit from community and networking initiatives, such as monthly fellow sessions and seminar series, which are designed to foster interdisciplinary collaboration, knowledge exchange, and peer learning. A strong element of peer-to-peer training and informal mentorship is encouraged within the fellowship community, ensuring that fellows can learn from one another's diverse disciplinary backgrounds.
- To further support their development, each fellow will be guided under a dual-mentorship structure: a project mentor from their primary research domain and an AI mentor who provides specific expertise in AI methodologies and applications. This integrated framework ensures that AI4X-PDFs are not only equipped with the necessary AI skills but are also well-prepared to advance scientific discovery through interdisciplinary approaches.

Q: Does this fellowship require me to teach classes?

A: Awardees will be provided with opportunities to teach, as university-level teaching experience is an important component in preparing for a future academic career. The university will also offer guidance and coaching to support the development of effective teaching skills.

3.4. Post-fellowship outcomes

Q: Does the AI4X-PDF guarantee a faculty position at NTU upon completion?

A: No. The fellowship is not a direct pathway to a faculty position. However, it is designed to strengthen fellows' research portfolios, leadership skills, and academic network, thereby enhancing their competitiveness for tenure-track or equivalent positions at NTU or other leading institutions worldwide.

4. Research Grant Provision

Q: Are research grants provided at the beginning of the research?

A: Yes, the research grant will be given at the beginning in alignment with the fellowship start date. Awardees will be required to develop a budget phasing plan that outlines how the grant will be allocated across various categories. These include manpower, materials & consumables, equipment, travel and other operational expenses related to research activities.

Q: If awarded, can the research grant be used to support the hiring of research staffs? / What are the typical allowable categories of expenditure?

A: Yes, the grant may be used to hire research staff who do not hold PhDs.

The grant can support EOM (manpower - research staff, student helpers), OOE (materials & consumables, publications costs, etc), Equipment (including computing resources) and travel for research-related activities. In general, the grant is intended to support all research related expenses. A budget guide will be provided to awardees during the account setup process.

Q: Is the funding duration fixed at 4 years or flexible to choose?

A: The funding support will span for 4 years, in alignment with the employment contract for AI4X-PDF. If the awardee successfully secures a tenure-track position at NTU (or another institution in Singapore) during this period, the fellowship funding will continue until the original project end date.

While we understand that individual circumstances may change, this fellowship is intended for applicants committed to contributing to Singapore's AI-for-Science ecosystem, aiming to either (i) complete the full four years of postdoctoral research at NTU before pursuing a tenure-track position or (ii) transitioning into a tenure-track role during the fellowship, with continued funding until the original end date. Please note that while the fellowship supports this trajectory, it does not guarantee a faculty appointment upon completion.

Q: What is the allowance/salary range?

A: We are unable to disclose a specific range at this stage. Nevertheless, awardees will be offered a remuneration package that is competitive for early-career postdoctoral researchers.

5. Others

Q: Can the AI4X Postdoctoral Fellowship support research that bridges education and AI?

A: This fellowship supports early career researchers who aim to apply Artificial Intelligence (AI) to accelerate scientific discovery across STEM disciplines including medicine.

While education is a valuable domain, research proposals must demonstrate a clear and substantial application of AI that directly advances research, development or impact within STEM fields to be considered.

If you are open to sharing more details about your research, we would be happy to assess whether it aligns with the fellowship's goals.

Q: Can the AI4X team provide assess on an applicant’s competitiveness before an application is submitted?

A: We are unable to comment on individual competitiveness outside of the formal review process.