

Proposals for AIDA Clinical fellowships

Analytic Imaging Diagnostic Arena (AIDA) is a national arena for research and innovation on analytic image-based diagnostics. AIDA is a cross-disciplinary and cross-sectorial collaboration aiming for large-scale usefulness from Artificial Intelligence (AI) in healthcare. AIDA is part of the national Strategic Innovation Program Medtech4Health, a joint initiative by VINNOVA, Formas and the Swedish Energy Agency. More information can be found at medtech4health.se/aida.

A main part of the AIDA initiative is to host efforts from the entire country, aiming to contribute to development and adoption of AI methods in imaging diagnostics. We here describe an opportunity to participate in AIDA as a clinical fellow.

Opportunity for Clinical fellowships

AIDA welcomes proposals from healthcare providers regarding individual fellowship projects for staff members that want to expand their knowledge in AI-based methods in imaging diagnostics. The individual in question can be a radiologist or pathologist, resident or consultant, or have another relevant professional role such as physicist, radiographer, or biomedical scientist. Proposals need to include a defined project with concrete activities and a time plan. A part of the proposal should be an active effort towards the end of the project in the home organization to disseminate the gained knowledge.

Examples of previous fellowships can be found on the [AIDA fellowship web page](#).

If relevant, connections to other existing AIDA projects or parallel proposals are welcome. State such connections clearly in the application.

AIDA expects project proposals with a **total** cost budget between 50 - 400 kSEK (which AIDA funding would partially cover, see below).

Terms

The maximum level of funding from AIDA/VINNOVA is 50% of the project cost.

Parties outside of the care provider can be engaged to provide technical development for the fellowship, given that the overall 50% funding level is not exceeded. One option is to include them as regular project parties. This would, however, for commercial companies typically mean a limited funding level according to the rules for government subsidies, see the [VINNOVA guide](#). There is also an opportunity to engage commercial partners (such as consulting firms) as sub-suppliers through the AIDA *Innovation check*. The check has a fixed format: the sub-supplier firm receives 50 kSEK in return for a 100 man-hours effort.

For fellowships being a regular ST project financed by the normal employment, the following applies: AIDA funds can then not be used for salary cost, but for up to 100% of other costs such as travel/accommodation and equipment, as long as the AIDA funding is no more than 50% of the total ST project cost.

The application must be approved and signed by the individual's line manager.

The project should start within 6 months from the call deadline.

Each fellowship will be entitled to a free-of-charge allotment of AIDA's central resources for computation and storage.

The proposals will be evaluated according to the following meriting criteria:

- Topic relevance for AIDA (AI and imaging diagnostics)
- Potential for clinical usefulness
- Connection to AIDA core and/or AIDA projects
- Contributions to, and benefits from, the AIDA connection

For non-physicians it is important to ensure access to medical expertise, for instance by designating a local physician as advisor to the project.

It is possible to be awarded a fellowship more than once, if the additional benefit can be clearly shown. Being a first-time applicant is, however, a positive factor in the evaluation of candidate profile relevance. In order for a proposal being a continuation of a previous AIDA project to be approved, a final report for the previous project must have been filed before the proposal deadline.

A foundational part of AIDA is knowledge exchange with all AIDA partners. Approved fellowships will be required to participate at the “AIDA Days” events (6-8 times per year) as follows: Participation means physical presence whenever an on-premise meeting is arranged, otherwise remote. At least one representative of the project should participate at each AIDA Days. All project members with substantial efforts in the project should participate in at least one AIDA Days during the project.

In addition to the AIDA-specific rules, general VINNOVA terms apply for allowed cost types, cost levels, funding levels etc. The costs are defined according to the general VINNOVA standard, a full description is found here (in Swedish): [Guide om stödberättigade kostnader](#).

Application procedure

Proposals should be described using the template available on medtech4health.se/aida. The proposal is submitted to the Arena Director at aida-director@medtech4health.se. Incoming proposals are then refined in a dialogue with the Arena Director – a dialogue that can include assistance to find suitable project partners including consulting firms. After the dialogue, the Arena Director brings the finalized proposal to the AIDA Steering Group for decision. The proposing party is entitled to request decision from the Steering Group even if the Arena Director does not consider the proposal finalized. The AIDA Steering Group reserves the right to award a smaller amount of funding than what a proposal asks for or to make part of the funding dependent on a specific condition, such as sharing data within AIDA.

AIDA currently plans for recurring rounds of accepting proposals. The deadlines for submitting proposals will be announced on medtech4health.se/aida.

Please note that if a proposal is submitted close to the deadline, there may not be time for dialogue regarding the proposal. Therefore, we recommend submitting a first version well in advance of the deadline. Also note that AIDA will accept high-quality proposals until the budget is reached, which means that there is no guarantee of future rounds of accepting proposals.