Professor Paul D. Feigin, Director

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The Israel Data Science Initiative (IDSI) together with the Council of Higher Education (CHE), as part of their support of Data Science research at **budgeted institutions**, announces a **second** Call for Proposals to support

Access to, and Usage of, Cloud Resources
by
Graduate Research Students: PhD and MSc (with thesis)[1]
for
Research in the Application and Core Domains of Data Science.

IDSI is specially interested in broadening the application of Data Science by supporting the use of high-performance computing resources for students in fields that do not typically use cloud resources for their computational needs. Successful applicants will be allocated a budget for use on a cloud supplier through the services of the Inter-University-Computation-Center (IUCC). See also the option below for supporting "local" cloud resources.

While the call may also be relevant to researchers in core areas of data science and computer science, it is not designed to support large computationally intensive projects requiring many tens of thousands of dollars to implement. The available funds are not designed to replace funding through requests to the major research funding organizations. Our focus is on encouraging experimenting with cloud computing in order to obtain initial results as a means of justifying more substantial research grants.

<u>Applications</u>

- Students/Supervisors are asked to provide, using the online form:
  1. A two-page description of the research project, including the goals, the data sources, the analysis methodology, and the expected impact of the research.
  2. Upload the completed Application Template (Excel workbook)
     a. Fill in each sheet (3)
     b. The Resource Authorizer is the person in the institution who can confirm that the resource configuration is appropriate for the proposed project. It may be the supervisor if s/he has experience in defining VM's etc.
  3. A signed letter from the supervisor explicitly supporting the application.
  4. A signed letter from the Resource Authorizer confirming approval of the requested configuration.
- This second round of applications will be considered if they arrive before February 28, 2022. They will be reviewed in March.
- Planned activation of approved accounts: April 10, 2022

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[1] In academic colleges, research faculty may also apply.

Management:

A review committee has been established, comprising members of the Data Science research community, who will recommend to the IDSI Director the granting of budgets.

IDSI, through IUCC services, will monitor the use of budgets, and reserves the right to ensure efficient use of resources by enacting policies for shutting down VM's not in use, and related actions.

On granting of a budget, grantees will open an account with IUCC. Students and their supervisors are responsible for the appropriate use of that account, and IDSI will not be responsible for any misuse, loss, or damage incurred with respect to that account.

Extension to support "local" cloud services.

In some circumstances, when local "cloud" computing is available *at a cost,* using shared high-performance computing (HPC) resources belonging to a particular institution, support may also be provided under this call. The latter do not include research groups who have purchased HPC resources which are also made available for general use in a central facility. To support granting a budget for such use, the researcher must also provide a copy of the application for use of HPC resources, together with an estimate of the cost as provided by the institution's center managing those resources.

IDSI reserves the right to partially fund such requests, in particular, if the quoted rates are not in line with those available at similar institutions.

Funds will only be transferred against specific payment orders for the relevant project. The mechanism for transferring funds will be coordinated with each institution.