

# Industry Partner Programme

2020/21



Shaping the Future of AI

# Overview



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The UCL AI Centre [www.ucl.ac.uk/ai-centre/](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ai-centre/) is based in the heart of London and is one of the largest academic AI research centres in the UK, being home to over 100 researchers. The Centre is part of the Department of Computer Science, which was classed by the UK government as the UK's leading Computer Science Department in research.

The AI Centre was formed in 2019 from a 20 year tradition of AI research and teaching at UCL and is recognised for its research excellence (including the DeepMind Chair in AI) and commitment to AI for good (including the UNESCO Chair in AI). The Centre regularly publishes at leading AI conferences and contributes to social projects around the globe, including AI for healthcare and free AI education. The Centre also acts as an engine for innovation, with academics and students having created companies with a total valuation to date of over \$100 million, supporting economic and social development.

The Industry Partner Programme is designed to enable connections between industry and the Centre. At its heart, the Centre aims to make the world a better place through Research, Innovation and Training. However, we can't do this alone and the Programme is an opportunity to help us and our Partners achieve common goals. Membership of the programme is annual (except for multi-year components).

The Programme is structured around five areas:

- 1) Network: get to know students at the Centre
- 2) Insight: understand the Centre's research interests and results
- 3) Connect: bespoke consulting and training by pairing with individual academics
- 4) Fellowships: engage jointly in research by sponsoring a Fellow
- 5) PhD Student Sponsorship: engage with a research student over 4 years



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Under the above areas there are specific components, each individually costed (see below). Partners can pick and mix any of the individual components to create their own relationship with the Centre. All Partners will be kept up-to-date with a free newsletter, but much like ordering from a menu at a restaurant, our relationship everything is à la carte to ensure partners can have a partnership with us that suits them best.

Depending on the total financial contribution each Partner makes, additional benefits and membership status (Bronze, Silver, Gold) are determined. The Programme is designed to enable every Partner to get something out of and contribute to the relationship with the Centre, no matter how small or large the financial contribution.

We're always working to improve our offerings as we build our Partner community and suggestions are very welcome.

Component	Cost per year (GBP)*	Page #
1. Newsletter	FREE	N/A
2. Mailing List Access	200	7
3. Student Showcase (per person)	500	7
4. MSc Project	600	9
5. Forum Event (per person)	200	9
6. Lecture & Social Event (per person)	500	9
7. Consultancy Facilitation (additional cost applies)	1,000	11
8. Training Course (additional cost applies)	2,000	11
9. Postdoc Sponsorship	150,000	13
10. PhD Scholarship	75,000	16

\*a 50% discount applies for micro entities for items 1 to 5

Our membership levels can be found on page 18, with some worked examples on pages 19 & 20. These costs are accurate for the current academic year.



# 1. Network

Get in touch with Students



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UCL takes a skills based approach to training and aims to equip each student with a strong mathematical understanding of AI and Machine Learning algorithms. These skills enable students to create new algorithms, rather than relying on off-the-shelf algorithms and software.

UCL graduates around 150 Masters students per year in the area of AI, with students coming from many parts of the world. The Masters programmes are at an advanced level and the acceptance rate onto each programme is typically below 10%.

These Masters programmes have been running for over 20 years and have established UCL as one of the leading places in the world for AI training. Through this we have built up the largest group of graduates in AI in the UK.

All Masters students undertake a 3 month research project, many supervised with industry partners. This has been a very productive way to establish long-standing and successful collaborations with industry.

The Centre also runs the UKRI Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) in Foundational AI:

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/ai-centre/study/foundational-artificial-intelligence-mphilphd>,

a flagship PhD programme supported by the UK government. The CDT is one of only 16 such PhD Centres in the UK and will train around 70 PhD students to make foundational advances in AI. In addition, the CDT strongly encourages students to setup their own businesses on graduation, supporting our belief that graduates with deep technical skills can help support new economic development. PhD students may also spend time doing research internships with a Partner, establishing a deep connection to the Partner's research and commercial interests.

