

Request For Proposal (RFP) for Academic Hub to Anchor India Data Capacity Accelerator

Background and Overview

data.org is a platform for partnerships to build the field of data for social impact (DSI). Launched in 2020 by the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth and The Rockefeller Foundation, we work with organizations from all over the world to increase the use of data to improve the lives of millions of people. Through one of our key initiatives, the Capacity Accelerator Network (CAN), we have committed to help train one million, purpose-driven data practitioners by 2032. As a part of CAN, following the launch of our [Workforce Wanted report](#), we are currently building [Data Capacity Accelerators in low- and middle-income countries](#) that will train the next generation of data practitioners with the interdisciplinary skills needed to be successfully working at the intersection of climate and health.

India Data Capacity Accelerator

Data for social impact is a growing field in India with limited academic courses, training, or leadership development programs available. To transform the social impact sector and enable it to benefit from the data revolution, there is a strong need to address [how we educate, train, and upskill the next generation of talent](#). The India Data Capacity Accelerator will catalyze the application of data to address systemic challenges at the intersection of [climate and health](#). This accelerator is expected to produce a cohort of 150-200 data professionals with interdisciplinary subject-matter expertise in climate and health data over two years with a key focus on Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) and intersectionality. Adjacent to each accelerator, 20-30 social impact or public sector organizations working with climate and health data will be supported to enhance their data science capabilities, including through some students from the cohort being placed with fellowship positions in these organizations upon graduation through projects curated by our partner, The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab South Asia (JPAL-SA). JPAL-SA would also work closely with the academic partner(s) to create internship opportunities for some students during their academic training.

Through this RFP, we seek an academic partner(s) that can design and anchor the training components of the Data Capacity Accelerator and work closely with JPAL-SA in ensuring the overall success of the program in India.

The academic partner(s) will have the opportunity to receive financial support for up to **two years** to host India's first Data Capacity Accelerator. The total available funding is **~\$600K USD** for this initial phase with potential for follow-on funding.

Scope of Work

The selected academic partner(s) will serve as an academic hub for developing and deploying interdisciplinary and experiential learning curricula for training students and early to mid-career professionals. The academic partner(s) will create and curate the academic resources, co-develop programs and train individuals on data science and analytics to catalyze social impact in the climate and health sector.

We invite applications from eligible academic institutes to design and deliver on **one or both components** of the overall program, as listed below:

- 1. Specialization program in Data for Social Impact (DSI):** The academic partner will curate a set of modules and run a one-year specialization program in data science and analytics, climate and health at the postgraduate level. The program may be offered as an integrated master's, extension to a bachelor's, certificate, post-graduate diploma or an equivalent program. Typically, this may be offered to recent graduates and early-career professionals as a full-time academic program. This may be delivered through in-person/hybrid modes to at least 60 students over two years.
- 2. Professional and executive development program (PEDP):** The academic partner will develop a short or long-duration (could be from a few weeks up to a year long) executive and professional development program for early to mid-career professionals working in social impact contexts connected to climate and health and looking for opportunities to upskill or transition into the DSI space addressing the more immediate needs of the sector. This may typically be undertaken alongside ongoing professional pursuits. This may be delivered through online/hybrid modes to at least 100 practitioners over two years.

Academic rigor blended with the practitioner's perspective will be key for the success of such a program. The scope of work for an initial two-year engagement, with the potential for a longer-term partnership, is given below:

- 1. Develop** an experiential, modular and interdisciplinary learning program.
 - Develop 6-8 modules with at least one focusing on climate emergency, one on health and others on data science and analytics leveraging climate and health data and use cases. Ensure academic rigor.
 - Design the program structure, curriculum, pedagogy tools, training methodology and learning resources with key subject matter experts from relevant fields as per the needs of the social impact sector. Integrate a practitioner's perspective in the design of the program.
- 2. Deploy** and deliver the program with the first cohort of learners starting by August 2023.
 - Deliver the program to at least two cohorts of diverse data practitioners focused on social impact in the 2023-2025 time frame with the intent to institutionalize it for future delivery.
 - Ensure Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) and intersectionality principles in inviting student applications, curriculum delivery and student and staff

experience.

