The Institute for Ethical AI in Education

How the Institute is funded

Whilst it is clear that the Institute must be sufficiently funded in order to achieve its key objective - to enable learners to benefit optimally from artificial intelligence, whilst being safeguarded against the risks posed by this technology - it is also evident that the Institute must ensure that the funding of its work does not provide a means by which external organisations could deviate the Institute from its objectives.

The Institute has hence developed a robust set of principles and practices to guide decision making on whether accepting funds in any particular case would be appropriate.

1. **Principles for the acceptance of funds**

   1.1 Organisations that fund the Institute for Ethical AI in Education will not deviate the Institute in the slightest from its aim of enabling learners to benefit optimally from artificial intelligence, whilst being safeguarded against the risks posed by this technology. Any organisation that is deemed to pose the threat of deviating the Institution from optimally fulfilling this aim, or any organisation that could reasonably be perceived to pose such a threat, will not be permitted to fund the work of the Institute.

   1.2 Any funding made to The Institute for Ethical AI in Education must not compromise the Institute's independence nor hinder its capacity to work towards its stated objectives.

   1.3 Funding will not be accepted if there is a credible risk that in doing so the Institute's reputation would be damaged or its chances of securing further funding from other viable sources would be diminished.

   1.4 Funding will not be accepted if the Institute has reason to believe that the funders are attempting to unduly influence the direction and work of the Institute through funding agreements.

   1.5 Funding should only be accepted if the Founders of the Institute and the Chair of the Advisory Council are satisfied that the agreement confers net advantages to the Institute and its work towards fulfilling its key objective.

2. Principles for Accepting conditions for funding the Institute

2.1 The Institute recognises that when organisations or individuals agree to fund the Institute, they may have conditions for the provision of funds. The Institute will consider accepting these conditions, with a final decision made by the Founders of the Institute and the Chair of the Advisory Council, providing the following criteria are met:
- Accepting the conditions does not deviate the Institute in the slightest from its key objective.
- Accepting the conditions does not compromise the Institute's independence.
- Accepting the conditions does not require the Institute to change its priorities to an extent that could damage the Institute's ability to fulfill its key objectives in the timeframe it sets for itself.

2.2 In cases where the involvement of any of the Founders or of the Chair of the Advisory Council in deciding whether the criteria specified in 2.1 have been met poses a conflict of interest or could be perceived to pose a conflict of interest, the relevant individual will recuse themselves from the decision making process.

3. Processes for the acceptance of funds through funding

3.1 Before accepting funds the Institute will conduct due diligence to ensure the principles outlined above have been adhered to. The Institute will formally document how these principles have been adhered to for each funder and the basis upon which they have agreed to fund the work of the Institute. In relevant cases, before the funding arrangement with a funder/the basis on which funders have agreed to fund the Institute changes, the Institute will conduct further due diligence to ensure its criteria for the acceptance of funds are still met.

3.2 The Founders of the Institute for Ethical AI in Education and the Chair of the Advisory Council will make the final decision, as a collective, on whether the Institute will accept funds. At their discretion, the Founders and the Chair of the Advisory Council may seek advice from members of the Advisory Council on whether a prospective funding agreement should be accepted.

3.3 In cases where the Founders decide that funding should be accepted and the advice of the Advisory Council is not sought, the Institute will document an overview of the reasoning behind the Founders' collective decision. In cases where the Founders decide that funding should be accepted and the advice of the Advisory Council is sought, the Institute will document an overview of the advice provided by the Advisory Council and the resultant reasoning for the Founders' collective decision. In cases where funding is not accepted, the Institute will not necessarily document why, although it may choose to do so at its discretion.

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3.4 The Institute for Ethical AI in Education is part of The University of Buckingham. Therefore, if the Institute's Founders and Chair formally decide that funding should be accepted, funding agreements are then put forward to be processed by the University in accordance with its relevant policies.