

Human-centered Artificial Intelligence

Small Grants – Summer 2023

The focus area Human-centered AI

The focus area Human-centered Artificial Intelligence (HAI) bundles the various AI-activities undertaken at Utrecht University. AI in Utrecht has a unique profile that cuts across many different departments and research groups. By bridging research in computer science, philosophy, media and culture studies, linguistics, psychology, and other disciplines the focus area's aim is to foster strong and societally relevant interdisciplinary research in human-centered AI.

The HAI focus area started in January 2020, and currently comprises nine Special Interest Groups (SIGs, [see website](#)). This is the eighth call for projects to be funded by HAI. The projects resulting from this call will be accommodated by the existing SIGs.

This is the final call of the first term of Human-centered AI. Through the efforts of our SIGs and with help of the past seven rounds of small grants a promising and growing community has emerged. At this important moment in the development of HAI we want to reach out to all the collaborations and projects that are currently already underway, and that are shaping the future of Utrecht University as a focal point of AI research. Therefore, in this round, researchers can apply for grants up to €20.000 meant to strengthen existing collaborations.

Objectives of the call:

The call aims to support collaborative interdisciplinary research in the field of human-centered artificial intelligence. Grants are available for:

- Outreach activities to advertise UU human-centered AI research to societal partners and/or the broader public (up to €4000)
- Various forms of support (up to €4000):
 - a. Assistance in setting up events, like an online workshop or seminar (series),
 - b. Research assistance, like organizing datasets, or programming
 - c. Developing AI related summer- or winter school or course
- Seed money for writing (joint) project proposals by applicants from different disciplines within human-centered AI (up to €8000):
 - a. To buy extra research time for writing the proposal
 - b. To hire others to support the writing of the research proposal.

The seed money could for example be used to prepare an [ELSA Lab](#) proposal or an application to an [EC HORIZON](#) call.

- Supportive grant to strengthen existing collaborations and promising projects within the field of Human-centered AI at Utrecht University (up to €20.000).

We are also open to new ideas on how to further the aims of the focus area and are willing to consider funding them. In that case, instead of applying for funding directly through the call, first discuss your idea with us.

Who can apply?

All proposals should involve at least two researchers from at least two different departments or research centers of Utrecht University. The main applicants should have a position at the UU for the duration of the project.

The following conditions also apply:

- When you want to buy research time we ask a (written) commitment from the departments of both applicants showing they grant you the extra time to write the proposal and use the money to compensate for teaching and/or administration.
- When applying for the supportive grant of up to €20.000 we ask for evidence that a collaboration has a history and/or that a project has already started (for instance by pointing to an earlier successful application for a HAI grant).
- The project for which the money is received must yield the promised result. This means that we expect a confirmation that activities took place, that a research proposal was submitted or that assistance was hired to complete a task.
- After the completion date of your project we will invite you to fill out a form on the results of your project. You will also be asked to specify how you spent the available money.

Completing and submission of the form:

Please do not amend the structure of the form below. Applications should be set out clearly and submitted as a PDF file to hai@uu.nl.

What to apply for:

Applications should be directed to one or more of the SIGs ([see website](#)). Each application can request funding up to €4000,-. For writing joint research proposals, the funding is up to €8000,-. A supportive grant of €20.000,- is available to strengthen existing projects and collaborations.

Assessment:

The innovative contribution of the project, its specific goals and how the money will be spent should be described in a concise and clear manner.

Applications will be evaluated by the SIG coordinators according to the following criteria:

- The proposal's contribution to the aims of HAI.
- The interdisciplinary character of the project.
- The connection of the project to one or more of the HAI Special Interest Groups.
- The involvement of various UU departments.
- Matching by a faculty, department or other organization is encouraged.
- The type of the project (e.g., organizing seminar, outreach activities, seed money, inviting research collaborators, small research project).
- [Only for the supportive grant of up to €20.000] The solidity of the collaboration and the proven results and resourcefulness of a project.

Submission deadline: 8 September 2023.

Proposal to Human-Centered AI focus area
Type of grant you are applying for:
Title of proposal:
Type of proposal: (e.g., small research project, outreach activities, organizing seminar, seed money, inviting research collaborators)
Submitted to Special Interest Group(s):
Main applicant and research team: (full name, position and affiliation of researchers from at least two different departments or research centers, e-mail address, expertise, webpage)
[Only for the supportive grant of up to €20.000,-] Please describe the history of your collaboration and its achievements.
Project carried out between ____ (month/year) and ____ (month/year). (Please note that any money allocated to a project must be claimed two months after the end date of the project at the latest.)
Executive summary, including objectives and alignment with Human-centered Artificial Intelligence. [For the supportive grant of up to €20.000 please also describe the history of your project and the markers of its success/proven promise. If you received a previous HAI grant: describe how the project builds on your previous deliverables]: (max. 600 words)
[Only for the supportive grant of up to €20.000,-] How will the proposed project establish your initiative in a stable and sustainable manner for the (academic) community and HAI?
Activities to increase the visibility of Human-centered Artificial Intelligence: (max. 50 words)
Explain nature of Interdepartmental collaboration: (max. 100 words)

Details on expenses: (e.g., project-related goods/services, travel and accommodation costs of visitors, implementation costs, hiring a student assistant, details on matching)

Item	Expense

If honored, applicant(s) will acknowledge the support of HAI in the first publication ensuing from the project.

This condition is confirmed by _____ (name) on behalf of all applicants.