

# COLLABORATORY

AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

## CALL FOR GRANT PROPOSALS The Collaboratory Fellows Fund

RFP Issue Date: October 1st, 2025  
RFP Due Date: January 9th, 2026, 5:00 PM

Info Session  
October 30<sup>th</sup> 2025, 3:00 PM  
Register Today [HERE](#)

The increasing availability of data in society is impacting our world in profound ways. As our ability to generate, store, and analyze data grows, so do the opportunities for using those data to improve our economy, our security, the environment, and human health. Scores of professional and research areas are increasingly becoming data-driven enterprises. To prepare for a data-rich world, students and future leaders need to integrate data science into their traditional areas of study.

Conversely, just as the need for data literacy increases, so too does the need for students of data and computer science to understand the impact of traditional domains on their professions. What, for example, do data scientists need to understand about Ethics, Policy, History, Healthcare, and Law?

Jointly founded by Columbia University's Data Science Institute and Columbia Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Design, The Collaboratory at Columbia is a university-wide program dedicated to supporting collaborative curricula innovations in interdisciplinary study designed to ensure that all Columbia students receive the education and training that they need to succeed in today's data-rich world. Information about the Collaboratory at Columbia can be found [here](#).

### **Call for Proposals for the Collaboratory Fellows Program:**

The goal of the Collaboratory Fellows Fund is to support the development of innovative curricula that meet the data science, AI, and computational literacy needs of any given discipline, set of disciplines and/or cohort of students at Columbia University. Our aim is to seed-fund these new courses in hopes that they extend beyond the life of original grant funds. Approved proposals must include the commitment of your dean or department chair to provide financial resources to continue the course past its initial launch and past the life of the grant.

Please use this RFP if you are initiating an entirely new interdisciplinary course, if you are applying for the second half of a project already partially funded, or if you are requesting funds to convert your course into digital teaching modalities.

The program will award grants to pairs of instructors, one with disciplinary/area expertise and one with data-science and/or computational expertise, to collaborate on the development and teaching of material that embeds data, AI or computational science into a more traditional domain. The reverse, a class that embeds traditional domains into the context of data science, is also encouraged.

The new content should use pedagogy, instruction, and delivery methods that are fitting for the specific student cohort. Example curricula offerings might include classes, labs, workshops, studios, out-of-semester offerings, and “boot-camps.” Student cohorts can be undergraduate students, Ph.D. students or graduate students undergoing professional training. The goal is to create diverse course offerings that are accessible to students at all levels, including those who have no previous data science exposure. Because the goal of the Fellows Fund is to support data literacy as an important element of a Columbia University education, it is intended that all developed material be integrated into Columbia’s instructional offerings.

#### **Inclusion:**

The Collaboratory seeks to support curricular projects that provide an inclusive learning environment where diverse perspectives are recognized, respected, and seen as a source of strength. Data science has not always been perceived as a welcoming field for all, and the Collaboratory is working to actively subvert exclusionary norms by bridging different fields and opening new gateways into data science. As such, all proposals must provide a statement on how the course will be designed to serve the needs of students with varied academic and professional experiences, including (as appropriate to the project), those who are new to the field of data science. Furthermore, the Collaboratory seeks to support curricular projects focused on positive social impact, or “data for good.” Projects focused on anti-racist practice are particularly encouraged to apply.

#### **Eligibility:**

Applications must be submitted by a pair of instructors (or more if justification is provided), each of whom must have the authority to assume scholarly, administrative, and financial responsibility for their individual award. Those eligible to apply are: full-time officers of instruction, professors of practice, lecturers within discipline and/or adjunct professors of Columbia University. The Principal Investigator (PI) for an application must have a full-time primary appointment at Columbia. The proposed development team for a proposal should have expertise in both a domain field (such as, business, medicine, law, etc) and a data science field (such as, statistics, computer science, etc). Information about prior successful selectees for the Fellows Fund can be found [[here](#)].

#### **Funding:**

All awards will be made on a competitive basis. Each funded project will receive an award of up to \$100,000 to support the development and teaching of the new material. Example uses of award funding might be to buy-out of teaching in order to free up time for the curricular development activities, summer salary support, support for student assistants and/or on-line curricula components, the cost of materials, supplies and other items, etc. Applicants must provide a budget and budget justification as part of their application to the program.

## Information Session:

We will host an information session on  
**Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 3:00 PM** [\[REGISTER HERE\]](#)

## To Apply:

This application can be downloaded [here](#). Submit the materials requested in the application instructions via email as a pdf to [collaboratory@columbia.edu](mailto:collaboratory@columbia.edu) by the deadline. Proposals will be judged by a multi-disciplinary panel drawn from past Collaboratory grant recipients.

**VIDEO:** [2023 Collaboratory Info Session and Q&A](#) (46 minutes).

## Deadline:

January 9<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 5:00 PM (Neither incomplete nor late applications will be accepted)

## Anticipated Award notifications:

April 2026

## Questions?

Please contact [collaboratory@columbia.edu](mailto:collaboratory@columbia.edu) |

Webpage: <https://entrepreneurship.columbia.edu/collaboratory/>

Jeff Goldsmith

Professor in Biostatistics, Mailman School of Public Health

Tian Zheng

Professor and Department Chair, Department of Statistics