DATAIA CLUSTER – CALL FOR PROJECTS
MASTER INTERNSHIPS 2026

BACKGROUND

The DataIA Institute is the Artificial Intelligence Institute of Université Paris-Saclay.
Since 2017, the DataIA Institute has brought together expertise from across the Paris-Saclay ecosystem to strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration between institutions in the fields of data science and artificial intelligence.

The Institute implements the University's strategy in AI research, education, and innovation. As the leading French ecosystem in artificial intelligence, DataIA Paris-Saclay aims to foster cutting-edge research in data science and AI, while also contributing to the international reputation of Université Paris-Saclay's scientific excellence.
The Institute involves over 800 faculty members and researchers from 47 laboratories (15% of them are international people) within the Université Paris-Saclay campus.
In May 2024, the Institute was awarded the "IA-Cluster" label by the French government.

DataIA supports research and education in data science and AI through its annual call for Master's internships.

ELIGIBILITY

The principal investigator must be affiliated with a laboratory from one of the DATAIA partner institutions listed in Appendix 2 of the call. The proposal must align with the scientific focus areas of DATAIA described in Appendix 1. Projects involving multiple laboratories or research teams from different DATAIA partner institutions are strongly encouraged.

IMPORTANT DATES

CALL DEADLINE : 12th November 2025 - 5 p.m. (Paris time)
RESULTS NOTIFICATION: 12th December 2025

SUBMISSION PROCESS

The application file must include:
Required information:

- Project title
- Names and contact details of the supervisors
- Names of the host laboratory(ies) and/or research teams

Project description (2 pages):
Partners should describe the internship objectives, its relevance to DATAIA, and any previous collaborations (if applicable). It is not mandatory to have a candidate identified at the time of submission.

Financial appendix including:

- Amount of funding requested and internship duration
- Planned start and end dates
- Name of the institution receiving and managing the funds
- Names and contact details of the administrative and financial contacts responsible for project follow-up

A template proposal is available at :
https://www.dataia.eu/en/open-call-master-internships-2026

The application must be submitted by the principal investigator to submission-dataia@inria.fr

FUNDING

If the project is accepted, DATAIA will fund the student for a period of 4 to 6 months, based on the standard internship stipend (currently 700 euros/month).
Please note:

- The intern must be present for more than 308 hours during the same academic year to be eligible for a stipend;
- Public institutions are not permitted to pay more than the legal minimum internship stipend, or the agreement will have to be changed for an employment contract;
- The legal minimum stipend in 2025 is €4.35 net/hour, with no additional employer charges;
- The 2026 hourly threshold will be published in the official decree in November or December 2025.

COMMITMENTS

The internship report must be sent to DATAIA at the end of the internship. A brief presentation may be requested during the annual DATAIA Scientific Days.
All communications (publications, presentations) must mention DATAIA funding as follows:

(EN Version 🇬🇧) ***This research work is supported by France 2030 funding managed by the National Research Agency (ANR) as part of IA CLUSTER program, reference ANR-23-IACL-0003 – DATAIA CLUSTER***

(FR Version 🇫🇷) ***Ce travail de recherche a bénéficié d'un financement de France 2030, géré par l'Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR), dans le cadre du programme IA CLUSTER, référence ANR-23-IACL-0003 – DATAIA CLUSTER***

Contact :
For any questions or additional information about this call, please contact us at:
submission-dataia@inria.fr

APPENDIX 1

DATAIA CLUSTER – SUBJECT AREAS

Artificial Intelligence-Centric Themes

1/ Learning Paradigms: Data diversity, data efficiency.
The first theme is centered on developing the fundamentals of learning to meet today's new challenges: diverse and complex data such as images, text, symbols, and graphs; learning with data distributions instead of data points; and new learning paradigms including model pre- training, and their data-efficient adaptation through efficient fine-tuning, prompting, and in- context learning.

2/ AI for inverse problems, simulations, and invariances.
AI is increasingly used as a component of signal/image processing or simulation systems, bringing both computing efficiency and increased modeling flexibility. To address these uses, we will support topics in AI methods to solve probabilistic models and inverse problems, including those making advances in variational inference, improving autodifferentiation approaches, and including different types of invariances in architectures or data augmentations. Approaches applying these advancements to scenarios such as in hybrid AI/physical models, including problems in image reconstruction, signal processing, and other sensor data, will be considered within this theme.

3/ Trustworthiness and control of AI systems.
When the whole population frequently uses an AI system or is utilized in decisions that impact individual lives, assessing, characterizing, and controlling its imperfections and failure modes is essential. This theme includes, yet is not restricted to, the following topics: robustness and certification; fair decision and error equalization; uncertainty quantification, exploration, and reliability; empirical evaluation of AI systems in terms of biases and robustness; and frugality.

Interdisciplinary Axes

1/ Physics & AI
Physics and related fields, such as material science or chemistry, they are demanding of the numerical simulations and the inference methods they use. Physics problems solved through AI tools that make intensive use of numerical simulations for prediction, model testing, and inference, tasks where AI is a game-changer to switch to high-precision physics at scale.

Hence, projects funded by this call may address topics proposing innovative AI approaches to solve physics problems. Examples of these problems include research in mathematical physics, the fundamental constituents of matter, and physical and analytical chemical sciences. A non- exhaustive list of these topics can be found in the descriptions of ERC panels PE1_12, PE2, PE3, PE4, PE5, and PE9.
(see https://erc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/document/file/ERC_Panel_structure_2020.pdf).

2/ Medicine & AI
AI-based innovations in medicine are drawing attention from the AI and medical communities. The potential of AI to improve and change medical diagnosis and care is widely recognised, with a large set of public and private actors involved.
However, challenges must be overcome to achieve this. The data are scarce and complex, and all aspects of trust, such as controlling risk and privacy, are crucial.

Through this axis, DataIA will support AI applications to medical problems, such as those which can be included in the ERC panels LS2, LS5, LS6, LS7.
(see https://erc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/document/file/ERC_Panel_structure_2020.pdf).

3/ Mathematics & AI

The interactions between mathematics and AI have seen unprecedented development during the last decades, giving rise to new successful approaches and raising numerous challenges. Examples of these are the crucial role of mathematics in AI in exploring (i) the validity domain of algorithms and (ii) providing a wealth of abstract theories as resources for designing new AI algorithms.
Projects funded by this call may explore topics at the intersection of AI and the non-exhaustive list of subjects included in the ERC panel PE.
(see https://erc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/document/file/ERC_Panel_structure_2020.pdf)

APPENDIX 2

DATAIA CLUSTER - PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

- AgroParisTech
- CEA Saclay
- CentraleSupélec Campus Saclay
- Centre Inria Saclay Île-de-France
- CNRS (DR04)
- ENS Paris-Saclay
- FMJH
- IHES
- INSERM Campus Saclay
- Institut Gustave Roussy
- Institut d'Optique Graduate School
- INRAE Jouy-en-Josas et Versailles
- ONERA
- Université Évry Paris-Saclay
- Université Paris-Saclay
- Université Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines