



About the Ada Lovelace Institute

The Ada Lovelace Institute (Ada) is an independent research institute with a mission to make data and AI work for people and society, to ensure that the opportunities, benefits and privileges generated by data and AI are justly and equitably distributed and experienced. We aim to shape policies and practices centred on data and data-driven technologies and inform them with a range of interdisciplinary evidence and expertise, and a clear understanding of the ethical and societal impacts of data and technology. We do this by:

- **Convening diverse voices** to create an inclusive understanding of the ethical issues arising from data and AI;
- **Building evidence** to support rigorous research and foster informed debate on how data and AI affect people and society; and
- **Shaping and informing good policy and practice** to prioritise societal benefits in the design and deployment of data and AI.

Our [2021-2024 strategy](#) outlines six strategic goals that focus our activities on enabling positive applications of data and AI to support wellbeing, justice and equity in human society, and create a sustainable future vision for emerging technologies:

1. Interrogate inequalities caused by data and AI
2. Rebalance power over data and AI
3. Amplify the voices of people
4. Promote sustainable data stewardship
5. Anticipate transformative innovations
6. Create space for diverse scholarship

We are a team of 24 interdisciplinary staff with backgrounds in law, social science, philosophy, arts, cognitive science, maths, software engineering and health studies. We are organised across four teams: Policy and Law, Tech and Society, Public Engagement, and Communications and Impact. The organisation is led by a Senior Leadership Team comprised of the Director, and Associate Directors for Policy; Research Partnerships; and Communications and Impact. The Ada Lovelace Institute has an inhouse Operations Manager but also benefits from the in kind support of the Nuffield Foundation in administration, finance and human resources. We draw on external expertise in a range of different ways: convening independent advisory groups or working groups, hosting workshops and events, or appointing consultants and expert advisers.

Background to our collaboration with AHRC

Since 2019, Ada has provided advice and expertise to the AHRC about how it might better support the emerging AI ethics field through funding and investment in fellowships, research, capacity-building initiatives and policy expertise. From 2020 to 2022 Ada supported a pilot JUST AI network research project with AHRC, which included a fellowship scheme. In addition, project funding from the AHRC supported three Ada research projects: the ethics of recommendation systems project in partnership with the BBC, the AI and genomics project in partnership with the Nuffield Council on Bioethics, and the research ethics project in partnership with Exeter University and the Alan Turing Institute.

We have developed a fruitful relationship with the AHRC, which has supported Ada to undertake key strategic activities (convening, evidence building and influencing policy and practice) and achieve core strategic goals to interrogate inequalities and rebalance power over data and AI. The relationship has also



enabled Ada to work towards our strategic goal of creating space for diverse scholarship, by shaping the AHRC's approach to fostering the field of AI ethics and ensuring their funding programme is interdisciplinary, geared towards impact in policy and practice, and will ensure an expanded array of researchers are able to build expertise in this domain.

Building on this productive partnership, AHRC has selected Ada as the Collaborating Partner to the new AHRC programme, *Enabling a responsible AI ecosystem* (2022-226). It envisages that Ada will have a strategic decision-making role alongside the Programme Director in designing, shaping and executing the programme, and in particular providing many of the ecosystem support functions inherent in the programme.

Ada's role in *Enabling a responsible AI ecosystem*

As the Collaborating Partner, Ada will work in partnership with the Programme Director on:

1. **Overall research programme:** defining and shaping the strategic priorities and themes.
2. **Ecosystem support:** defining areas for investment, devising and delivering specific activities, including research synthesis and project delivery, creating opportunities for convening and influencing policy and practice.
3. **Other aspects of the programme's execution:** contributing, including to the scope and content of open calls.

Ada's principal contribution will be working with the Programme Director to provide ecosystem support, by executing activities that align with Ada's 2021-2024 strategy and which are consistent with Ada's capacity and other commitments. The type and scope of Ada's activities within this remit will depend on the vision of the Programme Director and the overall shape of the programme as designed in collaboration with Ada, but might include:

- Convening public events, panels, webinars or conferences to enable interdisciplinary debate, influence policy processes, or build connections and community
- Convening a working group to undertake a rapid deliberation on a timely policy question
- Developing a written submission in response to a UK Government policy consultation
- Undertaking a public deliberation or public attitudes survey to inform policy or practice in a specific area of AI development
- Conducting a horizon scanning exercise
- Publishing a discussion paper on an emerging ethical or societal question

In discussion with the Programme Director, Ada may also host a Collaborative Fellow or contribute to an Ethical AI Demonstrator project.

In identifying applicants for the Programme Director role, Ada will be looking to identify researchers who bring diverse perspectives and an interdisciplinary lens to questions of responsible and ethical AI, and have previous experience running a research programme aimed at policy and practical impact with both academic and non-academic partners. Ada hopes to work with a Programme Director who shares our strategic approach to research design, appreciates the value of both responsive and long-term thinking, and views impact as multi-dimensional and relational.