Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution of the World Economic Forum
2021-2022 Resident Fellowships for Pre-Tenure Faculty

McGill University is pleased to sponsor two 9-12 month Fellowships at the Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR) for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Selected Fellows will continue to receive their full academic salaries from the University and may be reimbursed for relocation expenses if incurred during the period of residency (eligible expenses will be determined in consultation with Fellows when the Fellowships are awarded).

Given current public health directives, McGill has extended a general prohibition on international travel for university business until further notice. The Fellows will start remotely but may have the opportunity to spend several months at the Forum’s offices in San Francisco should circumstances allow.

The World Economic Forum is the International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation. The Forum engages the foremost political, business and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas. The Fourth Industrial Revolution – the current period of rapid, simultaneous and systemic transformations driven by advances in science and technology – is reshaping industries, blurring geographical boundaries, challenging existing regulatory frameworks, and even redefining what it means to be human.

Drawing on the World Economic Forum’s global convening power, community creation and insight generation, the Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution in San Francisco aims to accelerate cross-sector cooperation for Fourth Industrial Revolution governance. The Centre will develop, pilot and scale agile and human-centred governance tools that can be adopted by policy-makers, legislators and regulators worldwide to address challenges related to emerging technologies.

The Resident Faculty Fellowships are intended to provide an opportunity for McGill faculty to work collaboratively with colleagues from the academic, industry, government and policy spheres on forward-thinking and problem-solving opportunities that engage issues of immediate interest and concern to the future of technology and its place in the human world. This activity is clustered around four portfolios:

- Data Policy
- Blockchain and Digital Currency
- Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
- IoT, Smart Cities and Robotics
Eligibility criteria:
Applicants must be full-time tenure-track academic staff who have not yet achieved tenure. Applicants may hold appointments in any of McGill’s academic Faculties. Interested faculty are encouraged to speak with the Chair of their Department (or Dean in Faculties without Departments) before applying. Successful applicants will have the opportunity to seek deferral of reappointment and/or tenure consideration (as appropriate) for one year.

Application process:
Interested faculty members are invited to submit 1) a statement of interest (maximum 2 pages); 2) CV; 3) short statement of support from Department Chair or Dean. The statement of interest should identify the C4IR portfolio with which the applicant would want to be affiliated and the contribution the applicant would hope to make, as well as an explanation of how this collaborative experience would benefit the applicant’s research program in the longer term.

Selection process:
All submissions will be reviewed by a committee comprised of the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic), the Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation), and three Faculty Deans. This committee will identify a short list of candidates whose applications will be shared with representatives of the C4IR. The final selection will be a joint decision by the McGill committee and representatives of the Centre.

Short-listed candidates will have the opportunity to discuss their research interests and the work of their chosen portfolio directly with C4IR colleagues before the final selection is made and before any invitation to accept a fellowship offer.

Revised Deadline to submit: June 30th 2021
Please send application documents to c4ir.provost@mcgill.ca