- Integrate experiential learning opportunities, as appropriate, such as project-based learning, case study approach, and internships in climate and health-focused initiatives during the coursework or at the end of the program.
- Enable student learning and growth opportunities by identifying linkages to career pathways.

3. **Sustain** and advance the programs beyond the initial pilot phase.

- Explore and create financial avenues to run the program sustainably and independently.
- Explore the possibilities of converting the program into a degree course and/or integrating modules created in existing degree programs, as appropriate.
- Identify avenues for dissemination of content created, especially making some of it available digitally to a wider audience by working with an instructional design expert. data.org requires all resources and assets developed to be available through [Creative Commons license 4.0](#) (CC BY 4.0).

Selection of Academic Partner(s)

1. **Eligibility criteria:** We invite applications from Indian academic institutes that:

- Have access to expertise from faculty in Data Science, Analytics or Computer Science as well as Climate & Environment and Health Sciences through existing departments or dedicated schools within the institute or have access to such expertise through Centers of Excellence or other potential collaborations and are able to ensure the successful delivery of the program as envisioned above.
- Have existing physical and digital infrastructure to run such programs.
- Are committed to launching a specialization program in DSI and/or PEDP by August 2023.
- Are eligible to receive grant funding from foreign sources to run/host such programs adhering to any [Foreign Contribution \(Regulation\) Act \(FCRA\)](#) or other compliance requirements, as applicable.

2. **Assessment criteria:** We will shortlist a few potential academic partners with exhibited experience and capabilities in data science and analytics, climate and health with a key focus on social impact and Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) and intersectionality. The potential academic partners will be called in for a discussion/interview with an esteemed panel of experts with a deep understanding of data science, health, climate and higher education, amongst other areas and experience working in academia, government, social impact organizations, philanthropy and research. The final selection will be made by data.org based on various criteria, including the documents submitted, inputs from the panel of experts, alignment of [core values & principles](#), and any background verification that data.org deems necessary.



The academic institutes will be assessed against the **technical** and **financial** proposals submitted in response to this RFP.

1. **The technical proposal** must include (but not limited to) details about the academic institute's credentials, subject matter expertise, including key faculty members that will be involved, approach and methodology, and action plan for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) and intersectionality. The format for the technical proposal is given in sections 1 & 2 below.
2. **The financial proposal** must include (but is not limited to) the academic institute's budget requirements for standing up such a program with details on any overheads, taxes, cost share and leverage (including other sources of internal or external funding being tapped into) alongside other miscellaneous expenses for up to two years of engagement. Preference will be given to institutes offering the program(s) for free or at minimal cost to the participants

The technical and financial proposal will be evaluated based on the following key criteria:

	Evaluation Criteria	Weightage
Technical proposal	Credentials & Credibility	25%
	Approach & Methodology	25%
	Team Structure & Activity Timelines	15%
	IDEA & Intersectionality	15%
Financial proposal	Budget & Financials	20%
	Total	100%

Timelines

Task	Timeline
RFP issued	28 th November 2022
Clarification window for the RFP	28 th November – 8 th December 2022
Information session on the RFP	8 th December 2022
Submission deadline	10 th January 2023
Notification of outcome to academic institutes	31 st January 2023
Interview for shortlisted academic institutes	6 th – 20 th February 2023
Partner(s) identified	6 th March 2023
Expected program launch	August 2023

Proposal Submission Details

Kindly send your response to the RFP as attachments through email to **submit@data.org** by **10th January, 2023**, 23:59 IST at the latest. Proposals received after the deadline will not be evaluated. We will host an information session to clarify any questions or concerns for the RFP on 8th December 2022 at 5-6 pm IST. The registration details to attend this session will be available at <https://data.org/events/>

The academic institutes can send any questions to **submit@data.org** before 8th December, 2022 and we will answer them on the information call for the benefit of all. All applicants will be informed about the status of their application latest by 31st January, 2023. Only shortlisted academic institutes will be invited for the final interview.

