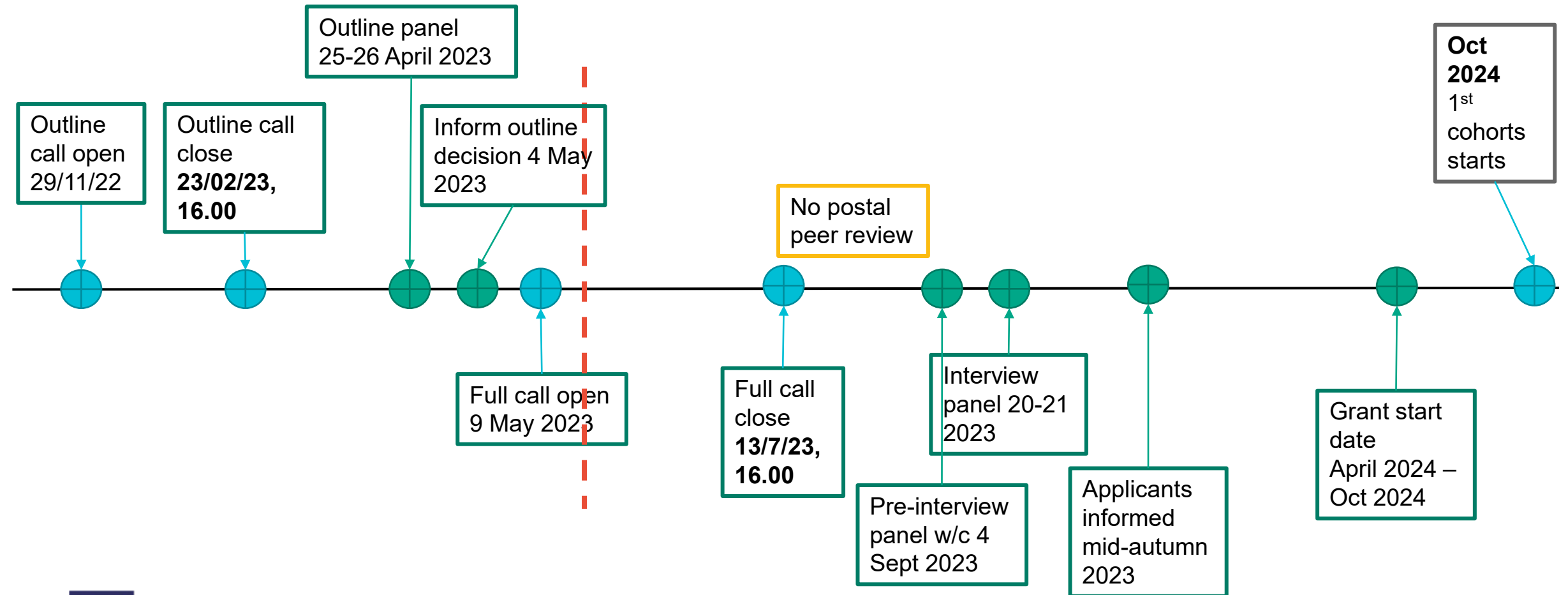# Welcome

Webinar information

- Submit questions through the Zoom Q&A function
- Questions will be answered at the end of the presentation
- After webinar email proposal specific questions to ai.cdts@ukri.org
- The webinar slides and answers to questions will be published on the funding opportunity page
- Full details are on the funding opportunity page ([UKRI Centres for Doctoral Training in artificial intelligence – UKRI](UKRI))

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UKRI AI CDT call timeline

Outline panel
25-26 April 2023

Outline
call open
29/11/22

Outline call
close
**23/02/23,
16.00**

Inform outline
decision 4 May
2023

**Oct
2024**
1st
cohorts
starts

No postal
peer review

Full call open
9 May 2023

Full call
close
**13/7/23,
16.00**

Interview
panel 20-21
2023

Pre-interview
panel w/c 4
Sept 2023

Applicants
informed
mid-autumn
2023

Grant start
date
April 2024 –
Oct 2024

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NB this is different to the EPSRC CDT call timeline

Call scope

Remit

- Proposals in any relevant area of UKRI's remit are welcome, **interdisciplinary proposals** are particularly welcome
- Proposals must focus on the **applications and implications** of novel and existing **AI technologies**
- CDT graduates should have a **sufficient knowledge of AI** and the chosen priority area such that they will be able to **develop and apply novel AI techniques** within that area, discipline or sector.

