

Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Machine Learning for Artificial Intelligence

Deadline: August 8, 2018

The [Université de Montréal](#) is seeking an outstanding researcher to be nominated for the **Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Machine Learning for Artificial Intelligence (ML4AI)**. The [CERC program](#), Canada's most prestigious research chair program, is designed to attract and support world-renowned researchers and their teams to Canada in order to establish ambitious research programs at Canadian universities. This unique and exciting opportunity will provide the chair holder a \$10 million grant over seven years as part of a larger budget and strategy to support the development and blossoming of AI in Québec and Canada. World-class researchers from all sectors (academia, industry, government) at the advanced Associate Professor or Full Professor level are invited to submit an application package as soon as possible, and no later than August 8, 2018.

The overall research objective of the CERC in ML4AI is the development of artificial intelligence research focused on machine learning (ML). The breadth of research areas includes progressing towards human-like intelligence by developing novel machine learning approaches as well as the responsible development and application of artificial intelligence in society.

Position details

The chair holder will play a key role in strengthening Montréal's reputation as the international hub for the theory and practice of AI, and in developing a diverse talent pool of highly-skilled graduates in ML, strongly needed by the rapidly growing number of SMEs and large international companies setting up shop in the Montréal area.

The successful candidate will benefit from UdeM's unique positioning in this domain thanks to: the Montréal Institute for Learning Algorithms (MILA), a powerhouse of world-class ML and deep learning (DL) researchers and the top DL academic institute in the world; strong collaborations with Polytechnique Montréal (notably through the already-established CERC in Data Science for Real-Time Decision-Making), HEC Montréal and McGill University; the Institute for Data Valorization (IVADO) whose mission is to explore AI and big data, mobilize knowledge and engage industrial partners in technology transfer.

The ML4AI CERC holder will be expected to build a diverse research team, lead a strong, externally-funded research program, supervise graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, collaborate with other faculty members, and actively participate in service to the Department of Computer Science and Operations Research (DIRO), University, and academic/scientific community. He/she will also be expected to lead provincial and national initiatives in the AI area.

Subject to the normal selection and hiring process of professors at the Université de Montréal, the successful candidate will be appointed at the full-professor level at DIRO (or should be eligible for promotion within one or two years of the nomination). The anticipated starting date is Fall 2019 or Winter 2020.

Application

Interested individuals are invited to submit an application package to vrr@umontreal.ca **no later than August 8, 2018**, which comprises:

- a cover letter;
- a detailed curriculum vitae;
- a brief description of current and future research program;
- the names and addresses of three references who are not in a conflict of interest situation vis à vis the applicant, as defined in the program's [Conflict of Interest Policy](#).

For further information on this research *opportunity* and *position*, applicants may contact Prof. [Laurent J. Lewis](#) (associate VP Research). The Recruitment Committee will start reviewing applications in the week of August 8, 2018 and until a successful candidate is selected. The Université de Montréal plan on conducting interviews late August / early September 2018.

About UdeM

The Université de Montréal is the world's leading general research French-language university, according to major international rankings. With its affiliated schools, HEC Montréal and Polytechnique Montréal, it ranks 4th in Canada in terms of research activities. It is also the largest university in Montréal, a city recognized as one of the best in the world for its quality of life and the size of its university sector. Montréal also is arguably the international hub for the theory and practice of AI, especially ML and DL, and numerous SMEs and large IT companies are locating here, looking to have an advantage in AI/ML. The Université de Montréal offers competitive salaries combined with a full range of benefits.

Language Policy

Université de Montréal is a Québec university with an international reputation. French is the language of instruction. The University is intensively recruiting the world's best specialists. In accordance with the institution's [language Policy](#), Université de Montréal provides support for newly-recruited faculty to attain proficiency in French.

Commitment to equal access to employment

The Canada Excellence Research Chairs Program strives for excellence in research and research training while enhancing the promotion of best practices in equity and diversity. The Université de Montréal fully subscribes to this commitment to employment equity and diversity. UdeM is committed to ensuring the appropriate representation of women, visible minorities, ethno-cultural minorities, Aboriginal peoples and persons with disabilities in a transparent and fair recruitment process, in accordance with federal and provincial legislative requirements. The University advocates the inclusion and diversity of its staff and also encourages people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities to apply.

UdeM recognizes that career interruptions can have repercussions on an individual's record of achievement, without diminishing its excellence. If applicable, candidates are encouraged to explain the circumstances of any interruption and its impact on their career path and record; this information will be duly taken into account during the evaluation.