Response Format

1. The RFP has three sections. The first section seeks information on the academic institute's existing credentials, processes and expertise. The second section seeks a detailed and unique proposal tailored to the DSI and/or PEDP program. The third section seeks a financial proposal to develop & deploy the program(s).

2. If the academic institute plans to deliver both components of the programs, i.e., (a) *Specialization program in Data for Social Impact (DSI)*, and (b) *Professional and executive development program (PEDP)*, they must highlight it clearly in the technical and financial proposals and their approach towards both programs.
3. All the answers must be answered in English in the proposed format and submitted as a single document (.doc, .docx). Kindly name the submission document in the following manner:
"<academic institute's name_proposal_India Data Capacity Accelerator>"
4. The font style and size should be consistent in the response. (Font style: EB Garamond; Size: 11 or 12pt).
5. Kindly add all the additional information as attachments in the annexures.

Thank you for your interest in collaborating with data.org on this important work.

Select the Name of the Program Component(s) you are Applying for:

- Specialization program in Data for Social Impact (DSI)
- Professional and Executive Development Program (PEDP)

Section 1: Academic institute's credentials, processes and relevant expertise

1. Name & address of the academic institute

2. Date & year of establishment

DD/MM/YYYY

3. Select the current status of the academic institute

- Autonomous Deemed Private
- Public-private partnered Government Others

4. Select the core nature of the academic institute

- Science/ Technology Management
- Social Sciences / Liberal Studies Others _____

5. Latest proficiency rank/ grade of the institute in India (if available)

NIRF: _____ NAAC: _____

Others: _____

6. What is the total number of students currently enrolled in the institute? Provide information on gender, geographic, caste and any other diversity as you see fit (depending on the availability of data).

A	Total number of students enrolled		
B	Gender diversity	Total male students	
		Total female students	
		Others	
C	Geographic diversity	Rural	
		Urban	
		Total States represented	
		Total Union Territories represented	
D	Caste diversity	SC	
		ST	
		OBC	
		Unreserved	
E	Any other segmentation you may like to share with us		

7. Mode of classes offered

Offline
 Online
 Hybrid

8. Are there existing programs for working professionals?

Yes
 No

9. What has been the student graduation and placement rate in the last five years? What % of students join the social impact sector? (if available)

Student graduation rate (in last 5 years)	Student Placement rate (in last 5 years)	% of students joining the social impact sector

10. Name of the school/ department/ center where the program(s) will be hosted. Date & year of its establishment and contact details of the nodal person.

Name of the school/ department/ center	Date & year of establishment	Contact details of the nodal person

11. What is the total number of faculty in your academic institute?

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12. What is the total number of teaching faculty in data science & analytics, health and climate programs at your academic institute? Kindly mention- permanent, visiting, adjunct and affiliated separately.

Number of Faculty	Data Science & Analytics	Health	Climate
Permanent			
Visiting			
Adjunct			
Affiliated			

13. Are there any interdisciplinary data science programs offered by the institute? If yes, is it a certification, postgraduate diploma, executive degree, fellowship or degree program? Provide web links to these programs.

Name of program(s)	Nature of the program (certification, PGDM, Fellowship, others)	Weblink

14. Provide attachments to papers published (in the past three years) in the field of data science with a focus on social impact. Mention the rewards and recognition earned in the field, if any.

Paper/ Award(s)	Attachment(s)

15. Are there examples of the program(s)/course(s) launched in collaboration with other Indian or foreign partners? If yes, provide details of the three most recent collaborations.

