



## AARA Call for Research Proposals

Amazon Academic Research Awards (AARA) program funds academic research and related contributions to open source projects by top academic researchers throughout the world. AARA awards aim to fund projects leading toward a Ph.D. degree or conducted as a part of post-doctoral work. This year, proposals are considered for the area of Machine Translation, in particular:

- Learning from weak user feedback.
- Advanced methods for MT into and out of morphologically-rich languages.
- Low resource Machine Translation.
- Advances in reordering models for MT.
- Advances in scalable real-time MT.
- Advances in neural MT and language modeling.
- Using document context and other modalities to improve MT.
- Advances in MT for noisy and user-generated content.
- Advances in methods for estimating MT quality at run time.

Eligibility. Full-time faculty members of institutions granting PhD degrees in the fields related to Machine Learning and Natural Language Processing are encouraged to apply.

Awards Structure. Awards are structured as one-year unrestricted gifts to academic institutions, and can include up to 20,000 USD in AWS Promotional Credits. Though the funding is not extendable, applicants can submit new proposals for subsequent calls.

Award Process. Project proposals are reviewed by an internal awards panel and the results are communicated to the applicants approximately 2.5 month after the submission deadline. Each project will also be assigned an Amazon contact (an NLP/ML researcher). The researchers are encouraged to maintain regular communication with the contact to discuss ongoing research and progress made on the project. The researchers are also encouraged to publish the outcome of the project and commit any related code to open source code repositories.

Submission Requirements, Mechanism, and Deadline. Project proposals should not exceed 4 pages (single column, minimum 11pt font, no less than 0.5 inch margins), with 1 additional page for references. Proposals should include:

- Motivation for a specific research task.
- An outline of the approach, challenges, and expected results. The proposal should include a statement about how the output of the project is going to be distributed (e.g. a conference publication, or a contribution to a specific open source project).
- A proposed research plan for the duration of the award (one year).
- A proposed budget not exceeding 80,000 USD generally expected to support one PhD student (or a post-doctoral researcher) for one year. The budget should include a list of expected costs specified in USD, and should not include overhead costs. The final award amount will be determined by the awards panel.
- Additionally, proposals may include a request for up to 20,000 USD of AWS Promotional Credits. The requested amount, a short justification, and a list of AWS [Public Data Sets](#) (if any) to be used in the proposed research should be included in the proposal. The final amount of AWS Promotional Credits will be determined by the awards panel. Please note that the AWS Promotional Credit Terms and Conditions apply (<https://aws.amazon.com/awscredits/>).
- We request that the faculty member leading the project as well as the PhD student (or post-doctoral researcher) contributing to it also attach their CVs including published work and a record of open source project contributions.

Applications (and questions) should be submitted to [aara-submission@amazon.com](mailto:aara-submission@amazon.com) as a single PDF file by **October 1, 2016**. Please, include **[AARA 2016 MT Submission]** in the subject. Awards panel will announce the decisions about 2.5 months later.