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Call scope

Priority areas (at least 1 required)	Cross-cutting themes (optional)
Science and research	AI for increasing business productivity
Health	Application of AI to government policy and public services
Environment and energy	
Sustainable agriculture and food	
Defence and security	
Creative industries	
Responsible and trustworthy AI	

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Outline panel feedback (1)

- The **national need** for 50 students or more in the area of the CDT should be explained and where possible evidence provided.

- The **AI components** of the CDT, including the training in the applications and implications of AI, should be clear and researchers with appropriate expertise should be involved in the direction and management of the centre.

- It should be clearly articulated **why a CDT** is the appropriate training model in the research area proposed.

- The approach to **building and maintaining the cohort** throughout the lifetime of the CDT should be clearly described.

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Outline panel feedback (2)

- Details of the **availability of appropriate data sets and computational resource** should be provided where relevant.

- If the CDT relates to the Responsible and trustworthy AI priority area applicants should describe their **understanding of the area and which areas they will provide training** to students in.

- The **roles and responsibilities** of each member of the management team and/or named investigator should be described.

- Details of **administration support** should be included, whether it is requested from UKRI or is part of the host organisations' contribution.

- **Arrangements for IP** between host organisations and project partners should be considered.

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Individual eligibility

- The PI must be from the lead organisation and satisfy [standard EPSRC eligibility criteria](#)

- PI and co-Is must be from eligible UK organisation - expect no more than **10 named investigators**

- Welcome as co-Is those who are integral to developing the bid including:
  - professional research and investment strategy managers
  - research technical professionals and research software engineers

- Consider the **diversity of the leadership team**
  - Team based leadership models
  - Career development of those involved in CDT

Eligible costs

- Studentship costs (fees, stipends and appropriate research training support)
  - Base on current 2023/24 rates (including stipends)
  - Justified stipend enhancement
    - area of training and UK skills need
    - Location of student e.g. London weighting
- UKRI funded CDT students must have minimum 50% UKRI support
- Centre delivery, coordination and management (not supervision)
- Start-up costs for new centres only

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(See **Supplementary information**)

Sub-contracting training provision

- Not expected that individual centres create bespoke training courses if access to appropriate courses is available through other providers

- May also be opportunities for funded centres to collaborate in designing training courses which are accessible across multiple CDTs

- Funding for students to attend such courses should be included in applications

- **Alan Turing Institute** running two virtual skills sessions to capture the training and skills needs of the CDTs to optimise the Turing's skills offer.

    - **Tuesday 6 June** 14:00 – 16:00 and **Wednesday 7 June** 10:00 – 12:00

    - email Harriet McCann (hmccann@turing.ac.uk) if you would like to attend

Partnerships and leverage

- **No minimum leverage** requirement has been set
  - both cash and in-kind support from non-UKRI sources is strongly expected
- Appropriate user co-creation, contributions and engagement
- Include **stakeholder and user engagement plan**
- Sign up to Meeting Mojo

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Host organisation leverage

- Calculate value based on current rates, inflation should not be accounted for.
- Estate and Indirect costs of the HEIs/institutes can be considered as a contribution.
  - All organisations will incur similar levels of these costs,
    - Should not be included in the supplementary information table.
    - Should be stated in the host organisational statement.
- Studentships funded directly by the university, not by other sources (e.g. UKRI DTP) considered as cash contributions.
  - Studentships funded from a source of funding which is not reliant upon the CDT are **not** considered as an in-kind contribution (these are aligned students)

How to apply – full proposal stage

- Deadline: **13 July 2023, 4.00pm**

- One Je-S application per CDT proposal

- Documentation includes:

    - Je-S form

    - Cover letter (1 page)

    - Case for support (10 pages)

    - EDI strategy (2 pages)

    - Approach to responsible AI (1 page)

    - Supplementary information form (1 page using template provided)

        - **Excel copy to be emailed** to ai.cdts@ukri.org by **14 July 2023 at 4.00pm** (24 hours after call deadline)

    - Justification of resources (2 pages)

    - Host organisation(s) statement(s) (3 pages, 1 per applicant organisation)

    - Project partner statement(s) of support (2 pages, 1 per partner)

    - Facilities technical assessment (optional)

Supplementary information form

Centre Information

CDT Title: UKRI AI CDT in...	
Lead RO:	
PI Name:	
Outline proposal reference:	
Primary Priority Area:	
Primary Cross-cutting Theme:	

ITL Regions	Please provide a breakdown of where students will be studying by nation/region (this must add up to 100%). This is not necessarily the university where they are registered.
East Midlands	0%
East of England	0%
London	0%
North East	0%
North West	0%
Northern Ireland	0%
Scotland	0%
South East	0%
South West	0%
Wales	0%
West Midlands	0%
Yorkshire and the Humber	0%
Total	0%