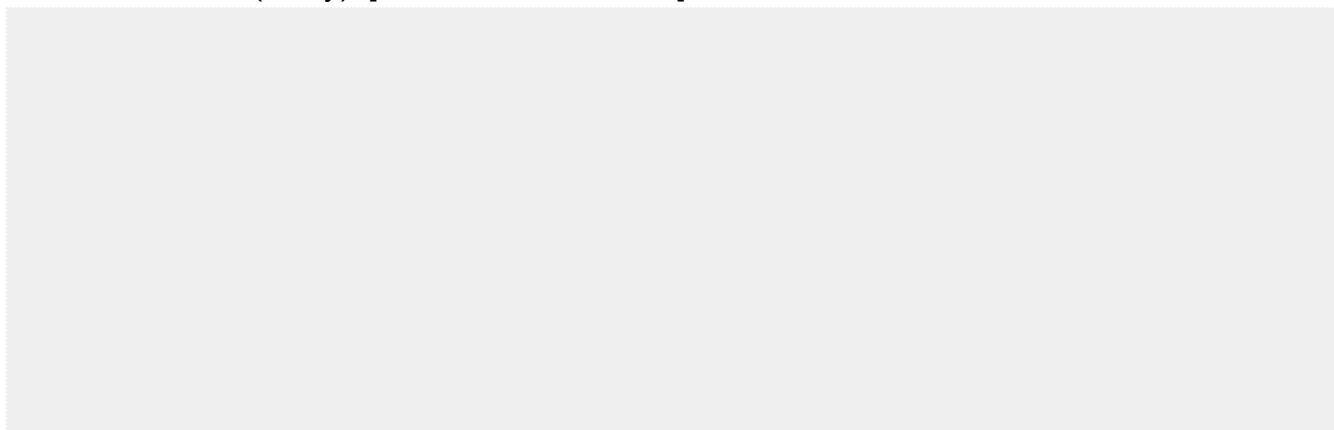
Name of the program	Attachment
1.	
2.	
3.	

16. What is your policy on Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) and intersectionality? Provide evidence to support your statement. Additionally, provide details on support available to marginalized or unrepresented groups to ensure accessibility of programs you offer.

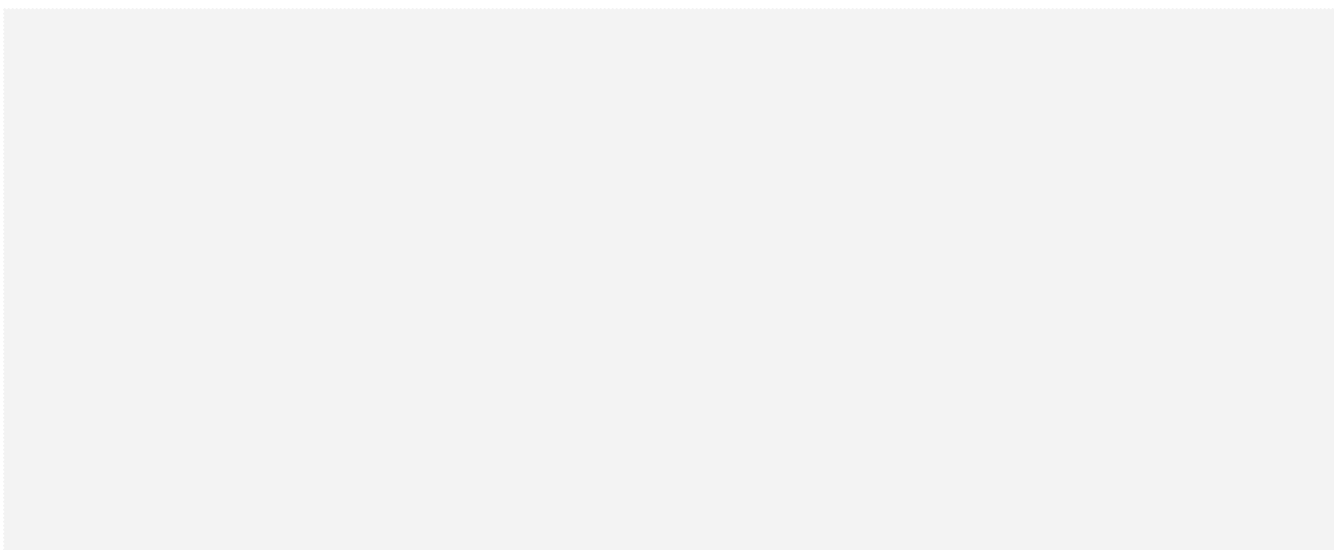
Section 2: Technical proposal to develop, incubate and deliver the India Data Capacity Accelerator

Instructions: Respond to all the questions below briefly. Any additional details can be attached as an **annexure** without a word limit.

