Information for Potential Partners

This document provides information for potential partners. If you need further information or wish to discuss partnering with the TOLERANCE AI CDT, please contact Ben Coomber **ben.coomber@nottingham.ac.uk** in first instance.

The TOLERANCE (AI CDT) provides an integrated four-year PhD programme to train a community of at least 60 PhD students (over 5 cohorts in about 9 years) with the interdisciplinary skills for responsible and trustworthy AI design, and development.

- They will meet the industry demand for skilled people who can anticipate, reflect and engage with stakeholders and society at large to design and develop responsible and trustworthy (e.g., fair, explainable, transparent and privacy preserving ML) AI
- In collaboration with industry, other organisations and international partners across the priority sectors where public trust is crucial, our students will establish the enabling technologies and also ethical principles to enable next generation AI design with people at the core.
- Collectively, they will innovate applications across sectors including creative industries, financial services, infrastructure towards net zero, and health and wellbeing – seeking out new synergies between them.

The PhDs that emerge from our CDT are distinct from conventional PhDs; we produce rounded individuals with the skills to work in interdisciplinary teams, including technologists who appreciate the societal, regulatory and economic context for emerging AI technologies. We have significant experience in training PhD students. You can find illustrative examples of how we have worked with our partners in the already running doctoral training centre, Horizon-Creating Our Lives in Data Brochure.

Your experience of partnering with the TOLERANCE AI CDT

Each student collaborates with an external partner to ground their research in a real-world context.

As a partner, you will be involved in and benefit from various stages of the PhD programme, for example by:

- Helping draw up an initial theme that we use to recruit students
- Helping interview and select students for this theme
- Engaging with students to shape their PhD project in detail during the first year
- Hosting the student on their placement so they can work on your projects with you
- Gaining early access to advances in AI research and associated results (with the potential to commercialise these)
- Having the opportunity to co-author research papers and academic publications
- Gaining access to a unique network of academic and industry expertise in the broad area of AI and its deployment via the Horizon Digital Economy Research Institute, and the UK Trustworthy Autonomous Systems (TAS) Hub
- Attending industry events that provide an opportunity to experience research across the centre and engage with other students and partners

Benefits of partnering with the TOLERANCE AI CDT

- This is a cost-effective way to be involved in leading edge multidisciplinary trustworthy and responsible AI research without committing in-house resources.
- Research projects can be co-created with you, providing opportunities to shape the research and ensure it is of genuine commercial, organisational, or societal significance to you.
- Our students are outstanding university graduates who possess excellent academic track records and are highly committed to solving real world research problems. They experience broad training in interdisciplinary research and professional skills ready for careers in industry after having delivered a scientifically rigorous PhD thesis
- By hosting the student for a placement, you will be shaping the employees of the future. The placement project focus will be mutually agreed between you and the student.
- Through the TOLERANCE AI CDT you will have access to a network of expert supervisors across a range of disciplines, the opportunity to engage with other industry partners, and the connections to potentially benefit from the findings of other CDT student projects.

What will it cost?

The cost of a **four**-year studentship is £56K (£14K p.a.) for a partner, as the remaining 50% of the full cost (£111,850) will be covered by UKRI for a home student. We understand if you are a third sector partner or a small company you may not have the resources to cover the shared cost of a studentship – please talk to us as there are various models that we can utilise, including sharing the project with another company which has worked very well in a number of cases previously.

We believe this represents excellent value for money compared with the cost of hiring a new graduate and the resulting impact on your company headcount (e.g., on NI contributions). The student remains the responsibility of the University of Nottingham for the four-year duration of their PhD. Sponsors may also be able to claim Research and Development Tax Credits as detailed at **hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/cirdmanual**.