

OxAIMS

Sponsorship & Partnership Proposal

Oxford AI Makers Society (OxAIMS) is a student-led community bringing together Oxford students from different disciplines to use AI to build real-world projects. Our focus is on what students can create with AI—from useful apps and research tools to physical prototypes—not simply on learning AI concepts. We are inviting founding partners to help students turn ideas into working solutions.

Students often recognise problems worth solving before they know how to develop a practical solution. OxAIMS aims to bridge that gap through hands-on workshops, collaborative projects and constructive feedback. Members will learn to define a problem, use AI tools effectively and responsibly, organise files and code with GitHub, test their work and share usable results. We will welcome both beginners and experienced builders, with opportunities across software, engineering, research and data.

Our programmes

Learn–Build–Showcase workshops

We plan to run company- and student-led workshop series in apps and games, physical design and engineering, and signal and data projects. Each series will guide students from an initial idea to a working demonstration, covering AI-enabled workflows, version control, testing, connected services and deployment or prototyping. Beginner-friendly sessions will not require prior programming experience.

At the end of each series, participants will demonstrate what they have built, explain how they tested it and identify limitations and possible next steps. This gives students an opportunity to practise communicating technical work and gives participating partners insight into the projects and skills developed.

Our initial target is approximately 30 participants per workshop series. We propose six weekly sessions during Michaelmas Term, including a final demonstration session. The schedule and content can be adapted in collaboration with each partner.

Annual Oxford AI Building Hackathon

We plan to host an annual 24-hour hackathon in Oxford, bringing together interdisciplinary teams to develop working solutions in software, hardware and data. Teams will demonstrate their projects to fellow students and invited judges. We have partnered with Cambridge's AI for Science Society with the aim of developing an Oxford–Cambridge varsity hackathon, where selected teams could represent their universities. The format and selection criteria would be agreed jointly.



Year-round project branches

Workshops are the starting point. Three project branches will help students develop ideas throughout the academic year:

01 Apps and games

Teams can use AI-assisted design and coding tools to create useful apps, games and interactive experiences, then test and improve their work.



02 Physical design and 3D engineering

Students can combine AI-assisted CAD and design tools with hands-on fabrication to prototype mechanisms, electronics and robotics projects.



03 Signal and data research

Students can apply AI to research workflows, data analysis and quantitative finance. An existing project is an AI-assisted platform for backtesting quantitative trading signals (alphas).



Student project leads will help teams find collaborators, share knowledge and seek technical feedback. This gives promising projects a way to continue beyond a workshop or hackathon and develop into more useful, robust prototypes.

Year-end project showcase and pitches

At the end of the academic year, teams will submit a short pitch describing the problem, their approach, evidence of progress and next steps. OxAIMS will select teams to demonstrate their work to peers, sponsors and invited industry guests. We will consider the clarity of the problem, the quality of the evidence and the feasibility of the next

steps—not only commercial potential. Partners interested in a project may discuss mentoring, pilot opportunities or further support directly with the team; any such arrangement would be separate and voluntary.



How sponsors can support OxAIMS

Funding and event delivery

Our immediate priority is support that enables us to run accessible, high-quality events: a six-session workshop series, the 24-hour Oxford AI Building Hackathon and the year-end project showcase. This could be a flexible cash contribution or funding earmarked for venues, equipment hire, prizes, teaching materials and participation costs.

Software, API credits and computing resources

Product access can be just as valuable as cash: student licences, AI and coding subscriptions, API credits, cloud-computing or hosting allowances, and specialist datasets. Practical usage limits and documentation would help teams experiment responsibly, build functioning prototypes and assess results beyond a one-off demonstration.

Hardware, prototyping and facilities

Partners could supply or lend microcontrollers, sensors, robotics kits, CAD software, 3D-printing materials or other fabrication resources. Access to maker facilities, suitable rooms and audiovisual equipment would also help teams demonstrate physical projects.

Expert mentors and technical guidance

We would welcome engineers, researchers and product specialists to co-lead selected workshops, run project-feedback sessions, give practical demonstrations or judge student work. Short mentoring or office-hour commitments would be useful even where a full workshop partnership is not possible.

Hackathon challenges and prizes

Partners could propose optional, open-ended challenge briefs, share suitable sample data or sandbox tools, provide on-the-day technical support or sponsor prizes. Students would remain free to choose their own tools and project ideas.

Support for projects beyond an event

Promising teams could benefit from startup or developer credits, introductions to technical teams, pilot opportunities, or advice on turning a prototype into a sustained project. Partners might also host an opt-in careers or portfolio-review session. Any recruitment, investment or commercial arrangement would be handled separately and voluntarily.

We do not expect any one sponsor to provide all of the above. A partnership could combine financial and in-kind contributions or focus on a single workshop, project branch, hackathon or showcase.

What sponsors gain

Visibility in Oxford's student builder community

Partners can receive recognition on agreed society communications, workshop promotions and event materials. We can also explore co-branded workshops, sponsored project challenges or event segments that align with a partner's expertise.

Real-world product use and structured feedback

Students can apply a partner's tools to practical problems across disciplines, providing an opportunity to see how those tools perform in real projects. With participants' permission, we can gather feedback on usability, strengths and limitations and share selected case studies. We would not guarantee a particular level of product adoption or endorsement.

Engagement with interdisciplinary talent

By mentoring, teaching or judging, partners can meet motivated student builders and see how they approach technical problems, collaborate and communicate their decisions. Recruitment conversations and any introductions would be voluntary and opt-in.

Connections to promising projects

Project feedback sessions, the hackathon and the annual showcase create opportunities to discover interesting student work. Where there is mutual interest, partners can explore further mentoring, research collaboration or pilot projects directly with teams, through separate agreements.

Measurable impact and accountability

We can provide a concise report covering participation, project demonstrations, continued activity and anonymised feedback, together with agreed project examples and a summary of how sponsorship resources were used.

Proposed founding partnership

A founding partnership could support a six-session workshop series, two project-feedback sessions and participation in the year-end showcase. Partners may instead choose to support an individual project branch, the hackathon or a specific event. Before launch, we would agree on the contribution—funding, tools, expertise or a combination—along with responsibilities, recognition and measures of success. We would then report on attendance, completed demonstrations, ongoing projects and relevant feedback, together with a summary of how funding was used. The arrangement can be tailored to each partner's priorities and capacity. We would welcome a short conversation to shape a partnership around your organisation's interests.

How sponsorship will be used

AI tools and API credits	AI model API credits, coding tools and shared usage allowances for building, debugging and testing projects in workshops and independently.
Hosting and deployment	Hosting, cloud computing, databases and storage that allow students to publish working projects and make them accessible to others.
Domains and connected services	Domain names, email, authentication and other third-party services that help turn prototypes into usable applications.
Specialist datasets	Financial and other specialist data APIs needed for quantitative analysis, research and individual student projects.
Hardware and materials	Microcontrollers, sensors, robotics components, electronics, 3D-printing materials and access to fabrication facilities. Reusable equipment can support future teams.
Workshops and presentations	Venue and equipment hire where required, teaching materials, refreshments and facilities for students to demonstrate their work.
Hackathon and annual showcase	Venue costs, audiovisual equipment, signage, refreshments, prizes and demonstration space, including provision for physical prototypes.
Teaching and technical support	Preparation of guides and example projects, external instructors where needed and reasonable travel expenses for speakers and mentors.
Society operations	The society's website, email and shared systems for managing members, teaching resources and project submissions.