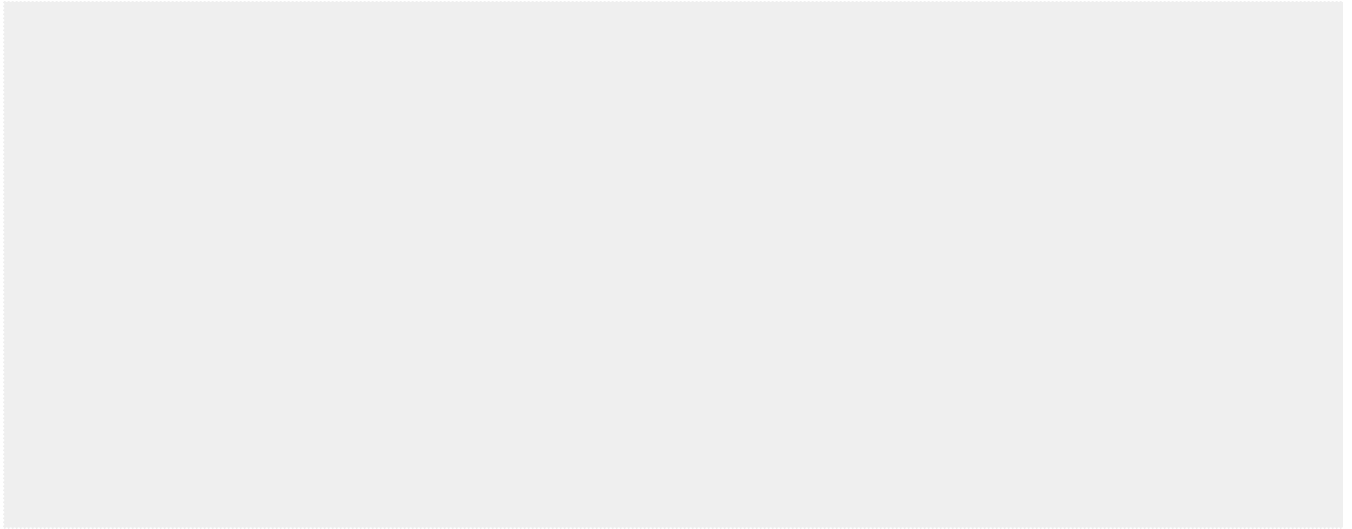
1. How is your academic institute best suited to host the India Data Capacity Accelerator? Highlight the key credentials of the host department or school within the institute, its strengths and weaknesses (if any). [word limit: 500 words]