For details of the Masters and PhD programmes, see

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/ai-centre/study>



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The following components enable the Partner to get to know and contact students in the Centre:

**Student Mailing List [£200]**

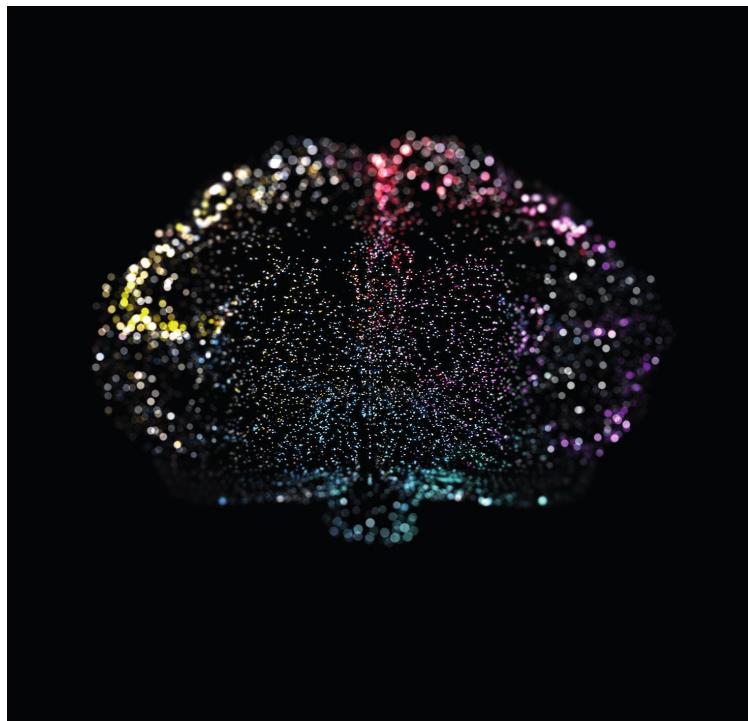
Share your graduate opportunities (including employment and internships) with UCL's AI students (currently over 700 UCL AI postgraduate members). The mailing list includes current and past MSc and PhD students in the Centre.

The £200 fee allows for an unlimited number of postings during the year.

**Student Showcase Networking Event [£500 per Partner attendee]**

Access to a student showcase, with students from our Masters AI programmes and our PhD Centre for Doctoral Training in AI. Students will present their work and interests and be available to discuss their research and career plans.

This is a great opportunity to network with some of the brightest AI students in the UK. Many students will be looking for future career opportunities and this is a chance to understand what makes them tick, offer employment opportunities, internships, etc.



## 2. Insight

Understand our Research Vision



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The Insight components enable a Partner to keep up to date with research in the Centre, do research with Masters students and understand overall trends in the field.

### **Supervise an MSc Student Project [£100 + £500 per project]**

Each year our cohort of around 150 AI Masters students carry out a three month research project. Project matching occurs in January/February each year and the projects run from June to September each year. The student can spend their time either at UCL or be hosted and supervised by the Partner.

A project is a great way to work with a Masters student on research or gauge their potential as a future employee. For £100 the Partner will be guided through the process of advertising and presenting a potential project to Masters students.

If a student selects the project then there is an additional admin fee of £500 to UCL to draw up the (lightweight) Partner contract and manage the student's journey through the project.

### **Annual Research Insight Forum [£200 per Partner attendee]**

The Insight Forum will discuss research highlights from the Centre and outline the broader research developments in the field. The level will be semi-technical and should be appropriate for all attendees with a high-level understanding of Machine Learning. This is also an opportunity to ask questions to researchers about current and future directions and gain insight into trends. The Forum will last around half a day.

When it is safe to do so, the Forum will be held physically. For the moment, we expect the Forum to be virtual. In future years Partners may attend the Forum virtually and/or physically.

### **Annual Lecture and Gathering [£500 per Partner attendee]**

Each year a prestigious researcher from the AI community will be invited to speak. After the lecture there will be an informal social gathering to meet other members of the Partner Programme as well as students and academics within the Centre.



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# 3. Connect

Pair with an Academic



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We often hear that Partners would like help with specific research or training. The Connect components enable a Partner to engage with individual academics through bespoke training or research consultancy. The Centre will discuss Partner objectives and connect the Partner to appropriate academics.

If an academic goes ahead with a Consulting Project or Training course, the Centre will charge the Partner a matchmaking fee of £1000. The academic will separately negotiate a fee and contract with the Partner to carry out the work.

#### **Consultancy Facilitation [(£1000 + consultant fee) per project]**

We will advise and connect you to the most suitable academics for your research consultancy needs.

