

**Web Science Institute Research Pilot Projects 2022-23  
(February – July 2023)  
Guidance and Project Proposal Form**

Please complete the Project Proposal Form below by **5 pm on Thursday 15 December 2022** and send to Alison Tebbutt ([A.M.Tebbutt@soton.ac.uk](mailto:A.M.Tebbutt@soton.ac.uk)). All projects should meet the criteria set out. Awards will be made in January.

**Scheme Outline**

The Web Science Institute (WSI) has Pilot Project funding for 2022-23 **to stimulate and pump-prime interdisciplinary research activity** that will ultimately lead to collaborations and the development of full research grant proposals. We are looking for proposals in any relevant research area related to Web Science, Data Science, Human-Centred AI or Socio-Technical Studies. These may include, for example:

data trusts	online health
democratic futures	new forms of knowledge
digital futures	social and embodied artificial intelligence
human-centred artificial intelligence	trust and artificial intelligence

Projects may run between **1 February** and **31 July 2023**. Successful projects will be awarded funding normally within a range of £5k to £15k.

We welcome applications from all disciplines, including Arts, Humanities and the Social Sciences.

The following are examples of recent WSI Pilot Projects:

- Democratic simulation for citizen participation
- Building data bridges between Earth system research and the emerging technology industry
- Chatbots in the Gallery
- Multimodal audio-textual argumentation mining of political debates
- Anthropologic Algebra
- Citizen trust in autonomous vehicles: the interactive role of regulatory focus on alleviating scepticism

**Project Proposals**

University staff members are invited to submit applications and may participate in more than one application. The following information should be provided:

- Investigators and Academic Unit/Faculty affiliation
- Short CVs of investigators (max 2 pages)
- Research proposal (max 750 words, with references in an appendix)
- Statement of collaboration between disciplines. Cross-Faculty collaboration will be strongly favoured (max 250 words)
- Funding plans following successful completion of this project
- Approximate timeline for completion and spend out by **31 July 2023**
- Budget request and justification, including a breakdown of eligible costs (via Worktribe)

## Selection Procedure

An awards panel comprising the WSI Directors will rank proposals and make final funding decisions within two weeks of the closing date. The panel will examine:

- Knowledge of and commitment to Web Science, Data Science, Human-Centred AI, and Socio-Technical Studies.
- Fit with the criteria to stimulate and pump-prime interdisciplinary research collaborations.
- Interdisciplinary nature of the project.
- Impact and future funding potential with a clear line of sight towards an identified grant submission within the next 9 months.
- Sensible spending plan.

## Project Conditions and Reporting

Awardees will be required to:

- Spend all allocated funds by **31 July 2023**.
- Produce a final report for the WSI Directors by 31 October 2023. This report must include a review of impact of the project and a **draft of the grant proposal**.
- Include an acknowledgment of WSI support on all publications resulting from this funding.
- Awardees are required to notify the WSI of grant submission and success.

## Eligible costs

Awards will be normally within a range of £5k to £15k and will cover:

- Directly incurred salary costs
- Consultancy costs
- Consumables
- Small items of equipment up to £3k (computers are not eligible)
- Travel costs

Indirect costs or PI time are not eligible.

Please use [Worktribe](#) for all costings, and include the information below:

Project Title	Please include the text “WSI Pilot Project (Dec 22)” as this will assist with reports on applications
Project Type	93: Internal Competition
Project Activity Type	Internal Selection

**WSI Research Pilot Projects 2022-23  
Project Proposal Form**

**Deadline: 5pm, Thursday 15 December 2022**

**PI Details:**

Principal Investigator**:	
Academic Unit & Faculty:	
Email:	
Additional Colleague(s)**:	
Academic Unit & Faculty:	
Email(s):	

**\*\* Please include short CVs (max 2 pages) in the appendix**

**Project Details:**

Project Title:	
Project Theme:	
Project start date:	
Project end date:	

Research proposal (max 750 words, figures and references can be included in the appendix)

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Statement of cross-Faculty and/or interdisciplinary nature (max 250 words)

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Funding plans following successful completion of this project

Approximate timeline for completion and spend out by 31 July 2023

Budget request and justification, including a breakdown of eligible costs. (Costings can be obtained using [Worktribe](#))

*Please return completed application forms to Alison Tebbutt at [A.M.Tebbutt@soton.ac.uk](mailto:A.M.Tebbutt@soton.ac.uk)  
by 5.00 pm on **Thursday 15 December 2022**.  
**Please submit as one PDF document***