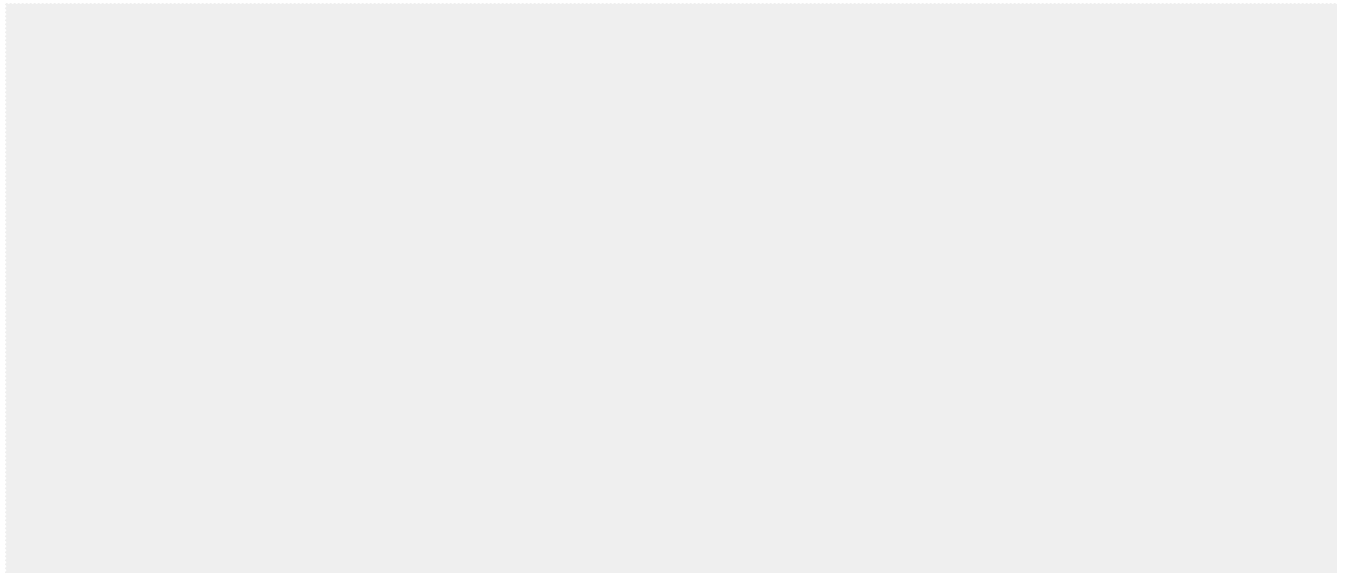
2. Kindly share details of existing collaborations across departments or other institutes in curriculum delivery or joint programs offered at your institute. (This may or may not be related to data science). Mention any existing data science and analytics or climate change or health related programs at your institute. [word limit: 500 words]



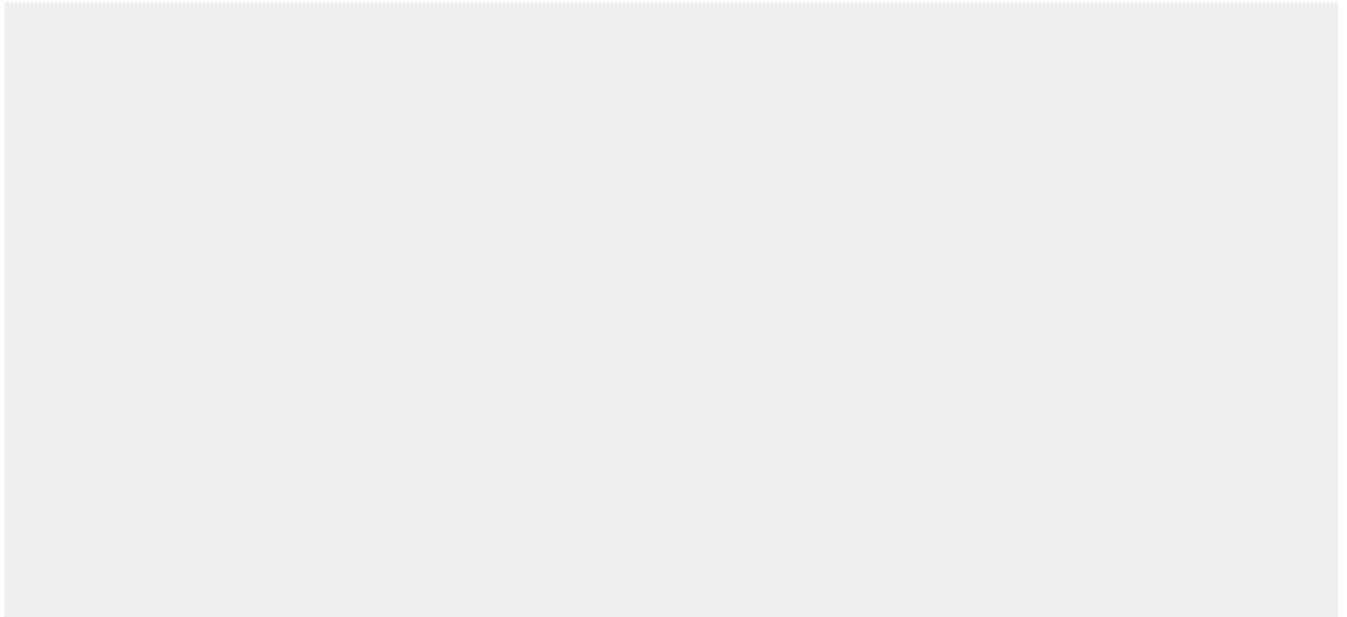
3. What will your approach and methodology be in developing and deploying interdisciplinary and experiential PEDP and/or DSI programs in the given timeline? Briefly describe the program(s) structure, modules (detailed course outline not required), pedagogy, assessment methodology, certification, etc. in your answer. [word limit: none]



