

Buffett Undergraduate Research Fellowship Opportunity

GODDS: Global Online Deepfake Detection System

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Project Synopsis: 2024 will see more elections than any other year in human history. We expect to see an increasing wave of deepfakes (images, audio, video, multimodal) to be used to influence these elections. Identifying these deepfakes will be an urgent priority, but the technology available for this purpose today is still in its infancy. To mitigate risks to democracy, the Northwestern Security & AI Lab (NSAIL) has been developing a human-AI collaborative framework where a trained set of analysts will work with advanced technology to ascertain whether a given artifact is real or fake. In addition to providing a publicly available portal (which we hope to launch in April 2024) for detecting deepfakes, we hope to conduct research that will understand the best ways in which humans and technology can combine together to find deepfakes quickly and correctly. We are requesting two undergraduate students for this purpose.

Project Term: Summer + academic year, Summer + fall 2024

Project Location: No travel is required. The student can work from anywhere

Ideal Applicant: 1) We will train these students to use the GODDS portal to analyze audio, video, image, and multimodal (e.g. image+audio) artifacts that are uploaded by third parties to the GODDS website. These students will examine the context of each such digital artifact and whether GODDS' tools makes it easy or hard to detect whether an artifact is real or fake. 2) We are primarily looking for undergrads who have a keen interest in world affairs and who are technologically savvy (no computer science skills are expected, but they should be able to navigate the GODDS site when it launched, tentatively in 4/2024). 3) Good writing and speaking skills are essential. 4) Knowledge of any foreign languages is a plus, but not required.

Number of Available Positions: Two