UWA Data Institute

2026 Industry Research Projects

The UWA Data Institute is seeking strategic industry related data science, statistics, machine learning and/or artificial intelligence projects that catalyse the adoption of frontier UWA data driven science to solve industry problems. UWA researchers are invited to apply for an Industry Research Project Grant to fund a UWA student to work on a research project with industry.

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 the industry research project. Specific timing of the project and work patterns (ie dates, full/part time) can be negotiated between the researcher, industry partner and student.

Four grants, each valued at $10,000, are available. The grants are designed to support UWA/industry collaboration and can be used to fully, or partly, fund a student to work on the project.

What types of projects can apply?

ALL discipline domains are welcome to apply and there is a focus on awarding grants that can demonstrate why the problems being tackled are critical to solve. We accept applications for projects that are:

- Industry based – commitment, input and collaboration with industry must be demonstrated throughout the research project
- Focus on the development and application of innovative, transformative data science, statistics, machine learning and/or artificial intelligence to solve persistent data related industry problems

Who can apply?

- All researchers/scientists employed by the University of Western Australia. The applicant is the Academic Supervisor (lead researcher) for the project and cannot be an Adjunct.
- Each project requires an Industry Supervisor as the industry partner and for them to contribute and commit to the details in the application before it is submitted.
- ECRs are encouraged to apply as Academic Supervisors as well as more experienced researchers.
- Applicants can apply for more than one Industry Research Project Grants to fund a student to work on the project.

What is expected from the Academic Supervisor?

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

- Manage the research project
- Be available throughout the research project, and provide feedback to the UWA Data Institute as requested
- Engage actively with their industry supervisor, student and any other persons involved in the project throughout the project
- Coordinate and monitor the progress of all parties throughout the research project
- Be responsible for the submission of a Project Report within one month of project completion that will be released on the UWA Data Institute website
- Be responsible for all required administration and student payment processes in line with UWA procedures

What students can be nominated?

To be eligible, the student must meet the following criteria throughout the project:

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

Key Features:

In brief:

- Applications are open until all four Grants are awarded
- Projects should have a minimum duration of 10 weeks and must be complete by end of 2027
- Projects must provide development of student research skills as they work alongside researchers and collaborate with industry representatives to develop solutions to industry problems
- Projects should provide industry insight into UWA research capabilities and build UWA/Industry connections
- Applications will be reviewed in order received by the UWA Data Institute Director, Deputy Director and Industry Engagement Manager, who will decide if a Grant award should be made to the Project
- Grant funds will be transferred to successful Academic Supervisors in a once-off payment from the UWA Data Institute within two weeks of the UWA Data Institute notifying them of the award
- Students will be paid by the Academic Supervisor in the manner preferred by their Schools
- Students are expected to work between 200 - 280 hours per Grant
- Grant money is to be used only to fund the nominated student on the project. All grant money must be paid out to the student within one month of the project completion.

How to apply

Applications should be made by the Academic Supervisor, by email, to *uwadatainstitute@uwa.edu.au* with “2026 Industry Research Project Grant Application” in the subject line. The UWA Data Institute will acknowledge that the application has been received and accepted. Applications should:

- use the grant application template below
- be submitted with the student’s CV (which should include research experience)
- be a maximum of four pages (excluding the Participants section at the end of the application).

UWA Data Institute 2026 Industry Research Project Grant Application

Research Project Name

<Project Name>

Research Project Objective

<Describe what the research project hopes to achieve in terms of the industry problem(s) it will solve or the opportunity it will address.>

<Describe why the problem(s) being tackled are critical to solve for the industry.>

Methodology

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

Industry and Research Benefits

<Describe (and quantify if possible) the expected benefits to industry from the project.>

<Describe how the project will benefit the researcher(s) and student and how the grant will build UWA/Industry connections.>

Project Plan

<In the table below please list the key Tasks and Deliverables, People Contributing and Dates for the Project. Please add rows to the table as required. This should be developed in collaboration with the Industry Supervisor. Goals should be set using SMART method. >

Key Task/Deliverable	**People Contributing**	**Dates**
Project Start Date		DD/MM/YY
Task A		DD/MM/YY – DD/MM/YY
Task B		DD/MM/YY – DD/MM/YY
Deliverable 1		DD/MM/YY

Key Task/Deliverable	People Contributing	Dates
Task C		DD/MM/YY – DD/MM/YY
Task D		DD/MM/YY – DD/MM/YY
Deliverable 2		DD/MM/YY
Task E		DD/MM/YY – DD/MM/YY
Project Complete		DD/MM/YY
Project Report		DD/MM/YY (1 month after Project Completion)

Project Endorsement & Commitment

<To be completed by the UWA Academic Supervisor and Industry Supervisor before application submission.>

By signing below, the parties demonstrate their commitment to supporting the contents of this application, working collaboratively, and providing the people, expertise, resources, and support needed to achieve the project's intended outcomes.

UWA Academic Supervisor

Name:

Position:

Signature:

Date:

Industry Supervisor

Name:

Position:

Signature:

Date:

Project Participants

UWA Academic Supervisor

- Name:
- Position:
- UWA School & Department:
- Research Domain:
- Email:

Industry Supervisor

- Name:
- Position:
- Company:
- Email:

Student

- Name:
- Current UWA Course:
- Email:

Other UWA Academic Participants

- Name:
- Position:
- UWA School & Department:
- Research Domain:
- Email:

Other Industry Participants

- Name:
- Position:
- Company:
- Email: