



Visiting Researcher Program

Call for Nominations

SUMMARY:

The [Visiting Researcher Program](#) of the Texas A&M Institute of Data Science (TAMIDS) solicits nominations by prospective TAMU hosts for external researchers to engage with activities in TAMIDS and the wider TAMU Data Science community during long-term visits. Visitors will normally hold full-time positions in a home institution that provides full or partial salary support to the visitor for the duration of their visit to Texas A&M, through Faculty Development Leave, sabbatical leave, or equivalent programs. TAMIDS will provide financial support to the visitor through a stipend including a cost-of-living allowance and in some cases partial salary support.

ELIGIBILITY:

Host Organizations: a proposing host must hold a faculty appointment in Texas A&M University (including Galveston and Qatar campuses), TEES, TEEX, AgriLife Research, AgriLife Extension, or TTI. Multiple related submissions are discouraged, and hosts may submit only one proposal to the program. **Visitors:** Prospective visitors must hold a full-time position in a university, research laboratory, industry, or similar organization, other than the eligible host organizations.

The program has two distinct tracks:

TAMU Visitor Track: *Aim:* this track aims to support full-time visitors to Texas A&M who will engage in Data Science collaborations with eligible faculty hosts. *Duration:* visits between 1 and 9 months. *Support:* TAMIDS will provide the visitor with a monthly stipend of a \$1,000 cost-of-living allowance. Any required additional allowance must be met by the host organization. TAMU visitors will be offered shared office space in TAMIDS in the Blocker building, subject to availability. *Expectations:* In addition to their host collaborations, visitors are encouraged to interact with the [TAMIDS Staff](#) or [Research Affiliates](#), for example, engaging in group discussions or sharing their research expertise via a tutorial series.

TAMIDS Collaborator Track: *Aim:* visits are structured as a three-way partnership between the visitor, the host, and TAMIDS, with the research direction within or closely related to TAMIDS research areas. *Duration:* between 4.5 and 9 months. *Support:* TAMIDS will provide the visitor with a monthly stipend comprising (i) up to \$2,000 cost-of-living allowance (\$2,500 monthly for collaborators accompanied by family members) and (ii) 50% of the visitor's base salary up to a maximum of \$8,000 per month in lieu of support from their home institution. TAMIDS Collaborators will be provided with a shared office in TAMIDS in the Blocker building. *Host Support:* TAMIDS will provide the host with a research stipend of



\$500 per month to support their participation in the collaboration. **Expectations:** TAMIDS Collaborators will be full-time visitors who work closely with TAMIDS and their local host on the proposed research project, with deliverables such as joint publications and grant proposals.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE & NOTIFICATION:

The program will operate with 3 deadlines for proposal submission each year: March 1, July 1 and November 1, with outcomes communicated by the last day of the corresponding month.

PROPOSAL REVIEW:

Proposals will be reviewed competitively by a committee established by the TAMIDS Director.

FUNDING SCHEDULE:

All funded visits should be completed within 2 years of the deadline date. Proposers should confirm funding availability with TAMIDS prior to submission.

REVIEW CRITERIA:

When assessing the proposals, the committee will pay special attention to (a) the host's scientific profile in Data Science, (b) the visitor's scientific profile in Data Science, (c) the potential for long-lasting cooperation, and (d) for TAMIDS Collaborators, the alignment of the research project with TAMIDS current areas of interest and opportunities for research funding the project would enable. Prospective hosts for TAMIDS Collaborators are encouraged to review current TAMIDS research programs at the [TAMIDS website](#).

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS:

Proposals should be submitted by the **local host** to the [Qualtrics Submission Form](#) as a **single PDF file** (minimum 10pt Arial, single spacing, 1 inch margins all round) containing the following information:

A) Summary page, including:

- i) Heading "TAMIDS Visiting Researcher Program"
- ii) Track which the proposal should be considered for: TAMU Visitor, or TAMIDS Collaborator
- iii) Name, institution, department, position, and email address of proposing local host
- iv) Name, institution, department, position, and email address of proposed visitor

B) Project Description, emphasizing the benefits of the collaboration and anticipated outcomes. For TAMIDS Collaborators, the proposal should detail (i) the relation of the proposed research to current TAMIDS programs; (ii) the experience and expertise of host and visitor that prepare them for the project; (iii) anticipated deliverables and milestones; (iv) TAMIDS personnel who would be involved; (v) growth that the project will enable, including future funding (specify agency and program) and collaboration. (5 pages maximum, and up to 4 additional pages for figures and citations).

C) Biographical sketches of the **local host** (2 pages maximum) and the **prospective visitor** (2 pages maximum)



D) Statement of commitment from the proposing host's department head, listing any additional funds that may be provided to facilitate the visit.

VISA PROCEDURES:

All non-US visiting researchers must obtain appropriate visa authorization prior to their visit, typically a J-1 Exchange Visa. Note that a B-1 business visa, or equivalent obtained under a visa waiver program, does NOT authorize the visit. Once an application is accepted under either track, TAMIDS will coordinate with the visitor to obtain the J-1 and cover application fees payable in the US. All visa procedures will be organized by Angela Guerra angelag@tamu.edu with TAMIDS as the hosting organization.

CONTACT AND FURTHER INFORMATION:

Prof. **Simon Foucart**, TAMIDS Associate Director for External Academic Engagement, foucart@tamu.edu

QUESTION AND ANSWERS:

- **What are TAMIDS priorities for research?**

TAMIDS conducts research through its Operational Data Science Lab, its Thematic Labs, and has a commitment to provide state-of-the-art training and education in Data Science. Prospective hosts for the TAMIDS Collaborators are encouraged to discuss their proposal with the TAMIDS Director for External Academic Engagement.

- **Does the program offer flexibility in scheduling support for TAMIDS Collaborators?**

Yes. Stipend support in lieu of salary may be deferred, e.g., to the second half of the support period, in order to accommodate salary scheduling in the visitor's home institution.

- **Will the visitors become TAMU employees for the duration of their visit?**

No. Visitors retain their appointment in their home institution and they will not be on TAMU payroll. A visitor's receipt of stipend does not make them eligible for TAMU benefits including health insurance and retirement benefits.

- **Does the program support visiting or other faculty positions in TAMU academic units?**

No. In addition to the current program, TAMIDS may support the effort of qualified faculty employed in other TAMU units to work on specific TAMIDS projects. Any proposals for such arrangements should be discussed with the TAMIDS Director.

- **Note:**

Accepted visitors should provide a statement of approval from their home institution for the duration of the visit including approval to receive the proposed stipend.