# CALL "TRUSTWORTHY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: Short Stay Exchange Program for Researchers Italy-UK (TAI ShortStay)"

The project "Trustworthy AI – Short Stay Exchange Program for Researchers Italy-UK", for supporting internationalization and research exchange between Italy and UK has been launched for 2023 and 2024.

The Initiative has been defined in collaboration with some scientific entities, whose representatives had a first meeting in London in March 2023, namely:

- **Alan Turing Institute** London, foundation representing a number of universities in UK;
- **The Science and Innovation Network** (SIN) of the British government at the UK Embassy in Rome;
- **FAIR - Future AI Research Foundation**, representing several Universities, and several Italian Research Centers (CNR, INFN, FBK, IIT, CINI);
- **CINI Lab AIIS** (Artificial Intelligence and Intelligent Systems Lab of CINI - National Interuniversity Consortium for Informatics).

Representatives of the Italian Embassy and of the Italian Ministry of Research and University, attended the workshop too.

The Short Exchange Program between British and Italians **"Trustworthy AI - Short Stay Exchange Program for Researchers Italy-UK"** (**TAI ShortStay** briefly) has been presented in Pisa during the third edition of Ital-IA, the national conference of the AIIS Lab of CINI at the presence of Giuseppe De Pietro, President of FAIR and Allaine Cerwonka, Director of Turing International and Associate Director of the AI for Science.

The exchange program is the first collaborative project science arising from the recent Bilateral Cooperation Agreement signed between Italy and the United Kingdom last April 27 in London by Prime Ministers Rishi Sunak and Giorgia Meloni.

## Objective of TAI ShortStay 2023-24

The objective is to strengthen the scientific research of both Italian and UK researchers, promote the internationalization and the cooperation between Italy and UK and foster the technology transfers for the national industrial and societal challenges in both countries.

In particular, the first edition of **TAI ShortStay 2023-24** will support the exchange of 12 Italian and 12 British researchers to spend short periods of study and exchange in qualified research institutions of the other country.

**Short period** is defined as a continuative period of two-three weeks spent by a Researcher ("called PI Researcher") abroad in the other country (no on-line research is taken into account if no special restrictions arise), working together with a Co-PI researcher in the other country. The research project could also involve multiple PIs and Co-PIs, if a clear definition of the activities of each researcher is provided.

## Research Topics of TAI ShortStay 2023-24

The objective is to promote research in Artificial Intelligence in a broad sense, concerning both technical and scientific issues, as well as ethical and sociological principles, legal and economic paradigms, and related applications in all the fields of industry and societal challenges. The common context of the research is the **Trustworthy AI,** as defined by the "White Paper on AI" of EU Parliament in 2020 and promoted by OECD Observatory in AI.

The main issue is to apply the foundation concepts of Trustworthy AI in all research activities carried out by the **TAI ShortStay Programme**, such as (but not limited to):

- robustness and efficiency of AI systems;
- safety and security of AI systems;
- prevention of misuse;
- protection of user privacy and source data;
- fairness of systems and reduction of bias;
- modeling new strategies in learning and reasoning for AI systems, in support of sustainability;
- assurance that decisions made by AI systems, as well as any errors, are interpretable, explainable, reproducible, and allow for challenge or remedies;
- identification of clear accountability for the behaviors of AI systems.

The development of a "Trustworthy AI" is for Italy and the UK both a common priority and a strength.

## Call for Admission and Award for TAI ShortStay 2023-24

The process of **TAI ShortStay 2023-24** is managed together by Alan Turing Institute (ATI) for UK, and by Future AI Research Foundation (FAIR) and the CINI Lab AIIS for Italy. Two calls have been defined:

a) A call for **UK2Italy TAI ShortStay 2023-24** for British researchers intending to spend the ShortStay in Italy. This call is economically supported by ATI.

b) A call for **Italy2UK TAI ShortStay 2023-24** for Italian researchers intending to spend the ShortStay in the UK. This call is economically supported by FAIR.

Regarding b), all information, here described, will be distributed to all AI research centers in Italy from FAIR with the support of CINI AIIS Lab. The call specifies the rules of admission, the availability of support and the financial rules of the ShortStay.

Researchers interested in the program are invited to present a TAI research proposal (from now on "proposal") as Principal Investigator (from now on "PI"), which justifies the need of internationalization and of a short stay in the UK.

In the proposal, permission from the institution the researcher belongs to (called "Hosted institution") is mandatory. The proposal must also include the indication of the hosting institution and a corresponding UK researcher (called "Co-PI") belonging to the hosting institution. Acceptance of the Co-PI is mandatory, but it is not required by the hosting institution, since the research could also be hosted by the ATI offices in London.

The proposal will be:

a) selected for admission together with ATI (that will have in charge the connection with the hosting institution or will evaluate the availability of direct ATI support)
b) and awarded (economically) by FAIR.

**The proposals** can be received continuously **from 1 August 2023 up to 1 October 2024,**. The proposal should be described in a two-page document (plus references), containing names of PI, Co-PI and relative Institution, the topic, the motivation, the adherence to the Project Topics and the expected results. Results could be – for instance - a common project, a common experiment or study, a common scientific paper or prototype. The PI CV is also requested. The proposal must be presented at least two months before the expected travel period.

**Admission and awarding** will be decided by FAIR, and discussed every two months by a commission made up of two Members of the Technical and Scientific Committee of FAIR as well as the FAIR president, or his delegate, and a representative of ATI. At the beginning of the month (one every two) the admissions will be published on the FAIR and ATI websites.

FAIR Foundation will **award up to 12 researchers working in an Italian Research Institution active in Trustworthy AI.**

Researchers are admitted for whichever seniority: Phd Students, research fellows, researchers and professors, if they will remain in such Institution for the period of ShortStay.

The award will be given from the FAIR Foundation **covering the admitted expenses (for traveling and staying in UK) with an amount of 2500€ for each short stay of each PI,**

**transferred to the PI's Institution.** The award will cover all expenses acceptable for the researcher's institution.

**To participate:** please complete the **form** at https://forms.gle/DxiwuunysUzbhnmy9
**For questions:** please send to **italy2uk@fondazione-fair.it**