Guidance - see supplementary information document

	Average total costs per student (over 4 years)	H	I Minimums	J	K	L	M
4	Average stipend (inc. any enhancement)		£74,488.00				
5	Average fee		£18,848.00				
6	Research training support (RTSG)						
7	Average total cost per student	£0.00					

Grand Totals of direct contributions	
UKRI	£0.00
Other Funder	£0.00
Total Centre cost	£0.00

	Reason for enhanced stipend	Cost of enhancement per student (over 4 years)	% CDT students expected to receive enhancement
10	Cost of living in student location e.g. London weighting		
11	Research area of training or UK skills nee		
12	Other		

	Cohort costs	Cohort 1	Cohort 2	Cohort 3	Cohort 4	Cohort 5	Sub-totals	Validation Test	
15	Total number of students						0	V1	NO
16	Total studentship costs	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00		
17	**UKRI contributions**								
18	UKRI - stipend costs (indicative)								
19	UKRI - fee costs (indicative)								
20	UKRI - RTSG costs (indicative)								
21	Total UKRI studentship costs							V2	NO
22	UKRI - Start-up/set up costs								
23	UKRI - Management staff costs								
24	UKRI - Other delivery costs								
25	Total UKRI non-studentship costs						£0.00		
26	**Other Funder direct contributions**								
27	Other funder - stipend costs — HEIs/Institutions							V3	YES
28	Other funder - stipend costs — Project partners								
29	Other funder - fee costs — HEIs/Institutions							V4	YES
30	Other funder - fee costs — Project partners								
31	Other funder - RTSG costs — HEIs/Institutions								
32	Other funder - RTSG costs — Project partners								
33	Total Other Funder studentship costs						£0.00	V5	YES
34	Non-studentship costs — HEIs/Institutions								
35	Non-studentship costs — Project partners								
36	Total Other Funder non-studentship costs						£0.00		

Changes from outline to full proposal

- Full case should be developed **based on the successful outline proposal** and any relevant feedback.

- Changes which enhance the proposal while **keeping it within the original centre scope** described in the outline proposal are permitted.

- UKRI will **not limit any changes to costs** between outline and full proposal stage to 10%, however applicants may be asked for justification if the change in costs exceeds this.

- May add co-investigators between outline a full proposal stage where they will add value to the CDT.

- Additional project partners may be added between outline and full proposal stages.
    - UKRI strongly encourages applicants to participate in the **Meeting Mojo** set up to facilitate engagement between proposed CDTs and potential partners.

- There should not be other substantive changes from the centre described at the outline stage.

Full proposal assessment criteria (1)

Full proposals will be assessed against the following criteria which are equally weighted:

Quality of the student training experience

This includes the approach to:

- developing and maintaining the cohort-based training approach, and the benefits derived
- the assessable programme of coursework, including catering to students from different disciplines or sectors, and embedding multidisciplinary ways of working
- responsible research and innovation training
- support for the personal and professional development of students for a diverse range of future careers, including multidisciplinary

Research training environment

This includes:

- critical mass of research activity related to the scope of the centre, including a critical mass of doctoral supervisors and supervisory teams
- track record of applicant team and an appropriate balance of research expertise and engagement of supervisors
- access to appropriate research facilities
- partnerships and plans for engagement and collaboration with wider stakeholders, including end users

Full proposal assessment criteria (2)

Added value

This includes:

- vision and effectiveness of the CDT to develop skilled people in identified priority areas
- contribution of the CDT to enhancing UK skills capability and meeting the future needs for the research and innovation workforce, including to address relevant strategies regionally or nationally
- how the centre will act to fulfil a leadership role, convening relevant stakeholders and engaging within the research and innovation landscape to maximise its impact

Inclusive research culture

This includes the approach to:

