



Trust Lab Grant 2024

Call for Proposals

IIT Bombay Trust Lab: Making the Digital World Trustworthy

IIT Bombay Trust Lab has a vision to be a leading contributor to the enterprise of making our digital environment trustworthy, through research, resource development, educational and awareness activities, and by creating a space for exchange of ideas and knowledge.

About Trust Lab Grant 2024

The Trust Lab Grant is designed to further the Trust Lab's vision by helping IIT Bombay faculty make impactful contributions in the broad area of digital trust. In 2023, Trust Lab allocated a sum of INR 70 lakhs across nine projects led by faculty members at IIT Bombay.

The 2024 grant will fund short-term collaborative proposals dealing with research, teaching or resource development activities involving the participation of one or more faculty members, all of whom should be from IIT Bombay.

The grant will target innovations/research in various areas related to Digital Trust **including, but not limited** to the following:

- Systems Security (Cloud/Network/OS/Architecture/Hardware Security)
- Theory and Applications of Cryptography
- Privacy
- Formal Verification for Security
- Emerging Applications (including IoT, Blockchains, DeFi, Digital Identity)
- Quantum Cryptography
- Trustworthy AI and Adversarial Machine Learning
- Trust in HCI
- Policy for Digital Trust
- Education and Awareness about Digital Trust

Proposals that synergistically combine expertise from multiple domains will be prioritized.



Funding Structure

Each Trust Lab grant can be up to Rs. 15 lakhs with access to a common funding pool for equipment and travel. The proposed project duration may range from **6 months to 2 years**. The grant amount will be released in stages, on completion of the milestones as defined in the project proposal. It may be utilized under the following heads:

Recurring Expenditures such as those related to:

- Support for research manpower
 - Travel (domestic and international) for student/researcher mobility
 - Contingent expenditures such as stationery, incidentals, etc.
 - Field/Pilot demonstration
- **Non-Recurring Expenditures** including the purchase of equipment or software, travel expenses, etc. Please note that the procurement of new equipment must follow the relevant IITB norms. Researchers are encouraged to make use of existing facilities and equipment, including the Trust Lab infrastructure, to the greatest extent possible.

In addition to the monetary support, the selected projects will get access to the Trust Lab infrastructure including lab space/offices, high-end servers, *etc.* The Trust Lab will also facilitate exchange of ideas among the personnel of all the projects selected for funding and the Trust Lab members.

Proposal Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the Trust Lab Grant, a proposal must satisfy the following criteria:

- The research proposal may be independent or collaborative.
- For joint proposals, faculty members at IIT Bombay have the option to collaborate with another faculty member from IIT Bombay.
- The proposals should be aligned with the primary vision of the Trust Lab, that is, to be a leading contributor to the enterprise of making our digital environment trustworthy.
- **Preference will be given to collaborative proposals, particularly those focusing on interdisciplinary research in areas related to digital trust.**
- The proposal should be likely to have demonstrable results in the form of publications, products, resources, deployment, etc., by the end of the grant period.

For more details, please refer to the application form.



Proposal Assessment Criteria

The submitted applications will be evaluated and scored based on the following by a selection committee appointed by the Trust Lab:

- Novelty, significance and potential impact of the work proposed
- Viability and feasibility of the milestones proposed
- Synergy with the strategic direction of the Trust Lab
- Track record of the applicants
- Any other aspects deemed appropriate by the selection committee

Evaluation Process

The proposals will be critically evaluated by an expert committee constituted by the Trust Lab, over two phases. The first phase evaluation will shortlist the proposals based on the criteria mentioned above. In the second phase, the committee members will interact with the PIs and co-PIs of the shortlisted proposals. The final selection will be done by the Trust Lab Executive Committee based on the recommendations by the expert committee.

Important Dates

Proposal Submission Deadline	May 30, 2024
First Phase Evaluation (Shortlisting of the Proposals)	June 10, 2024
Second Phase Evaluation (Interaction sessions)	June 15 - 20, 2024
Notification of Results	June 30, 2024

Submission of Project Proposals

All the proposals must be uploaded to this [Google form](#) in the format provided below. Please visit this [link](#) for more details about the Trust Lab. In case of any queries, contact Ms. Nikita Arora, Program Manager <nikita@cse.iitb.ac.in>



Trust Lab Grant 2024: Application Form

Part 1 – Proposal Summary

i.	Project Title	
ii.	Number of PIs	<i>If less than two, please attach a justification for making an exception to the collaboration requirement.</i>
iii.	Duration in months	<i>Please note that the total duration cannot exceed 2 years (24 months)</i>
iv.	Total cost (INR)	<i>Please note that the total cost of the project cost cannot exceed Rs. 15 lakhs</i>

Part 2 – Details of Investigators

A. Details of Principal Investigator (must be an IITB faculty member)

i.	Name	
ii.	Designation	
iii.	Department	
iv.	E-mail	
v.	Contact number:	
vi.	Profile of PI	<i>Please attach a CV. This will be helpful for the first phase evaluation</i>

B. Co-Principal Investigators and Senior Personnel

Please fill in the above table for each co-PI, and also indicate their institution if different from IIT Bombay.

i.	Name	
ii.	Designation	
iii.	Department and Institution	
iv.	E-mail	
v.	Contact number:	
vi.	Profile of co-PI/Senior personnel	<i>Please attach a CV. This will be helpful for the first phase evaluation</i>



Part 3 - Technical Details of the Proposal

i.	Project Category	<i>Please indicate the main category/categories of the project: (a) Research, (b) Education (c) Other Resource Creation (specify the nature of the resource), (d) Policy, (e) Other (please specify)</i>
ii.	Summary	<i>Provide a summary of the proposal. Please do not exceed 200 words</i>
iii.	Technical Proposal	<i>Please attach a technical description of the proposed project (maximum 3 pages, excluding references).</i>
iv.	Summary of Deliverables	<i>Please summarise the deliverables of the proposal here. Please do not exceed 100 words</i>

Part 4 – Milestones associated with the Proposal

Sr.no	Milestone	Starting month and year	Ending month and year	Duration in months



Part 5 – Budget and Budget Justification

Sr.N o.	Items	BUDGET (Indian Rupees)
Year – 1		
A.	Recurring	
1.		
2.		
B.	Non-Recurring	
1.		
2.		
Year 1 Total (A+B)		
Year – 2		
A.	Recurring	
1.		
2.		
B.	Non-Recurring	
1.		
2.		
Year 2 Total (A+B)		
Grand total (Year 1 + Year 2)		

Budget Justification

Please justify the line items briefly, if not already clear from the table.

Attachments:

- *CV of the PI(s)*
- *Technical details of the proposed project*