



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Values-Centered AI (VCAI) Postdoctoral Fellowship

The Center for [Values-Centered Artificial Intelligence](#) (VCAI) at the [University of Maryland](#) is seeking talented, highly motivated applicants for multiple postdoctoral fellowship positions to conduct research and scholarship focused on ethical AI that advances human and societal well-being. The University of Maryland is located in College Park, MD, just outside of Washington, DC. These are one- or two-year fellowships, with flexible start dates in 2023.

For full consideration, all application materials should be submitted by March 31, 2023 through [our online application form](#).

As a VCAI Postdoctoral Fellow, you will have the opportunity to pursue your own research agenda, interact with our center’s diverse array of researchers, and contribute to ongoing research projects. These positions offer an opportunity to work closely with faculty and graduate students in VCAI, a unique interdisciplinary research community that brings together researchers across AI, to develop new technology; philosophy, for substantive and formal reasoning about values; and human-computer interaction, to adapt AI systems to people.

Faculty and students in VCAI collaborate extensively with other labs and centers on campus, such as the [Center for Machine Learning](#), the [Human-Computer Interaction Lab](#), the [Computational Linguistics and Information Processing Lab](#), the [TRACE Center](#), the [Social Data Science Center](#), the [Urban Computing Lab](#), among others.

We are seeking candidates in any area of research that connects human and societal values to AI technology development. VCAI Postdoctoral Fellows will be mentored by at least two of the VCAI faculty listed below, at least one of whom should be one of the directors. Applicants whose research interests bridge multiple faculty across different disciplines will be given strong preference.

VCAI Directors

[Hal Daumé III](#)^c [Vanessa Frías-Martínez](#)ⁱ [John Horty](#)^p [Katie Shilton](#)ⁱ

VCAI Members

[Jordan Boyd-Graber](#)^c [Fabrizio Cariani](#)^p [Marine Carpuat](#)^c [Joel Chan](#)ⁱ
[John Dickerson](#)^c [Sheena Erete](#)ⁱ [Eric Hoover](#)^h [Furong Huang](#)^c
[Hernisa Kacorri](#)ⁱ [Jing Liu](#)^e [Eric Pacuit](#)^p [Susannah Paletz](#)ⁱ
[Huaishu Peng](#)^c [Louiqa Raschid](#)^b [Debra Shapiro](#)^b [Ido Sivan-Sevilla](#)^o
[Pratap Tokekar](#)^c [Mumu Xu](#)^a

^aAerospace ^bBusiness ^cCS ^eEducation ^hHearing & Speech ⁱSchool ^pPhilosophy ^oPublic Policy

Applicants must have fulfilled their Ph.D. degree requirements, possibly excluding the final submission of their dissertation, prior to joining VCAI. We encourage candidates with tenure-track academic job offers to apply – with the option of doing a one-year rather than two-year postdoc – provided they are able to defer their start date by at least one year to accept our position.

We encourage applicants with a wide range of backgrounds and life experiences to apply. We are committed to supporting the diversity of the VCAI Center and to promoting equal opportunity in higher education.

VCAI postdoctoral fellows will be mentored by at least two of the VCAI faculty listed above.

How to Apply

To ensure full consideration, please submit all application materials by March 31, 2023 for full consideration. Please fill out [our online application](#) and upload the following documents (incomplete applications may not be considered):

1. A curriculum vitae
2. An academic statement of no more than three pages that discusses research interests and goals, as well as your teaching, mentoring, and leadership experiences.
3. Two representative conference or journal articles, book chapters, or equivalent (potentially unpublished) writing samples that you are most proud of, and which best demonstrate your expertise.
4. The names and contact information for two or three references (in nearly all cases, one will be your dissertation advisor/supervisor).

We will request letters of recommendation shortly after the date for best consideration, so you may wish to alert your letter writers in advance so that they will be ready to submit your letters by March 14, 2023.

Responsibilities

As a VCAI Postdoctoral Fellow, you will define your own research agenda in collaboration with other VCAI researchers as well as the broader UMD community. Most Fellows will co-mentor graduate and undergraduate students with their faculty mentors, and there will be teaching opportunities for fellows who desire them. Fellows will be expected to contribute back to the VCAI community through career-building activities like organizing the VCAI seminar series and interacting with campus leadership. Fellows who wish to gain experience in grant writing will have opportunities to do so.

Qualifications

Required qualifications

- Ph.D. in relevant field - completed or close to completion by the start date
- Research ability demonstrated by two conference or journal publications, book chapters, or equivalent (potentially unpublished) writing samples, requested as part of the application

Preferred qualifications

- Research agenda that overlaps with at least two faculty in VCAI
- Demonstrated ability to work in a highly interdisciplinary environment
- Participation in the applicant's broader scientific community
- Strong communication skills

The typical salary range for this role is \$70,000-\$80,000 per year, plus competitive benefits.

The University of Maryland, College Park, an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, complies with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations regarding nondiscrimination and affirmative action; all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment. The University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, physical or mental disability, protected veteran status, age, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, creed, marital status, political affiliation, personal appearance, or on the basis of rights secured by the First Amendment, in all aspects of employment, educational programs and activities, and admissions.

If you need assistance and/or a reasonable accommodation due to a disability during any part of the application or recruiting process, please send a request via email to hal3@umd.edu with subject line "Accomodation for VCAI Postdoctoral Fellowship."