- creating a positive research culture through recognising a diversity of talents, skills, and outputs, and embracing team science as the way of working
- equality, diversity and inclusion, for all those involved in the CDT (for example students, management, supervisors, partners) and in key areas such as recruitment and progression
- student supervision, mentoring and wellbeing
- career development of all staff involved in the CDT, including centre management and student supervisors, both academic and industrial
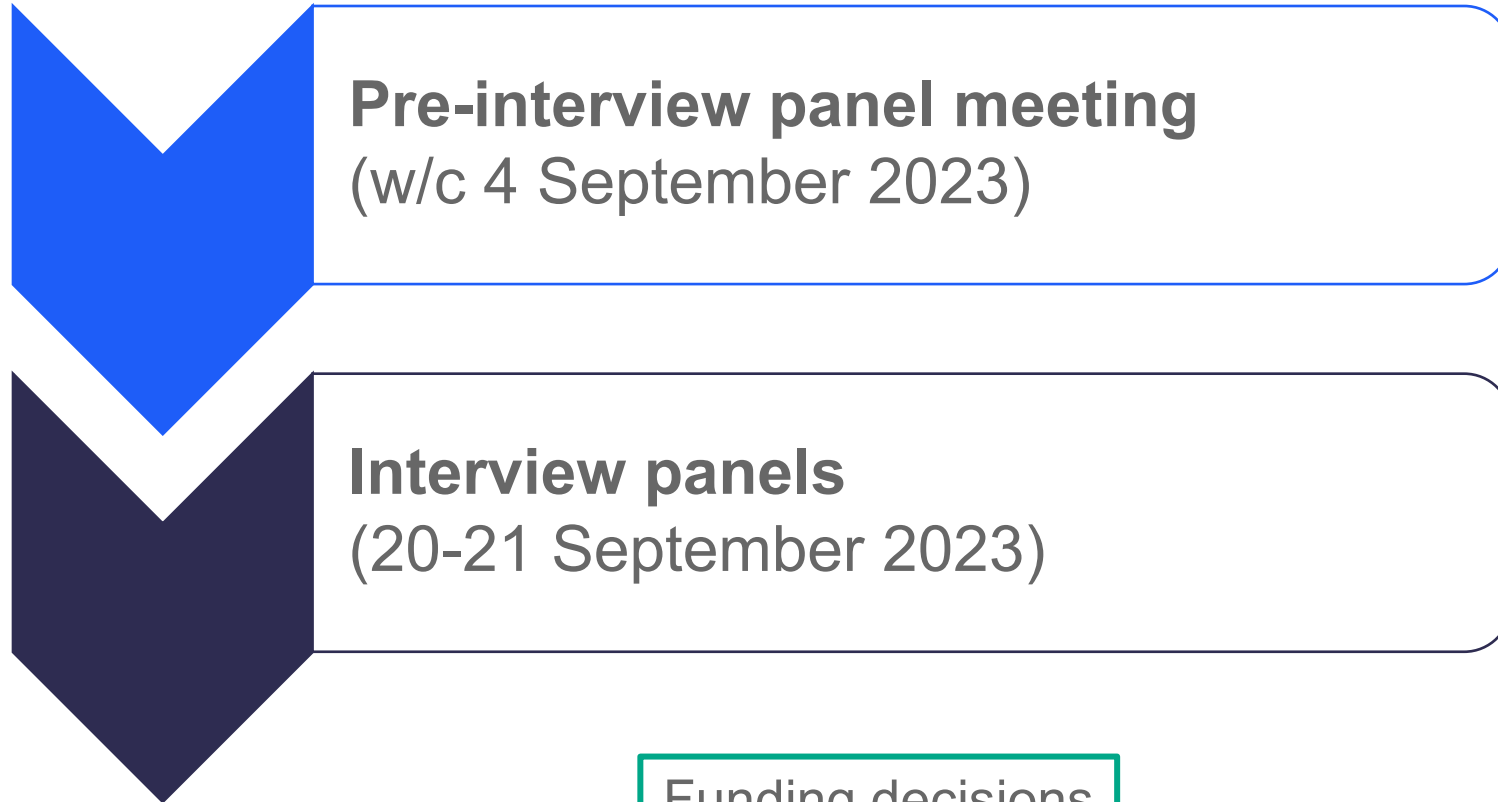
Full proposal assessment criteria (3)

Resources and management

This includes:

- ability of the team to lead and manage a large, complex investment including strategic planning, organisation and operational support to ensure effective running of the centre

- effectiveness of the management strategy to support student training across a broad range of environments, topics or both, monitor student progress and performance, and link to the institution's governance and quality assurance procedures

- quality of the plans for the independent advisory structure(s) and the effectiveness of their role(s) in overseeing and advising the centre, and supporting the management team to adapt the CDT as needed in a changing research landscape

- value for money of UKRI investment, and plans for generating additional leverage from a variety of stakeholders

- approach to continued monitoring of performance of the CDT, including gathering feedback and identifying ways to strengthen performance against key indicators of success

Full proposal assessment process

Pre-interview panel meeting
(w/c 4 September 2023)

Interview panels
(20-21 September 2023)

Areas interview panel are likely to ask questions on fed back to applicants **w/c 11 September 2023**

Funding decisions autumn 2023

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Questions?

ai.cdts@ukri.org