

# Social Data Science (SoDa) Fellowship 2025

(v5.0)

## Summary

The ODISSEI Social Data Science (SoDa) team is a group of computational 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](#).

The SoDa team offers paid fellowships for 2025, aimed at early-career social scientists (i.e., PhD candidates, early-career postdocs, pre-PhD researchers who have finished their studies) in any domain of social sciences. SoDa fellows will spend between **3-5 months full-time on a social science research project they propose**. During this time, they are paid members of the SoDa team at the Methodology & Statistics department of Utrecht University, mentored by one of the senior team members.

SoDa fellows currently in a PhD or Postdoc position can pause / extend their current appointment for the duration of the programme and resume it after the SoDa fellowship is concluded.

## How does it work?

Applicants can submit proposals (together with a substantive supervisor) 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, performing a geospatial, network, or agent-based analysis, etc. The SoDa fellowship thus offers a unique opportunity to **learn transferable skills while working on your own research project**. The exact skills set to be acquired depends on the specifics of the research project and the expertise of the SoDa team members.

After finishing the SoDa fellowship and achieving the proposed project goals, fellows commit to provide a half-day workshop at their home institution to

disseminate the methods used during the fellowship. The SoDa fellows are also encouraged to further share their expertise with the ODISSEI community, for example through a tutorial on a specific method, a presentation of the results at the annual ODISSEI Conference for Social Science in the Netherlands, an ODISSEI lunch lecture, etc., but also through supporting peers in the home organization, etc. The exact contribution will depend on the specific focus of the project.

For experience of our earlier SoDa fellows, please check [here](#).

## Available funding

In the current period (January-June 2025), there is funding available for two projects (with two rounds of applications). This funding covers personnel costs of the intended SoDa fellow, with limited material budget available (e.g., computation resources, conference travel). A part-time appointment is negotiable, however, the SoDa fellowship should be prioritized in the daily activities of a fellow.

The exact scale will be determined individually, in consultation with an applicant, with the aim to match the current appointment scale and not higher than scale 11 (postdoc scale). The SoDa team intends to utilize this budget to host several fellows; projects can last between 3 and 5 months. The duration of the project depends on the complexity of the proposed research and will be determined after the submission of a proposal.

## 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 SoDa fellowship 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](mailto:submissions@odissei-data.nl).

## Deadlines and timeline

SoDa fellowships are open on a rolling basis and the call is open throughout this financing period, but is subject to availability. The deadlines for submission in this period are:

- 14 Mar 2025
- 27 June 2025

Proposals will be assessed within two weeks after each deadline. An interview with a potential candidate and the substantive supervisor may be part of the selection procedure.

The start of the SoDa fellowship will be determined in consultation with the successful fellow.

For any additional questions about the fellowship or feasibility of your project, please feel free to reach the SoDa team via [soda@odissei-data.nl](mailto:soda@odissei-data.nl) or join a monthly [Drop-in session](#).

## 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 into the SoDa team expertise & contribution to the ODISSEI community

## Who can apply

The application is submitted by an intended SoDa fellow 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 SoDa fellows are at the start of their academic careers, which means they:
  - are currently in a PhD programme and have demonstrable intent and potential to go into a career in Dutch social science academia. NB: enrolled students (bachelors or masters) are excluded from participation in the SoDa fellowship program
  - have recently finished their PhD (max 5 years after defence date)

## How to submit a proposal for the SoDa fellowship

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

The form should be submitted via [soda@odissei-data.nl](mailto:soda@odissei-data.nl).

## After the award decision

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

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

Work that will be a result of the SoDa fellowship 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@odissei-data.nl](mailto:soda@odissei-data.nl) or ODISSEI Scientific Manager Kasia Karpinska at [submissions@odissei-data.nl](mailto:submissions@odissei-data.nl).