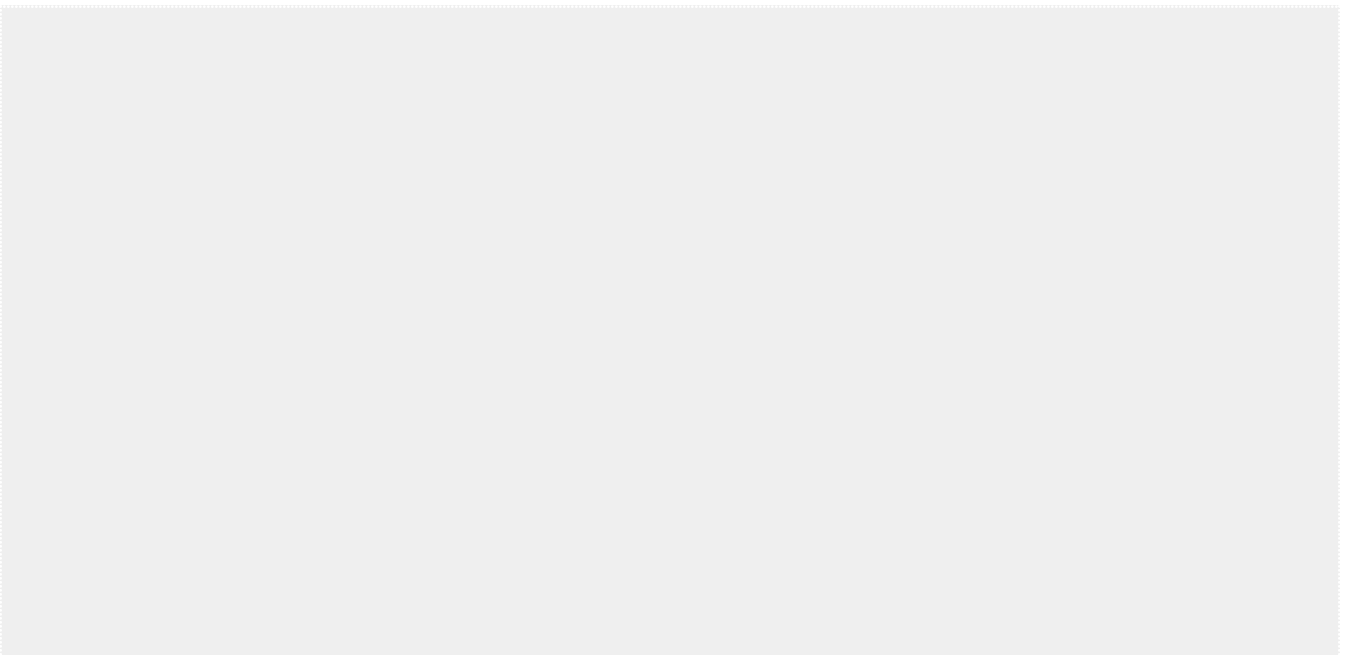
4. What will be the role of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) and intersectionality in your program design, implementation and student recruitment? What processes will you put in place to ensure more women and people from marginalized communities are a part of the proposed program? [word limit: 500 words]



