

Social Data Science Traineeship Call for Proposals 2022-2023

Summary

The ODISSEI Social Data Science (SoDa) is a team of social scientists, methodologists and software engineers who support social scientists in their research projects. The expertise of the team is very broad, and covers all stages of research, from data acquisition, analysis to interpretation. More information on the team can be found [here](#).

SoDa team is currently opening a *rolling* call for SoDa traineeship proposals for 2022-2023, aimed at early-career social scientists (i.e., PhD candidates, early-career postdocs, pre-PhD researchers who have finished their studies). SoDa trainees will spend between 3-8 months full-time working on a social science research project they propose. During this time, they are members of the SoDa team at the Methodology & Statistics department of Utrecht University, paid for by the team and mentored by one of the senior team members.

Applicants can submit proposals for projects in the social sciences (e.g., psychology, sociology, economics, behavioural science) for which a data science or data-related problem needs to be solved. Examples of such solutions could be writing a high-quality data analysis pipeline, performing a causal analysis with simulation-based robustness checks, creating a software package, or performing a geospatial, network, agent-based analysis, etc.

In addition to achieving the proposed project goals, each trainee will contribute to the ODISSEI community by the end of their traineeship, for example through a tutorial on a specific method that has been developed during the traineeship, a presentation of the results at the annual ODISSEI Conference for Social Science in the Netherlands, an ODISSEI lunch lecture, etc. The exact contribution will depend on the specific focus of the project.

Are you at the start of your academic career in the social sciences? Do you have a project together with a supervisor for which you want to acquire additional skills in data science, statistics, programming, machine learning, and/or open science & reproducibility? Then apply to become a SoDa trainee!

Goals of the programme

The core objective of the SoDa team is to *enhance the evidence base and impact of social science by bringing the added value of new data sources and new data analysis techniques into social research in the Netherlands*. The traineeship programme contributes to this goal in three ways:

1. SoDa will collaborate directly with the trainee and their substantive supervisor in the proposed research project
2. SoDa will enhance the skillset of the trainee in the field of applied data science through active mentoring
3. After finishing, the trainee continues working on social science research, ideally at an [ODISSEI member organization](#), bringing with them the acquired data science skills & maintaining an established connection to the ODISSEI community

Available funding

In the current period (01-09-2022 – 30-06-2023), there is funding available for multiple projects. This funding covers personnel costs of the intended trainee (full-time, PhD-level scale), with limited material budget available (e.g., computation resources, conference travel). A part-time appointment is negotiable, however, the traineeship should be prioritized in the daily activities of a trainee.

In total there is funding available for ~1.5FTE at this level (the exact scale will be determined individually, in consultation with an applicant). The SoDa team intends to utilize this budget to host several trainees; projects can last between 3 and 8 months. The duration of the project depends on the complexity of the proposed research and will be determined after the submission of a proposal (please see [here](#) for the application form).

Making the most of your project through other ODISSEI facilities

Applicants are welcome to use any other ODISSEI facilities in their proposed project (for instance by accessing [CBS microdata](#), working in the ODISSEI Secure Supercomputer ([OSSC](#)) or with [LISS panel data](#)). More information on the facilities offered by ODISSEI can be found on the [ODISSEI website](#).

Please note that the use of those facilities is optional and the traineeship does not cover any additional costs that can be associated with the use of those facilities. For available financing schemes please contact ODISSEI at submissions@odissei-data.nl.

Deadline and timeline

This call operates on a rolling basis and the call is open throughout the year, but is subject to availability.

Proposals will be assessed each month by the assessment committee. The trainee can start anytime in the current period (01-09-2022 – 30-06-2023).

Assessment criteria

Projects will be granted funding on the basis of the following criteria:

- The research project's scientific & societal value
- Feasibility & clear project goal
- Fit to the SoDa team expertise & relevance to the wider ODISSEI community

Who can apply

The application is submitted by an intended trainee and a substantive project supervisor.

- The project supervisor is a researcher working at an [ODISSEI member organisation](#) and will be responsible for light supervision on the substantive side (i.e., several meetings throughout the project to ensure the theoretical quality of the project).
- Intended trainees are at the start of their academic careers, this means they:
 - are currently in a PhD programme
 - have recently finished their PhD (max 2 years after defense date)
 - are pre-PhD, but with demonstrable intent & potential to go into a career in Dutch social science academia. NB: Trainees are not allowed to be students (bachelors or masters) at the time of the traineeship.

How to submit a proposal for the SoDa traineeship

Applicants interested in the application should fill in the application [form](#).

The form should be submitted via soda+traineeship@odissei-data.nl.

After the award decision

Successful trainees will be working with SoDa team at Utrecht University. The exact conditions (starting date of the traineeship, duration, etc.) will be specified on a case by case basis and in agreement with both parties.

Successful trainees are obliged to comply with the [ODISSEI User Policy](#).

Work that will be a result of the traineeship and was funded by ODISSEI should contain a reference to ODISSEI:

"This research was conducted in whole or in part using ODISSEI, the Open Data Infrastructure for Social Science and Economic Innovations (<https://ror.org/03m8v6t10>)"

Contact information

For remaining questions, you may contact the SoDa team at soda+traineeship@odissei-data.nl or ODISSEI Scientific Manager Kasia Karpinska at submissions@odissei-data.nl.