

Memorandum

From: USC-Amazon Center for Secure and Trusted Machine Learning
To: USC Viterbi Faculty
Subject: Call for Ph.D. Fellowship Nominations (Amazon ML Fellows)
Date: 01 March 2024

Description of Opportunity

USC and Amazon have created a joint research center focused on development of new approaches to machine learning (ML) privacy, security, and trustworthiness. The Center for Secure and Trusted Machine Learning (in short, Trusted AI), which will be housed at the USC Viterbi School of Engineering, will support USC and Amazon researchers in the development of novel approaches to privacy-preserving ML solutions.

Each year, through a competitive process, the Center will provide support for several research projects focused on the development of new methodologies for secure and privacy-preserving machine learning solutions. The Center will also provide annual fellowships to doctoral students working in this research area, enabling them to advance research frontiers. Fellowship recipients will be named as *Amazon ML Fellows* in recognition of their promise and achievements. In addition to funded research projects and annual fellowships for doctoral students, the collaborators will host an annual joint public research symposium to share their knowledge with the machine learning and AI communities.

We hereby invite USC faculty to nominate qualifying Ph.D. students for 2024-2025 Amazon ML Fellowships.

Eligibility

- USC Ph.D. students who will be in their 2nd, 3rd, or 4th year of their Ph.D. studies in 2024-2025.
- The thesis (or research area) of the nominated student should be within the Machine Learning research area.

Required Nomination Materials and Submission Procedure

- Student's CV (two-page max);
- A research statement written by the student (1-page max, 11-point font or larger, with no less than 0.5-inch page margins);
- Two recommendation letters

The nomination package (compiled in a single-file PDF format) should be sent via email to Administrative Program manager Ariana Perez (arianape@usc.edu), by 5 pm PT on 5/20/2024.

Timeline and Selection Procedure

1. Release of the call for nominations: 01 March 2024
2. Nomination package due: 24 May, 2024 (by 5 pm PT)
3. All nominations will be evaluated by an advisory committee composed of USC faculty and researchers from Amazon.
4. Announcement of the selected Amazon ML Fellows for 2024-2025: July, 2024.

Fellowship duration, number of fellowships, and approximate funding level

- The fellowships will be for one year (2024-2025)
- About three fellowships are expected to be awarded
- Each fellowship consists of \$50,000 gift funding (no overhead)

For any other questions, please contact Administrative Program manager, Ariana Perez via email (arianape@usc.edu).