5. Kindly share the team organogram and a high-level Gantt chart outlining the project deliverables and timelines. Provide profiles (weblinks) of the proposed teaching faculties for the PEDP and/or DSI program and the core implementation team in the **annexure**. [word limit: none]



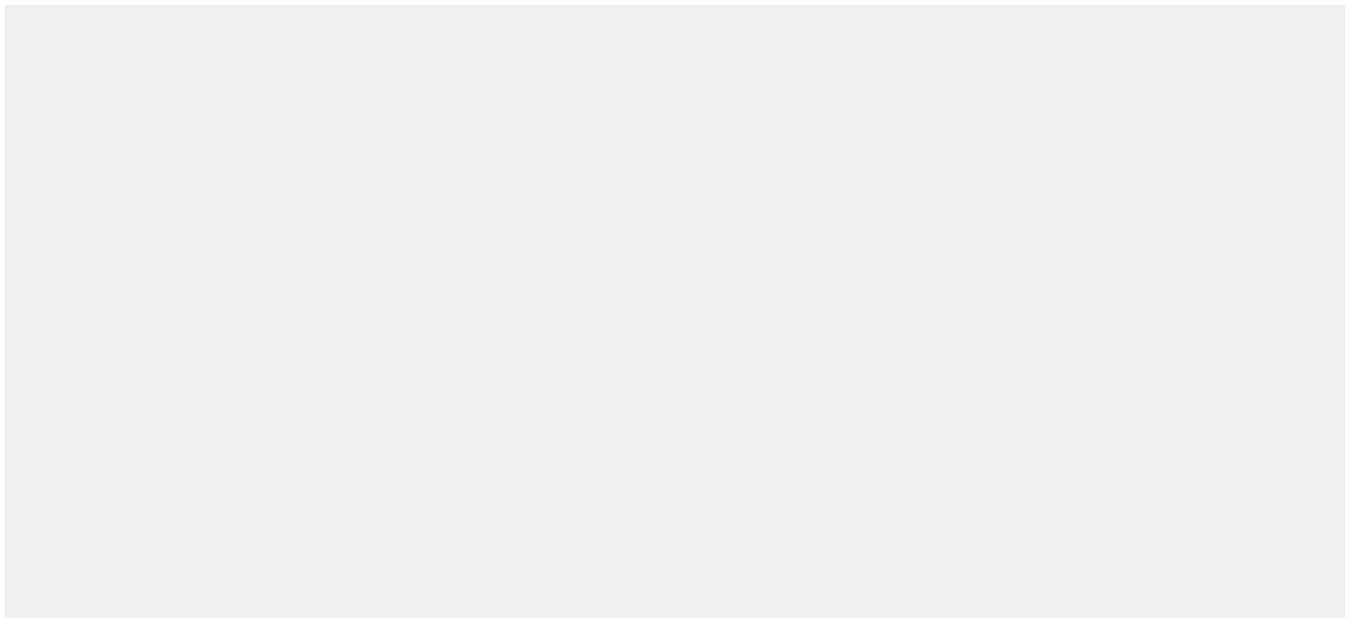
6. Kindly identify the key risks in your proposed approach and methodology. How will you mitigate the same? [word limit: 500 words]



Section 3: Financial proposal to develop, incubate and deliver the India Data Capacity Accelerator

Instructions: Provide a financial proposal to deliver the program in one page. The proposal shall clearly indicate the budget for hosting one or both of the programs. Any additional details can be attached as an **annexure** without a word limit.

1. Kindly share the financial proposal highlighting the overall budget for developing and deploying the program. The budget must include (but is not limited to) any overheads, taxes, cost share/leverage and other miscellaneous expenses (if any) for the initial two years of engagement under the program(s). Please indicate what financial and non-financial support is provided by the institute or you have access to from other resources to ensure the overall success of the program(s).



Note - The detailed budget sheets (excel) can go in the annexure.