

AIMS-Carnegie Research Chairs in Data Science and its Applications at Quantum Leap Africa

Terms of Reference for the International Selection Committee

Purpose

This document describes the Terms of Reference for the International Selection Committee (hereafter the “Committee”) for the AIMS-Carnegie Research Chairs Program in Data Science and its Applications at Quantum Leap Africa (QLA), Rwanda.

Mandate

The Committee is tasked with selecting two AIMS-Carnegie Research Chairs to be based at Quantum Leap Africa (QLA), Rwanda.

Selection Process

Applications will be screened for relevance by an internal oversight committee of AIMS and subsequently sent to at least two reviewers, which may include members of the Committee, for reviewing and scoring based on a defined template. The reviewers’ scores and comments will be forwarded to the Committee, which will create a short-list of applicants to be invited for in-person interviews. Following these interviews, which will be conducted by the Committee at the premises of QLA in Rwanda, the Committee will select two applicants deemed most qualified to be awarded a Chair. All reviews done by Committee members and other reviewers will be based on the following criteria (see the Applications Scoring Form for further details):

- ❖ Quality of applicant: academic qualifications; quality of publications; research experience in data science, especially machine learning; real-world impact of prior work and recognition (e.g. through awards).
- ❖ Quality of proposed research: novelty; strength of connection to mathematical sciences; experience of applicant in research topic; quality of research design; feasibility; suitability of proposed research environment(s); and quality and realism of budget projections.
- ❖ Potential impact of proposed research on scientific knowledge, practice and policy.

Membership Requirements

- ❖ The Committee shall consist of five members appointed by AIMS. AIMS shall also appoint the Chair of the Committee, who in turn shall appoint a Secretary.

- ❖ Membership is restricted to individuals of international repute who meet the following additional criteria:
 - have a substantial record of world-class research in climate change science and/or mathematical sciences more generally, and
 - have an impeccable record of adherence to the highest applicable ethical norms.
- ❖ Members shall be willing to devote the time required to:
 - review several application files,
 - short-list applicants to be interviewed,
 - travel to QLA in Rwanda to interview short-listed applicants.
- ❖ Members shall report to AIMS (qlachairs@nexteinstein.org) all potential conflicts of interest, including professional relationships with applicants.
- ❖ Members shall hold in strict confidence the contents of all deliberations of the Committee, except those that are otherwise made public.
- ❖ Members shall not be remunerated for their role in the Committee.

Quorum

- ❖ The quorum for meetings of the Committee shall consist of sixty percent of its members. Either the Chair or a designated representative shall be present in all meetings of the Committee.

Administrative and Other Assistance

- ❖ Administrative assistance will be provided to the Project Coordinator for QLA. Other types of assistance will be provided by the AIMS Network's Director of Research. All correspondences should be sent to: qlachairs@nexteinstein.org.

Review

This document shall be reviewed as needed by an Oversight Committee and the AIMS Secretariat.