After matchmaking, the academic and industry partner bilaterally agree on a fee for the consulting project and sign a contract. The AI Centre will not be involved in that fee negotiation or details of the contract.

On successful signing of a consulting contract between the academic and Partner, there is a charge of £1000 to the AI Centre for the matchmaking service.

#### **Training Course [(£2000 + tutor fee) per Partner attendee]**

The Centre will discuss Partner training needs and connect the Partner with an appropriate Centre academic. The details of the bespoke training may vary depending on Partner requirements. However, we envisage that each course will consist of approximately two hours contact time per week over a 5 week period. Training will be carried out in small groups, with participants being closely tutored.

The intention is have an intensive, flexible and reactive approach to teaching. The format of the course will depend on requirements and may include "homework" exercises. The emphasis is on knowledge acquisition and not assessment.

There is a flat fee to the AI Centre for each Partner attendee of £2000, plus an additional charge to be agreed between the academic tutor and Partner. We recommend the tutor to charge approximately £3000 per Partner attendee.



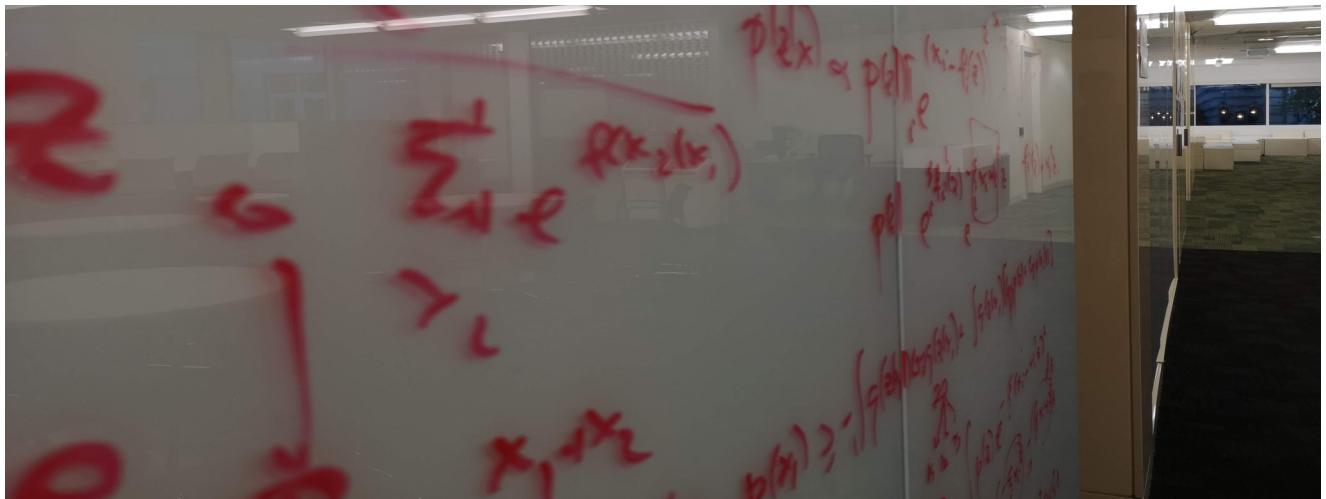
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# 4. Fellowships

Collaborate with Centre Researchers



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Post Doctoral Research Fellowships enable the deepest research connection with the Centre. The Fellowships are highly specific and the Fellow will work with the Partner on an agreed topic. The Post Doc is branded (for example “Your Brand” AI Fellow in “Research Topic”) and would normally last for 2 years.

These Fellowships will be well supported financially, with a generous compute and travel budget. We envisage that these will be some of the most sought after and prestigious AI Fellowships in the UK.

Fellows would be employed at the highest [UCL salary band](#) possible, namely grade 8.

To ensure that the Partner and Fellow are fully engaged we propose a part-time arrangement with the Fellow working 4 days a week at UCL and 1 day a week at the Partner. This also allows the Partner to complement the Fellow’s UCL salary to make an overall salary that is more competitive with industry salaries.

The specific topic and contractual terms of any Fellowship would be discussed in detail with the Partner. To minimise issues with Intellectual Property our suggestion is that during the 4 days a week the Fellow is employed at UCL, the IP is owned by UCL or shared with the Partner. During the 1 day the Fellow is employed at the Partner, any IP generated during that day is owned by the Partner.

### **Branded Postdoc Fellowships [each approx £150K per year]**

We are happy to discuss Fellowship arrangements. Through discussion with potential Partners, suggested broad areas of interest might include the following:

- Innovation Style Fellowship

To help drive economic benefit, the Fellow is supported with the aim to found a start-up company, working on a problem of interest to the Partner. The Partner will gain investment rights in any eventual start-up with shared intellectual property rights.



Such a Fellowship would appeal to a Fellow looking to focus on solving an industrial problem, hoping to continue their post-Fellowship career outside of academia. By aiming to found a company, the Fellow will be strongly motivated to solve the problem and develop a solution with a first potential client already available.

An Innovation style Fellowship may also appeal to someone that wishes to support an existing project or product in industry, hoping to gain eventual employment with that Partner.

- Development Style Fellowship

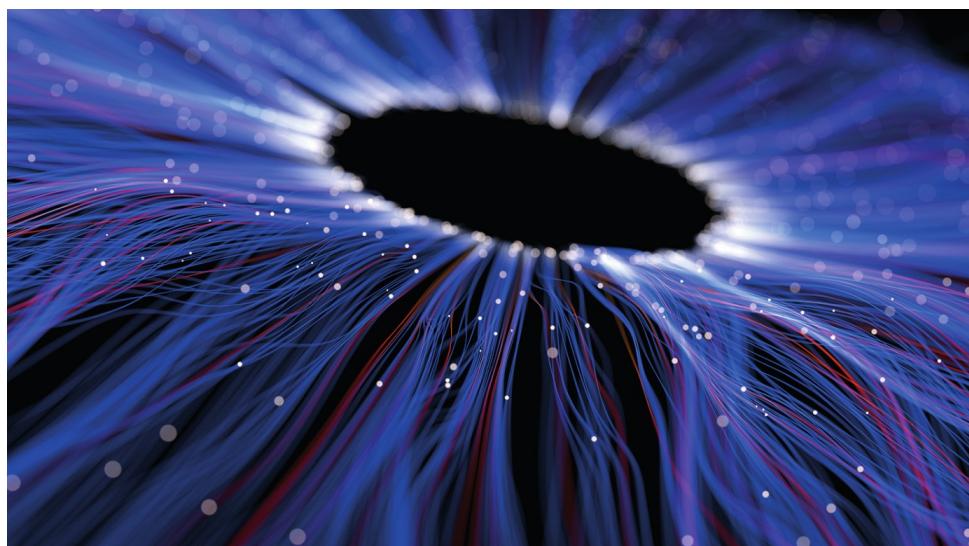
To help achieve societal benefit, the Fellow is supported with the aim of working in the application of AI in fields such as ethics, fairness, sustainable development and education. In addition to standard academic output, the Fellow would be encouraged to engage in public debate.

This kind of Fellowship would appeal to a Fellow that has a profound interest in furthering a specific development goal, in line with (for example) with a Partner interest in that area. The Fellow would also be expected to engage in helping the Partner to organise joint events to promote the topic.

- Foundational Style Fellowship

The Fellow will focus on an agreed research topic with the primary output being academic publications. This would appeal to a Fellow that has a post-Fellowship goal of a research position in academia or industry.

In order that the Fellow can publish reproducible research, arrangements would need be made to ensure that the Fellow can operate as much as possible within an open-research framework and collaborate with other members of the Centre.



# 5. PhD Studentships

Sponsor a 4 Year PhD Student



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By default, PhD sponsorship would be carried out through our Centre for Doctoral Training in Foundational Artificial Intelligence

[https://www.ucl.ac.uk/ai-centre/study/foundational-artificial-intelligence-mphilphd.](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/ai-centre/study/foundational-artificial-intelligence-mphilphd)

A full PhD Scholarship for a student that covers international fees, enhanced stipend, sufficient high-powered machine learning-capable equipment and travel for the full four years of the programme is approx. £300,000, or £75,000 per year. We are happy to discuss partial scholarships and/or spread the cost out over the four years.

Due to the nature of our PhD programme all scholarships are required to fit within the rules and regulations of our main funding body, the EPSRC: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/>

We are happy to discuss Intellectual Property arrangements. As with the postdoc Fellowships, our preference is for an open-science environment in which PhD students, academics and other researchers can collaborate freely.



