

Q&A SISSA Data Journalism Fellowship

Q1. What is this fellowship's goal?

The Interdisciplinary Laboratory for Natural Sciences and Humanities (ILAS) at SISSA offers two six-month fellowships in Data Journalism, under the scientific supervision of Prof. Roberto Trotta, Director of ILAS and of the Data science group. The fellowships aim to promote investigative journalism supported by scientific and data-driven methods.

Q2. Who can apply?

Eligible applicants must:

- Hold full civil and political rights.
- Have no criminal convictions or pending criminal investigations (or disclose them if applicable).
- Hold at least a bachelor's degree (or equivalent) in one of the following areas: Mathematical, Computer, Physical, Chemical, Earth, Biological, or Medical Sciences; Civil Engineering or Architecture; Industrial and Information Engineering; Classical, Literary, Historical-Artistic, Historical, Philosophical, Pedagogical or Psychological Studies; Legal, Economic, Statistical, Political or Social Sciences
- Have proven experience or professional skills relevant to the proposed field of investigation.
- Have documented experience in data-driven investigative journalism, demonstrated through published work.
- Have an English level of at least B2.

Q3. How to submit the application?

The application can be submitted, as pdf attachments, only through the official platform, at this link:

<https://pica.cineca.it/sissa/borsa-ricercaeperfezionamento-trotta-ilas2/>

Q4. What documents must be submitted as attachments in the application?

Applicants must submit their applications through the online platform (see Q3) including two main documents in the **attachments/allegati** section:

- An *original investigative proposal* (elaborato): the investigative proposal (maximum 4,500 characters including spaces) is the central element of the application. It should describe in a concise and structured way the investigation the candidate intends to carry out during the fellowship. The proposal may be written in either English or Italian and must demonstrate the applicant's ability to combine journalistic inquiry with data-driven or scientific methods.
- A *curriculum vitae* with representative examples of their investigative or journalistic work, ideally with web links

The applicant must register in advance and complete the online form with some basic information:

- Personal and contact details
- A section dedicated to **academic qualifications**: here, the applicant must provide a description of their **university background** and upload at least a **self-declaration regarding the Bachelor's or Master's degree obtained** (there is no need to list individual exams).

The deadline is November 17th at 1pm CET.

Q5. What kind of projects are eligible?

Projects should explore issues of **public interest** through data-driven methods, particularly using data mining or AI techniques for data acquisition, selection, and interpretation.

Possible themes include: Science, health, or environmental investigations; Ethical and social implications of artificial intelligence; Impacts of AI in science, society, or politics.

Q6. Can teams or groups apply?

No. Applications are individual. Each fellowship is awarded to a single candidate.

Q7. What is the fellowship amount?

Each fellow will receive a **gross monthly amount of €1,920.00** for 6 months. Payments are made monthly.

Q8. Is full-time presence in Trieste required?

No. Physical presence in Trieste is not mandatory, but fellows are encouraged to arrange a few in-person meetings (2-3) with the SISSA data science team during the fellowship period to facilitate collaboration with the researchers and to share advances on the editorial and publication side.

Q9. How will the coordination between the scientific and journalistic teams be ensured during the project?

Regular meetings will be held online with the editorial committee that will supervise and monitor the project, composed of one member of the SISSA data science team and journalists from [FACTA.EU](https://facta.eu), who will support the editorial and publication process.

Q10. Is the fellowship exclusive?

No. The fellowship is compatible with other professional engagements, provided that fellows fulfil their commitment to the SISSA project and dedicate adequate time to the planned research and investigation activities throughout the entire period, in accordance with the timeline shared during the application process.

Q11. When do the fellowships start, and how long do they last?

Each fellowship lasts **six months**, starting in **December 2025**.

Q12. How will results be communicated?

The final ranking, approved by the Director, will be published on the SISSA website. Please note: inclusion in the ranking does not imply automatic eligibility certification.