

# Call for Research Proposals 2025: Cybersecurity, AI, Intelligent Systems, and Digital Trust

The Blavatnik Interdisciplinary Cyber Research Center (ICRC) and The Center for AI and Data Science (TAD) at Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel, are pleased to announce the 2025 Call for Research Proposals.

This time, in addition to typical cybersecurity research, we also seek proposals exploring the intersection of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Intelligent Systems, and Digital Trust with a particular focus on AI for cybersecurity and cybersecurity for AI.

Grants of **ILS 200,000 to ILS 500,000** will be awarded for research projects lasting up to **24 months**.

## Research Topics

Little, if any, aspect of life remains untouched by digital technology. Thus, we welcome all proposals that meet the following requirements:

- Demonstrate relevance to the intersection of Intelligent Systems and Digital Trust, including cybersecurity.
- Advance the state of the art in any scientific discipline, including natural, physical, biological, behavioral, social, humanities, medicine, engineering, and mathematics.
- Interdisciplinary proposals merging ideas, approaches, and technologies from diverse fields of knowledge are especially welcome.
- Where applicable, indicate the areas within the AI stack – such as basic science, applications, algorithms, data, technology, human capital, hardware, institutions, or integration – that the proposal contributes to.

## Evaluation

The Scientific Committee will assess the proposals according to the following weighted criteria:

- **Scientific Merit (40%)** The proposed research's quality, originality, and methodological soundness, including its potential to advance the field.
- **Interdisciplinary Approach (25%)** The extent to which the research integrates concepts and methods from multiple disciplines.
- **Societal Impact (20%)** The capacity to address real-world issues and generate positive societal impact.
- **Feasibility (15%)** The likelihood of successful project execution, including securing necessary resources.

The Scientific Committee may send proposals for external review and invite PI(s) for an interview.

## Eligibility

TAU faculty are eligible to serve as Principal Investigator (PI).

Faculty members in research institutions worldwide who collaborate with a TAU PI must be eligible to serve as PIs on external grants per home institution.

PIs may submit one proposal.

Past recipients of Blavatnik ICRC awards may apply if they have completed previous research and submitted the final report and results on time.

## Expected Deliverables

- Conference presentations and publications in esteemed venues
- Peer-reviewed scientific articles
- Annual and final reports to TAU
- Participation in both Centers' events and community outreach initiatives
- Open-source software or tools, where appropriate

## Proposal Requirements and Submission Details

- Research Title, Principal Investigators, and Affiliations
- Research proposal and abstract (4 pages)
- Societal and policy impacts (1 page)
- Detailed budget request
- Current support and plans for additional funding
- Biographical sketches

**Submission Portal URL:** <https://icrc.tau.ac.il/home/call-for-proposals25-26>

**Deadline: February 02, 2025, 23:59 GMT**

Questions?

shiristemp at tauex.tau.ac.il at TAD | liort at tauex.tau.ac.il at ICRC

## Tel Aviv University (TAU)

[Tel Aviv University](#) (TAU) is Israel's largest and most comprehensive research institution, with over 30,000 students across nine faculties, 125 schools and departments. Sharing Tel Aviv's spirit of non-stop discovery, TAU brings together top minds to address the most pressing challenges of the 21st century through bold and collaborative solutions and teaching.

### The Blavatnik Interdisciplinary Cyber Research Center (ICRC)

The Blavatnik ICRC is an independent university research center focusing on cybersecurity and digital trust across the full spectrum of intelligent machines, people, processes, and technology.

Established in 2014 under the leadership of Prof. Major-General (Ret.) Isaac Ben-Israel, the Blavatnik ICRC has awarded 95 research grants totaling \$8 million in funding. The Blavatnik Interdisciplinary Cyber Research Center has fostered a robust international community of over 60 TAU faculty, 250 graduate students, and dozens of scientists in leading global research institutions. It is the first and largest cyber research center in Israel and hosts the world-famous international [Cyber Week](#) conference every summer at Tel Aviv University. Spanning advanced research, global outreach, and policy advisory, the Center aims to shape the future of cybersecurity.

### The Center for AI and Data Science (TAD)

[The Center for AI and Data Science at Tel Aviv University \(TAD\)](#), established in 2020, is an interdisciplinary center with a mission to advance innovative research and education in these fields. It is the largest research center at the university, with more than 300 affiliated faculty members covering both core and application areas across the campus. The center strives to transform all research areas, and puts a special focus on Data Science (DS) and AI for the benefit of humanity. The center funds research in AI and DS and supports PhD candidates through scholarship programs. The center also hosts workshops, conferences, and has established 13 communities in various fields to connect and support its members and to foster collaborations inside the university and with other academic institutions, as well as with industry and government. A "Bridge" entity formed by the center is designed to help researchers through consulting and mentoring.