



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Fully Funded Research Visits for PhD Students and Postdocs

AI Thematic Semester: *AI for Applied Economics: Data, Methods and Challenges*

CERGIC, ENS de Lyon (France) · January–July 2027

From January to July 2027, CERGIC, the Center for Economic Research on Governance, Inequality, and Conflict at ENS de Lyon, will host a thematic semester on how artificial intelligence can advance research in applied economics, supported by the CNRS AI for Science and Science for AI (AISSAI) center. Generative AI can digitize historical archives, analyze text at scale, read satellite imagery and embed bias in automated decisions. Yet, because these methods are still new and evolving, their potential uses and best practices remain understudied. The semester will bring economists together to examine AI both as a tool for empirical research and as an object of study, around four axes: AI and historical data, AI and text analysis, AI and spatial data, and fairness and AI's algorithmic bias. The program will include an inaugural conference, a seminar series, an intensive training course on LLMs for research in applied economics, four thematic workshops held in Lyon, Lille, Paris and Montpellier with partner institutions, and a summer school (more information will be available on [CERGIC's website](#)).

As part of the semester, **we offer fully funded research visits at CERGIC to PhD students and postdoctoral researchers in economics**. The call is open to junior researchers who work with AI in the broad sense (e.g., text analysis or machine learning), or who plan to do so in future projects. Researchers who are interested in the impact of AI are equally welcome. **The stay at CERGIC can last from one week to one month, depending on the candidates' availability, between January and July 2027.**

Visitors will:

- have the opportunity to present their work and take part in the AI events of the semester that coincide with their stay;
- have their travel and accommodation covered: round-trip travel to Lyon in full, as well as accommodation up to roughly **€1,500 per visit**, within the applicable per diem limits;
- be fully integrated into the department and its activities, and meet faculty members to discuss their research;

To apply, send to cergic.ai.semester@gmail.com, with “AISSAI research visit” as the subject line:

- a short statement (*max. 10 lines*) explaining why the visit and the semester are of interest to you;
- your availability and preferred period for the visit, if you have one;
- a CV.

Applications received by **31 October 2026** will be reviewed first; later applications will be considered on a rolling basis until all visits are allocated. Questions are welcome at the same address.

We look forward to welcoming you to Lyon.

Kenza Ellass

Organizer of the AI Thematic Semester