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# Membership

Levels and Benefits



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Partners will be listed on our website and promotional material according to their annual contribution to the Centre.

We are also happy to include payment-in-kind. For example, partners that contribute annually more than £50,000 of (say) computational resources to the Centre would be classed as Gold level members.

PhD studentship sponsors and Fellowship sponsors are automatically classed as Gold members for the duration of the PhD or Fellowship.

If the Partner's annual contribution exceeds the thresholds below, the Partner accrues the following cumulative benefits:

### **Bronze [>£1000 per year]**

Additional benefit: Partner logo appears on the AI Centre website.

### **Silver [>£5000 per year]**

Additional benefit: the Partner is invited to give an "AI in Industry" lecture at UCL.

### **Gold [>£50,000 per year]**

Additional benefit: Centre Director (or representative) gives a talk at the Partner's organisation.

Partners that have cumulatively contributed £1 million throughout the years of their involvement obtain lifetime Gold Membership.

## **Discounts**

A 50% discount is given to all Network and Insight components for micro-entities:

<https://www.gov.uk/annual-accounts/microentities-small-and-dormant-companies>

## **Donations**

Donations to the AI Centre at any level are always welcome. Please see <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/campaign/get-involved/donate>.

Donations also count to the above mentioned Membership levels.

Please note all values quoted here are accurate for the current academic year as displayed on the front of the document, which runs from September to September.



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## Working examples of how this could work...

We know we sometimes have a habit of over-complicating things, so we just wanted to provide a few examples. Everyone, regardless of size of contribution will receive our monthly newsletter upon request.

	Network		Insight			Connect		Fellowships	PhDs	Donation	
	Mailing List access	Student Showcase per person	MSC Project	Forum Event per person	Lecture & Social per person	Consultancy Facilitation (additional cost applies)	Training Course (additional cost applies)	Postdoc Sponsorship	PhD scholarship	Absolute donation	Total
Cost (£)	200	500	600	200	500	1000	2000	150000	75000		
Altastic	200		600	200	1000	1000	2000			5	5005
MD Inc		1000									1000
Congo	200	500	600	200	500	1000	4000	150000	75000	0	232000
Septillion										1000000	1000000
Micro Company 1	100	250	300	100	500						1250

Key: Bronze Silver Gold Lifetime

So in the above examples:

**Altastic** has requested mailing list access, an MSc Project, 1 person for the Forum Event, 2 people for the Lecture & social event, 1 person on a training course and 1 consultancy facilitation. They have also given us a £5 donation. Their total comes to £5,005, making them a silver member. They will receive all of the things they have requested, plus the newsletter, plus bronze + silver bonus benefits: their logo will appear on our partner page on our website and they are welcome to come present a talk to our students: provided they want either of those things.



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**MD Inc.** has requested access for 2 people to the student showcase, but nothing else. They still get the newsletter, as that's free for anyone who wants it. Their total per year is £1,000. They are still categorized as a bronze member and we will display their logo on our website if they want us to.

**Congo** has kindly agreed to sponsor everything and wants one of each we can offer, and wants two people to do a training course with us. Their total comes to £232,000 per year and they are a gold member. In addition to both the bronze and silver benefits, they can now also have the gold benefit, which is for one of our directors to come present at to them.

**Septillion** does not want to participate in anything. While they want to be involved, they do not want to attend any events, host any projects or sponsor anything, they just want to make a donation of £1,000,000. They qualify as a Lifetime member. They do not need to pay anything annually, they may opt out at any point, but they will get a newsletter, and all the benefits of bronze, silver and gold until they opt out. They didn't have to donate it in one go, they didn't have to donate it as an absolute donation and they could have instead opted for as many things as they wanted over a number of years; as long as their lifetime total is equal to or greater than £1 million, they are a lifetime member to us.

**Micro Company 1**, true to its name, is a micro entity as defined by <https://www.gov.uk/annual-accounts/microentities-small-and-dormant-companies>. To help them we have given them a 50% discount to all of our Networking and Insight components. Although they are receiving everything that Altastic is within those categories PLUS access to the student showcase, they are only paying 50% of the cost due to their small size. Their total is £1,250 and they are categorized as bronze members.



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