Application Content Questions

Q: Are there any security risks with recommendation letters?

A: There are no security issues. Letters are uploaded over a secure HTTPS connection, ensuring the content remains private during transmission from the letter writer to the website collecting the letters.

Q: Can three letters of recommendation be submitted?

A: No. We ask that applicants choose two letter writers that can comment on the work they plan to do while being a postdoctoral fellow.

Q: Can mentors write recommendation letters for multiple applicants?

A: Yes. It is not a problem for the same person to be a recommendation letter-writer for multiple applicants.

Q: Who should I ask to write my reference letters?

A: The reference letters should be from individuals who are familiar with your research and can speak directly to your abilities, work ethic, and contributions in your field. Ideally, these references should be people who have closely observed your research process, your analytical skills, and your overall academic performance. They should be able to provide specific examples and insights into your strengths, your approach to problem-solving, and your potential for future success.

Q: What should be included in the research statement?

A: The Research Statement should not exceed one-page, including figures. The research statement should discuss the work that is planned while on the fellowship and should reference your doctoral research.

Note: References/citations for the research statement can go on additional pages.

Q: Does the application require a budget?

A: No, it does not.

Faculty Mentor Questions

Q: Do the supervisors/mentors need to be faculty in the Schwarzman College of Computing?

A: The faculty mentors *must* be MIT faculty, but it is not necessary for them to be in the College. Faculty mentors should be experts in both the relevant disciplinary area and AI.

Q: Do applicants need to have identified PIs they are interested in working with at the time of application?

A: Yes. PIs should be identified up front to allow for the "matching" of fellows and PIs/supervisors.

Note: FYI: The applicants cannot have non-MIT mentors since the mentors will be supervisors. The mentors listed do not need to agree up front. The selection committee will help with making those connections.