Overview

With the rapid evolution of Artificial Intelligence (AI), we are still faced with a fundamental question: how do we design effective solutions for safe and ethical human-AI collaboration in real-world settings? How can we integrate AI-based solutions with human ingenuity and experience? The importance of human-AI collaboration today cannot be overstated; the potential to unleash new solutions that bring positive societal impact is immense. However, such potential can only be realized when effectively integrated to leverage and enhance human skills, and creativity, with ethical considerations. This requires fundamental and applied research and broad stakeholder engagement and discussion on intricate and diverse topics that include but go beyond critical issues such as bias, fairness, or privacy. Interface and process design, decision deference, policy, labor, job security, productivity, education, and impacts on mental health are only a few examples.

The Notre Dame-IBM Technology Ethics Lab, under the auspices of the Notre Dame Ethics Initiative, invites proposals for projects that grapple with these challenges, providing new insights or suggesting innovative solutions. Specifically, this Call for Proposals seeks innovative projects with the potential to inform, explore, and enhance human-AI collaboration efforts in the immediate future. The objective is to foster developments that leverage AI to augment human tasks and ensure that these collaborations are ethical, inclusive, and beneficial to society at large. As AI systems become increasingly sophisticated, there is a pressing need to understand and optimize how they can work alongside humans in various domains, but also to anticipate potential medium- to long-term impacts of such settings in critical sectors.

Potential applications for study include industry (e.g., healthcare, financial services), artistic creation, sustainability, neurotechnologies, politics, emergency and disaster management, advertising, social media, smart cities, and others. Examples of areas for research and scholarship include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Society, Community, and Culture
  - Inclusive stakeholder dialogue
  - Education and Healthcare
  - Future of work and upskilling
  - Community awareness and engagement
  - Impact to culture
- Governance and Policy
  - Governance of organizations and systems
  - Informed and inclusive policy development
  - Guiding principles
  - Frameworks for adoption and decision-making
- Interdisciplinary
  - Developing trustworthy systems
  - Design principles
  - Human-AI collaboration
- Other topics not described here

Projected Timeline

- **August 27, 2024** - The application period opens

- **October 31, 2024** - The application period closes
- **January 1, 2025** - Projects kick off
- **January 22, 2025** - Recipient workshop / Tech Ethics Forum 2025 at the University of Notre Dame
- **May, 2025** - Virtual recipient workshop
- **December 31, 2025** - Projects close and deliverables due
- **January 2026** - Tech Ethics Forum 2026

Project Awards

- Teams will have from **January 1, 2025**, through **December 31, 2025** (12 months), to complete the project.
- **Successful applications will propose a defined deliverable** (e.g., research papers, draft policy, teaching materials, and impact assessments) that addresses the challenges described in the call.
- Teams may apply for up to **$60,000** (USD) in award funding. A detailed budget and timeline must be submitted as part of the application.
- Each project team **must include the collaboration of at least one University of Notre Dame faculty with an allocated budget** (maximum of 20%). If you cannot find a suitable match prior to submission of the application, the Tech Ethics Lab (techlab@nd.edu) will help you with the matching process if your project is selected to move forward.
- **Each team's Principal Investigator (PI) must attend the Tech Ethics Forum in January 2025.** To that end, teams are eligible for a travel stipend of **up to $2,000** per team to attend the Forum, which will take place at the University of Notre Dame. The travel stipend will be added to the award amount and will not be subtracted from the award funding. It can be used to cover the costs of transportation (flight, car, train, etc.) and lodging associated with traveling to the University of Notre Dame to attend the workshop. The submitted budget must consider additional costs concerning other team members' presence in the Forum. Please note that funding allocated for team members' travel to the Tech Ethics Forum cannot be re-budgeted later.
- The Tech Ethics Lab will pay invoices from recipients **monthly**.
- **Overhead/facilities and administration (indirect costs) are not allowed**.

Expectations for Recipients

Recipients will be expected to do the following:
- Provide quarterly status reports to the Tech Ethics Lab (a template will be provided).
- Provide quarterly invoices to the Tech Ethics Lab for reimbursement.
- Participate in workshops to share progress with the Tech Ethics Lab staff and other recipients. One workshop will be conducted virtually (May 2025), and one will be in person on the University of Notre Dame campus for the Tech Ethics Forum on January 22–23, 2025.
- Recipients will retain ownership of all deliverables.
- Recipients will distribute the CFP deliverables under open source/open access/creative commons/equivalent licenses for the applicable medium and permit the Notre Dame-IBM Technology Ethics Lab to make such deliverables available on its website, with appropriate attribution to the recipient.
- Applicants planning to propose a potentially patentable deliverable should contact the Tech Ethics Lab (techlab@nd.edu) before applying.

Eligibility

Applications will be accepted between Monday August 27, 2024, **at 8:00 AM ET** and **Thursday, October 31, 2024 at 11:59 PM ET**. For information on how to apply, please refer to the "Proposal Preparation" section below.

Eligible applicants include:

- Faculty, staff, and students from institutions of higher education;
- Individuals representing nonprofits other than institutions of higher education;
- Individuals representing for-profit organizations;
- Individuals representing local governments and
- Independent researchers

It is recommended that applicants affiliated with institutions of higher education, nonprofits other than institutions of higher education, for-profit organizations, local governments, or other institutions have their institution receive the award on their behalf unless doing so would create an undue burden.

Previous recipients are eligible to apply; however, preference will be given to applicants who have yet to receive awards. **Applicants affiliated with IBM are not eligible. Applicants affiliated with the University of Notre Dame are not eligible as PI.**

Proposal Preparation

- Please submit an application form here. Applications submitted through other channels will not be accepted for consideration.
- The project proposal should be attached to the application. It should concisely describe the proposed project's focus, research question(s), likely scholarly/real-world significance, probable research design, analytical approach, and relevance to the topic of the Call for Proposals. It should include a brief abstract (no more than 150 words) summarizing the proposed work. Below are the proposal formatting guidelines:
  - Maximum six pages, excluding references
  - Margins: 1 inch
  - Spacing: Double-spaced
  - Font: Times New Roman or Arial
  - Font size: 10-12 points for text, 10-14 points for headers
  - File format: Portable Document Format (PDF)
  - Do not use hyperlinks
- Please note that each team member's résumé or curriculum vitae (CV) should be attached to the application. Below are formatting guidelines for the résumé or curriculum vitae (CV):
  - Maximum five pages
  - Margins: 1 inch
  - Font: Times New Roman or Arial
  - Font size: 10-12 points for text, 10-14 points for headers
  - File format: Portable Document Format (PDF)
  - Do not use hyperlinks
- Please note that a budget proposal should be attached to the application. Please use the budget proposal template here. An example budget proposal is in the "Budget Example" tab for your reference.
- Please note that a timeline proposal should be attached to the application. Please use the timeline proposal template here. An example timeline proposal is included in the "Timeline Example" tab.
- Please note that if the proposed project involves research on human subjects, an approval or notification of exempt status from an Institutional Review Board (IRB) or equivalent research ethics body is required and should be provided by Monday, June 2, 2025. If IRB approval or exemption has yet to be obtained at the time of application, the IRB protocol should be attached to the application. More information about the University of Notre Dame's human research policy may be found here.
- Applications should be submitted in English.
- Applications cannot be revised after submission.

- Please note that the Tech Ethics Lab may reach out after submission to the email address provided by the primary applicant with additional questions or clarifications.

Selection Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
- Novelty and significance of contribution
- Engagement with ethical issues
- Strength of the methodology
- Quality of writing
- Use of resources

Contact Information

Please direct questions or concerns to techlab@nd.edu. Please note that the University of Notre Dame will be closed from Monday, December 23, 2024, through Wednesday, January 1, 2025. Responses may be delayed during this period.