

USC Center for Artificial Intelligence in Society

USC
Suzanne
Dworak-Peck
School of Social Work

USC
Viterbi
School of Engineering

2018 Summer Visiting Fellows Program cais.usc.edu

The University of Southern California (USC) Center for Artificial Intelligence in Society (CAIS) is a joint venture between the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work and the USC Viterbi School of Engineering. Our mission is to conduct research in artificial intelligence to help solve the most difficult social problems facing our world. When we consider what problems to tackle, we focus our efforts on low-resource communities both here in the United States and globally. We draw inspiration from the Grand Challenges of Social Work, the Grand Challenges of Engineering, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

USC CAIS invites applications for computer science, social science (e.g., social work, public health), and conservation science for visiting summer fellows. The goal of the program is to invite researchers to conduct exciting research within the context of the USC CAIS mission of, and in collaboration with other USC CAIS researchers. The fellows will collaborate with faculty at USC CAIS, with other visitors, with current and visiting PhD students, and with our domain experts and NGO partners who are helping us execute projects in the real world. During the summer program, we will have prominent visitors discussing AI and NGO activities, and will have datasets made available from our various NGO partners.

Projects for summer fellows will cover three basic areas of interest at CAIS: (i) AI for public health, which includes ending homelessness, fighting substance abuse, improving access to health care; (ii) AI for conservation, which includes protecting endangered wildlife, planning conservation areas, social responses to global climate change, conservation of water and AI in agriculture; and (iii) AI for public safety and security, which includes countering challenges of terrorism, human trafficking, cybercrime and related challenges. Researchers who bring their own datasets in addressing such challenges may be given some preference, but this is not a prerequisite.

Projects:

USC CAIS summer fellows will work on: one of the center's current projects, a project with the City of Los Angeles Data Science Federation and USC CAIS, and/or one you propose through your personal statement (see below). Project assignments are determined based on the fellow's interests, experience and expertise, interested subject matter, fellowship duration, and project need.

Payment:

Fellows will be paid with a stipend in accordance with their academic level. PhD students will earn \$4,000 per month, postdoctoral fellows will earn \$6,000 per month, and assistant professors will earn \$8,000 per month.

Qualifications:

We welcome visitors who are PhD students or junior researchers (postdocs, assistant professors, or other early career researchers) and who speak and write in English. If you are currently a F1 visa holder at another institution, you will need to receive permission from your home institution to participate in the USC CAIS summer fellowship program.

Duration and Location:

The 2018 summer fellowship program will occur at the USC University Park Campus. Fellowships are available for one to three months, with preferences for two or three months. Fellowships can begin as early as May 15, and will end by August 15.

Application process:

For your application, please email the following materials to Hailey Winetrobe, USC CAIS Center Operations Coordinator: hwinetro@usc.edu

1. Your CV
2. Two (max three) short letters of recommendation (500 words are reasonable)
3. Max 500-word personal statement that explains your motivation for conducting research focused on “AI for Social Good.” You may also propose new potential projects of interest as part of this statement, or express interest in ones that are ongoing at USC CAIS. (<https://www.cais.usc.edu/projects>). Please keep in mind that more projects are coming down the pipeline. Please check the USC CAIS Current Projects website for the most current listing. In your statement, please specify if you are interested in a 1-, 2-, or 3-month fellowship. We strongly recommend that PhD students participate in a 3-month fellowship.

Deadline:

Please submit your application materials to Hailey Winetrobe (Center Operations Coordinator) at hwinetro@usc.edu by Monday January 22, 2018, 11:59 p.m. PST.

Timeline:

January 22: Application deadline

February 9: Fellow selection and invitations sent

February 23: Invited visiting fellows attendance commitment deadline

Check out last year's fellows:

<https://www.cais.usc.edu/news/assistant-professors-postdocs-phd-students-join-cais-summer-2017-scholarly-work/>

Questions?:

For any questions regarding the USC CAIS 2018 summer fellowship program or the application, please contact the USC CAIS Center Operations Coordinator, Hailey Winetrobe, at hwinetro@usc.edu.