Global Faculty Fellowship Mini Visits

Guidance for Host Supervisors

Background

The [I-X Centre for AI in Science](#) runs the Eric and Wendy Schmidt AI in Science [Global Faculty Fellowship](#) (GFF), supported by Schmidt Sciences. This programme assists talented faculty members from global partner institutions to use AI to enhance their scientific research, while also building sustained local capacity at their home institutions. There will be 8 GFFs per year hosted at Imperial across 3 cohorts, starting in 2025.

The list of partnering universities includes: Indian Institute of Science (IISc), National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), India, University of Ghana (UoG), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), and University of Sao Paulo (USP).

In addition to the selected Fellows, the Global Faculty Fellowship will invite 12 faculty members from these partner universities to attend a '**Mini Visit**' at Imperial. The length of the visit should be between 2 and 6 weeks and take place from 2026 – 2028. The first cycle will run in 2026.

These visits will have three defined outcomes:

1. As an opportunity to engage future Global Faculty Fellows to the programme
2. To build capacity with Partners
3. To create a wider network of AI in Science engaged faculty from Low- and Middle-Income partner countries.

The mini visit provides flexible options for those interested in creating connections through networking with existing GFFs and Imperial Faculty, as well as for those wishing to collaborate by undertaking a short research project at Imperial, hosted in a relevant department.

Visiting Faculty must decide the purpose of their visit:

1. **Meetings**: To attend meetings and events within the remit of a [UK standard visitor visa.](#) This will require confirmation from a Host Academic to host and provide desk space throughout the visit.
2. **Research**: To undertake research in additional to attending meetings and events. This will require [ATAS clearance](#) and confirmation from a Host Academic to host and provide desk/lab space for the duration of the visit.

Visitors are requested to provide a short outline of the activities they plan to undertake during their time at Imperial, so we can help identify if ATAS is necessary.

For both options, **applicants must identify an Imperial Academic to host them** throughout their visit.

Finance and Support

The fund will provide

- Subsistence grant: £950 per week to cover food, accommodation and other necessary expenses.
- Up to £1500 towards return economy flights
- Payment for standard visitor visa (£127)
- Contribution towards costs for travel/medical insurance
- Administrative support for visa application and ATAS clearance, where required.
- Host departments are expected to waive tuition fees and bench fees for these placements and arrange a suitable induction/supervision plan.
- Small equipment and consumables purchasing must be approved in advance with programme administrator and host, if the visitor plans to carry out research at Imperial.

Please note

- Only individuals are eligible for the funding, dependents will not be supported.
- Visitors are expected to arrange their own accommodation in London for the duration of their stay.
- Placements must be take place in **2026**.
- Applications are now open. Closing date: **31st January 2026.**

Becoming a host supervisor

Potential applicants are encouraged to browse Imperial's webpages and review the potential host department/institutes, based on what best aligns with their research focus. Applicants then contact academics directly to explore the possibility of a visit.

We encourage preexisting links between collaborators at international institutions and Imperial.

Am I eligible to host?

- You can host if you are a permanent member of staff (or if your contract extends beyond the end date of the placement).
- Research Associates (postdocs) can be co-hosts but another academic must be named on the application.
- Hosts must have capacity to support the visitor throughout their time at Imperial and ensure the department makes provision for necessary workspace/induction material etc.
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Expectations of the host supervisor

- **Accepting a visitor**:
  - If you are happy and willing to host a visitor, you are asked to [sign this Form of Support,](#) outlining the visit and support that will be provided. The host is responsible for collaborating on a suitable research plan for the visitor to encourage maximum impact and value.
- **Arriving on campus:**
  - The department hosting the research visit must also agree to bench-fee waiver, workspace/lab access, induction/supervision plan.
  - The host department is responsible for the visitor once they have arrived in London. This includes making arrangements with administrative staff in the department to ensure the visitor is set up for their first day. This includes day one safety forms/inductions and ID cards and desk space, if required. The I-X Centre for AI in Science will arrange for the stipend to be paid to the visitor and arrange their travel.
  - The I-X Centre for AI in Science will invite the visitor to relevant events to network with existing Academics and Fellows including Tuesday coffee mornings and Thursday lunch.
- **Visa compliance**:
  - The visitor must identify their preferred visit option (as outlined above). If they only plan to attend meetings and events, this must fall within the remit of a [UK standard visitor visa.](#) If they plan to carry our research at Imperial, they must apply for [ATAS clearance](#) (Faculty of Medicine or Imperial Business School are exempt). Please note, visitors for either route will apply for a UK standard visitor visa.
  - Applicants must complete the ATAS Certificate online and provide an Imperial host support letter at the time of application. The wait times for approval can be up to three months, and they must have an ATAS Certificate before applying for a visa. Please consider this when arranging timing for the visit.

Additional Information

Please contact the university's Global Faculty Fellowship for further support or advice: GFF@imperial.ac.uk

For information on arriving to the UK as a visiting academic, please use the [International Relations OFfice FAQs page](#) as a resource for supporting visitors.

All visitors will be classified as 'visiting academics'. This is the term used by the university for visitors at Imperial for short periods.