

# NTU AI4X-PDF

## FAQs

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# 1. Eligibility

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

A: Yes, provided your PhD is formally conferred by 31 December 2025, allowing you to start the fellowship before 31 March 2026.

## **Q: What alternative documents would be accepted in the absence of a degree certificate?**

A: In the absence of an 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, kindly update us accordingly.

## **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 2022 or later) in a STEM field to be eligible.

## **Q: May I know if the candidate requires AI knowledge or experience? Will candidate be eligible if there is intention to incorporate AI into project but candidate does not background in AI systems?**

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, you cannot hold concurrent fellowships with overlapping objectives and funding. 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: Yes, 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 scope of AI-related research that is 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 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 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: As I am a Singapore citizen, would this status provide any additional consideration 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: Do I need to contact directly with a potential NTU faculty first and mention my application for the fellowship in order to secure the mentor support letter?**

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 the 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: Do you have the template for the mentor support letter that my mentor need to follow when applying for AI-4-X postdoctoral fellowship?**

There is no official template that your mentor needs to follow for the support letter. The most crucial point to include in the mentor's support letter is a clear expression of your prospective mentor's willingness to support your application and serve as your mentor for the AI-4X Postdoctoral Fellowship.

**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 research fellow in day-to-day research activities. There are no restrictions on the number of faculty members the fellow can work with.

However, please note that in the online application form, the fellow (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 allows only one RO. This is due to system constraints in Workday and does not affect the collaborative nature of the mentorship.

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). We suggest that one of you consider serving as the Project Mentor, while the other takes on the role of AI Mentor.

## 3. Fellowship Experience & Expectations

### 3.1. Work Arrangement & Employment Status

**Q: Is this fellowship fully onsite or can be hybrid?**

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 the selected researchers remain employed by their current institution while receiving the research grant, or will they 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 would the project be able to start at the earliest?**

A: If successfully awarded, the project start date will be the awardee's commencement at NTU as an AI4X Postdoctoral Fellow. Once the admission requirements are completed (e.g., work pass application and pre-employment formalities), the awardee may select a start date at the earliest possible opportunity, but no later than 31 March 2026.

### 3.3. Roles, Engagement and Development Opportunities

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

A: Successful 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—such as 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 after completion?**

A: No. The fellowship is not a direct pathway to a faculty position. However, it is designed to strengthen your research portfolio, leadership skills, and academic network, thereby enhancing your 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, recipients of this fellowship will be offered a remuneration package that is competitive for early-career postdoctoral researchers.

## 5. Others

**Q: I am particularly keen to understand whether the fellowship could support work 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: Do you think I would be a competitive candidate?**

A: While we appreciate your interest, we are unable to comment on individual competitiveness outside of the formal review process.