Technology & Society Forum: Innovation Challenge

Staying Ahead of the Curve: Lifelong Learning in the Age of AI

Overview

The annual Rhodes Forum on Technology and Society will be held on 2 November 2024 in Oxford and bring together leading thinkers and practitioners at the intersection of science, technology, and society.

This year, we are introducing an innovation challenge focused on developing solutions for a future where AI isn't a threat to livelihoods worldwide but rather a tool that empowers people to build more productive and meaningful lives.

Teams are [invited to apply here](#). If shortlisted, teams will have the opportunity to present their solutions at the Forum, competing for **up to £25,000** (non-dilutive) in prize money and the chance to receive feedback and support from a panel of esteemed judges.

The Kevin Xu Innovation Challenge

We believe in a society where AI isn't a threat to livelihood but rather a tool that can empower people to build more meaningful lives. What solutions help us get closer to that goal?

This is the animating question we are asking you to respond to for the inaugural 2024 Innovation Challenge. This is an opportunity for members of the Rhodes and Equitech networks, as well as other partner programmes and friends of the Trust, to submit potentially transformative ideas that will shape a more inclusive and equitable AI-enabled future. We are especially interested in ideas that take a lifelong learning approach to AI education and literacy.

This could look like:
-   A tool to train and support frontline healthcare workers in AI

- A prototype for an AI learning and awareness platform for older learners (ages 55+)
- A platform for an AI-enabled coding tutor for under-resourced communities.

These are representative ideas, and we encourage applicants to propose bold solutions that can increase AI literacy and learning in their communities across age groups. To support shortlisted teams/individuals in refining and pitching their solutions, Rhodes Trust and Equitech Futures will provide access to mentorship and workshops in the lead-up to the Tech & Society Forum.

Finally, the winners will be announced during the annual Forum, and they will receive a financial award to further their work.

Criteria

- Open to Rhodes Scholars + Equitech, Schmidt Science Fellows, Atlantic Fellows, Next Horizon Scholars
- Ideas may be in the early stages (pre-product)
- Applicants must be available for:
    - In-person forum in Oxford on November 2 (travel assistance may be available if needed)
    - Four virtual workshops to prepare your idea and pitch on Sept 11, Sept 18, Oct 2, Oct 16

If you have an idea about tech-customer education/awareness, cybersecurity training, and workforce upskilling and believe you have the potential to thrive with this opportunity, we encourage you to apply even if you don't meet 100% of the listed criteria. We are committed to considering applications holistically, recognizing that there are many paths to shape a more equitable technological future.

Apply online by July 30, 2024, with a team committed to working together. We look forward to hearing from you!