

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 nationwide efforts, 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. Thus, the focus of the fellowship is the individual's competence development, to be achieved through practical work, for instance through active participation in a research, validation, or implementation effort in AI. 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.

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).

A maximum of SEK 50,000 of the project's total budget may be allocated to an AI vendor or a platform providing AI tools. This includes costs related to license, technical expertise, installation, and integration.

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](#).

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

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 project should start within 6 months from the date of approval. Clinical evaluation projects are expected to have a project duration of approximately one year, but must be completed no later than 31 December 2027.

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

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, the final report for the preceding project must be submitted prior to 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 (2-4 times per year) as follows: Participation means physical presence whenever an on-premise meeting is arranged, otherwise remote.

The project is to submit a written report and answer a final survey, describing evaluation results and lessons learned.

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): [Vinnovas Allmänna villkor](#) och [Vinnovas villkor om stödberättigande 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 if requested refined in a dialogue with the Arena Director – a dialogue that can include assistance to find suitable project partners. 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. To facilitate review and processing, scanned application forms must be accompanied by a searchable, text-based PDF version.

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 the first draft 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.