

Call for Applications | Digital Life Initiative Postdoc Fellowships | 2026-27

The Digital Life Initiative (DLI) is pleased to invite applications for its 2026 postdoctoral research fellowships supporting research in ethics, politics, and quality of life in digital societies, on topics such as privacy, bias and unfair discrimination, AI ethics and governance. We welcome applicants from wide-ranging disciplines — computer and information sciences, law, philosophy, data science, media studies, public policy, and social sciences. For one of the positions, demonstrated interest in contextual integrity is a plus.

Fellows join a dynamic research community from the US and around the globe, and are encouraged to collaborate with DLI affiliated faculty as well as other Cornell Tech faculty. Beyond Cornell Tech, New York City offers unprecedented opportunities to engage with like-minded colleagues and institutions.

Who Should Apply?

Eligible candidates will have received their PhD within the past four years. JDs, JSDs, LLMS, and MDs are also eligible. The initial appointment is for one year, renewable depending on fit and available funding.

Fellows are expected to reside in the New York City area and participate actively in the intellectual life of Cornell Tech and the Digital Life Initiative. In addition to pursuing research, Fellows play a crucial role in enriching the DLI with workshops, conferences, and seminars; contributing to DLI Critical Reflections publication, and presenting their work at the DLI Seminar and other public and internal forums. There may be teaching opportunities, determined case-by-case, by mutual agreement.

Application Instructions

Positions are set to begin on **Monday, August 25th, 2026**. Applications will be evaluated starting **Monday, December 15, 2025** and reviewed until positions are filled. Please submit your application via our online portal (see below), including the following materials.

1. A cover letter explaining your research interests and how your past and proposed work connect with the Digital Life Initiative.
2. A current curriculum vitae.
3. Two publications or substantial drafts of journal articles, essays, or equivalent. At least one sole-authored writing sample is strongly encouraged. If this is not possible, first authored writing samples are acceptable.
4. Names and contact information for three recommenders.

Applicants who have not yet received their terminal degree should request a letter from their dissertation chairs confirming that the degree will be in hand before the beginning of the Fellowship term.

Online Application Portal: https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bHESIspgccAftQ

About the Digital Life Initiative

Within the progressive teaching mission of Cornell Tech on Roosevelt Island, New York City, the Digital Life Initiative was launched in 2017 to analyze the societal tensions arising from existing and emergent digital technologies. Inspired by the core values of justice, democracy, privacy, responsibility, security, and freedom, it supports collaborative research on ethics, law, politics and quality of life within prevailing socio-technical systems.

Cornell Tech and the Digital Life Initiative offer a unique opportunity for individuals to flourish and create new research connections in a multidisciplinary environment. An engaged community of computer scientists, engineers, information scientists, legal scholars, ethicists, in

close proximity with one another, are also energized by dynamic industry and academic neighbors in New York City.

About Cornell Tech

At Cornell Tech, we are building a home for digital pioneers—those of the conviction that pragmatic, purpose-driven research spurs relevant and valuable progress. Cornell Tech focuses on creating pioneering leaders and technologies for the digital age, through research, technology commercialization, and graduate-level education at the professional masters, doctoral, and postdoctoral levels. To learn more, visit <http://tech.cornell.edu/>

Diversity and Inclusion are a part of Cornell University's heritage. We are a recognized employer and educator valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities.