UWA Data Institute
2026/2027 Summer Research Projects

The UWA Data Institute is seeking strategic cross-disciplinary data science, statistics, machine learning and/or artificial intelligence projects for the UWA Data Institute 2026/2027 Summer Research Project Grant scheme. UWA researchers are invited to apply for a Summer Research Project Grant to fund a student cross-disciplinary research project over the 2026/2027 summer break.

It is expected that the applicant will nominate a student who is on a research pathway and use the funds to pay that student to work on a research project over the 2026/2027 summer break (November 2026 to February 2027). Specific timing of the project and work patterns (ie dates, full/part time) can be negotiated between researchers and students.

Each grant is valued at $8,000. The grants are designed to support collaboration across UWA and can be used to fully, or partly, fund a student to work on the project.

Grant applications are open until midnight 31 August 2026.

What types of projects can apply?

ALL discipline domains are welcome. We accept applications from projects that are:

- Cross-disciplinary - at least two disciplines will collaborate during the research project
- Focus on the development and application of data science, statistics, machine learning and/or artificial intelligence

Who can apply?

- All researchers/scientists employed by the University of Western Australia. The applicant is the Primary Supervisor (lead researcher) for the project.
- Each project requires at least 2 Supervisors (Primary and Secondary) from two different domains. At a minimum, Supervisors should come from different UWA Departments and have distinct research focuses that combine in the proposed project.
- ECRs and experienced researchers are encouraged to apply as Primary Supervisors.
- The Primary Supervisor can submit **only** 1 application and can be named as a Secondary Supervisor on one other project.
- The Primary Supervisor cannot be an Adjunct, but a Secondary Supervisor can be an Adjunct.

What is expected from the Primary Supervisor?

As a condition of award, the Primary Supervisor is expected to:

- Be available for most of the research project during, and attend Project Supervisor briefing session(s)
- Engage actively with their student and the other supervisor(s) throughout the project
- Manage, coordinate and monitor the project progress throughout the research project
- Be responsible for the submission of a short Project Report by the end of March 2027 that will be released on the UWA Data Institute website
- Be responsible for all administration and student payment processes in line with UWA procedures

What students can be nominated?

To be eligible, students must, at the time the grant application is submitted:

- Be currently enrolled in a UWA undergraduate course (3rd or Honours year) OR UWA postgraduate Masters program
- Have an interest in pursuing a research career pathway, and have working rights in Australia

Key Features:

In brief, the scheme:

- Runs between November 2026 and February 2027, excluding the UWA Christmas/New Year shutdown (projects should have a minimum duration of 8 working weeks)
- Seeks innovative cross-disciplinary projects across domains
- Focuses on student learning and projects that will develop student research skills
- Provides students a paid opportunity to work alongside leading and emerging collaborative researchers to explore research pathways
- Grant funds will be transferred to successful Primary Supervisors in a once-off payment from the UWA Data Institute by end October 2026
- Students will be paid by the Primary Supervisor in the manner preferred by their School
- Students are expected to work between 160 - 225 hours on their project
- Grant money is to be used only to fund the student on the project. All grant money must be paid out to the student. All student payments must be completed by end of March 2027.

Key Dates

- **1 August 2026**: Summer Research Project applications open
- **31 August 2026**: Summer Research Project applications close
- **30 September 2026**: Successful Summer Research Project grants awarded
- **1 November 2026 – 28 February 2027**: Summer Research Projects
- **31 March 2027**: Project Report due

How to apply

Applications should be made by the Primary Supervisor, by email, to *uwadatainstitute@uwa.edu.au* with "2026/2027 Summer Research Project Application" in the subject line. Applications should use the application template below, be submitted with the student's CV, and be a maximum of two pages (excluding the Participants section at the end of the application). Primary Supervisors will receive receipt that their application has been received and accepted by the UWA Data Institute.

UWA Data Institute 2026/2027
Summer Research Project Application

Research Project Name

<Project Name>

Research Project Objective

<Describe what the research project hopes to achieve over the summer period in terms of the problem it will solve or the opportunity it will address>

Methodology

<Provide a summary of the development and/or application of data science, statistics, machine learning and/or artificial intelligence in the project and its potential for real world impact>

Research Benefits

<Describe how the project will benefit the student and supervisors and how the grant will initiate or strengthen cross-disciplinary research at UWA>

Participants

Primary Supervisor

- Name:
- Position:
- UWA School & Department:
- Research Domain:
- Early Career Researcher (< 5 yrs since award of PhD): Yes/No
- Email:
- Business Unit/Project Grant Numbers for funds transfer if successful:

Secondary Supervisor (maximum of 2 allowed)

- Name:
- Position:
- UWA School & Department:
- Research Domain:
- Early Career Researcher (< 5 yrs since award of PhD): Yes/No
- Email:

Student

- Name:
- Current UWA Course/Major(s):
- Email: