NRF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) INVESTIGATORSHIP
Call for Nominations (2023)

Background Information

1. The National Research Foundation (NRF) Artificial Intelligence (AI) Investigatorship Scheme seeks to attract outstanding researchers at the mid- or established career stages[1] to lead ground-breaking, high-risk research in the field of AI in Singapore.

2. If selected for the award, NRF will provide a research grant[2] amount of up to SGD$3.25 million (inclusive of general overheads[3]) to support research expenses over 5 years. The award will be contingent on the candidate taking up a full-time appointment[4] at the nominating local host institution.

Nomination Procedures and Eligibility Criteria

3. There will be no open grant call for applications. Instead, candidates will be nominated by the following list of eligible institutions:
    - Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR),
    - Nanyang Technological University (NTU),
    - National University of Singapore (NUS),
    - Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT),
    - Singapore Management University (SMU), and
    - Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD).

4. The nominators at the respective host institutions must be senior leaders of the eligible institutions, such as the Vice-President (Research) or equivalent. Nominators will be required to approach at least three independent referees to provide recommendation letters for the nominated candidate. All nominations will be coordinated through the Office of Research (ORE) of the host institution, who will submit the nominations, with the complete set of documents to NRF. Unless otherwise advised, the call will be on a rolling basis (<u>with a deadline of 28 June 2024</u>) and eligible nominations submitted anytime in that duration will be considered for evaluation.

5. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview.

6. Each nomination package must include 6 separated, clearly labelled files:

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[1] Early-career candidates (with 7 years or less post Ph.D. experience) should be encouraged to apply for the NRF Fellowship call (which accepts applications in all areas of Science & Technology).
[2] This excludes the salary of the PI, which will be borne by the host institution.
[3] General Overheads will be 30% of total qualifying approved direct costs and provided to the host institution.
[4] Joint appointees who are exceptional and have at least 50% FTE with the host institution may be considered.

a. a completed nomination form (Please refer to **Annex A**),
b. a detailed CV of nominee (capped at 5 pages, this should contain updated information of the nominee, including academic qualifications, professional experiences and accomplishments),
c. Letters of Recommendation from 3 referees, who can attest that
    - They know the candidates and their work;
    - The candidates have accurately described the achievements outlined in the nomination forms; and
d. a 5-page research proposal clearly stating the title of the research project, objective(s), methodology, and execution plans. It should also articulate the originality of the research and how it would push the frontier of AI beyond its current state-of-the-art developments.
e. a 5-year budget required for the implementation of the research idea, if selected for the award. Please use the budget template in **Annex B** (a list of non-fundable items is detailed in **Annex C**), and
f. other supporting documents.

7. To qualify as a NRF AI Investigatorship nominee, he/she must:
    - Have track records that set them apart from their peers;
    - Be research active, at the point of nomination and throughout the award duration;
    - Should not already be employed in any Singapore institution(s) at the point of nomination;
    - Submit a research proposal related to the field of AI, in areas such as Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing or Computer Vision.