

Purpose and Approach

The Centre for Digital Cultures & Societies (DCS) in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences works with researchers across the humanities and social sciences to:

- Foster vibrant, collaborative, and inter-disciplinary culture around digital cultures and societies research focussed on creativity, quality and diversity.
- Create scale to compete for competitive funding, act as node in larger bids, establish ourselves as an ongoing centre and infrastructure.
- Develop partnerships across other universities, public sector, cultural institutions, civil society, and industry.
- Invest in engagement through public events and storytelling.
- Support the development of diversified research income.

Funding is available in 2025 (and will run for one year until June 2026) for HASS researchers to pitch a project. Applications are welcome that provide innovative ways to:

- Advance a research collaboration that needs targeted support to take it to the next level on a project idea.
- Foster an emerging external partnership that would be supported by directed activity/engagement.
- Prepare and submit an external funding bid that would benefit from strategic support.
- Complete a key research output that will boost track record development of you and your team.

Scheme Eligibility

Applicants must hold an eligible Teaching and Research (T&R) or Research Focussed (RF) University of Queensland salaried appointment in a school, centre or institute of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. The Lead applicant (or Co-Lead applicants on a team project) must be appointed on at least 0.5 FTE (Full Time Equivalent) basis for the duration of the proposed project. Applicants on fractional appointments will be eligible for the full amount of funding. Staff holding alternative appointments should contact the Director and Coordinator to discuss their eligibility, for example staff holding Industry Fellow appointments.

Scheme Conditions

The *Centre for Digital Cultures and Societies Funding Scheme* will operate under the following conditions:

- Awards are up to a maximum of \$10,000 application for individual researchers or teams.
- Activity funded by the Scheme may include:

Research Assistance	Based on need for project, must include any training support needed for RA and HR process to appoint in timeline
Fieldwork Support	Travel, participant support
Infrastructure Equipment	
Research Engagement and Translation Activity	Workshop, Public Seminar
Strategic Grant Development	proof reading and/or external grant review/coaching
Partnership Development	Travel to partners, travel to UQ for partners, hosting workshops
Teaching Buyout	Marking relief and buy-out of face-to-face teaching activities (lectures, seminars, tutorials or equivalent) on a strictly cost recovery basis. Please note that any requests for teaching buy-out are subject to the support of the Head of School. The Head of School may decline any teaching buyout requests where the justification is not clear, where school teaching plans are significantly disrupted and/or where alternative teaching arrangements may compromise teaching and learning quality. Teaching buy-out and marking relief must be budgeted at the hourly rate for a sessional academic to cover the activity.

- Activity not funded by the Scheme includes (but is not limited to): investigator salaries or allowances, international travel, conference travel, open access publication costs, abstracting services, projects which consist substantially of student support (including stipends).
- **Funding needs to be expended by 30 June 2026.**

Scheme Criteria

The Scheme Criteria is focused on the potential of activity to lead to a meaningful research outcome that includes development of external funding opportunities, collaborations and partnerships, and engagement and impact and publications. Questions that need to be answered in Activity Pitch are:

- Why this activity? What are your plans and how will it support meaningful outcomes?
- Why now? How can this activity occur in 2025/ 2026 and why is it timely to undertake now?
- Why you? Are you ready to complete this activity and who are you working with?
- Why DCS? Will the activity align with Digital Cultures and Societies goals?

Application Process and Timeline

17 March: Round Opens

DCS launches round via email, DCS website and FRO Update
Applications prepared in consideration of the *Guidelines*, *Application Form* and *Conditions of Award*.



17 March - 22 April : Development and Submission

Applicants contact the Director and Coordinator about proposals prior to applying.
HASS researchers develop proposals and seek HOS/ID/CD approval.
Applicant submits proposal to digitalcultures@hass.uq.edu.au by due date of 22 April at 5pm.



22 April - 12 May: Assessment Period

Eligibility and compliance review undertaken by the DCS Assessment Panel convened by the Director to assess applications against the criteria. Funding recommendations made to Deputy Executive Dean who will determine final outcomes.



12 May onwards: Notification Period and Project Setup

All applicants and their Head of Schools will receive notification on the outcome from the Director.
Successful applicants will receive further advice to advise on the operationalisation of their project.
Unsuccessful applicants will receive feedback upon request.

Further Information and Contact

Applicants are required to discuss their projects before applying with the Director at digitalcultures@hass.uq.edu.au to ensure they meet the scheme objectives and draw on both cash and in-kind contributions from DCS where appropriate.

Information available on the [DCS Website](#). Please contact the Centre for Digital Cultures & Societies at digitalcultures@hass.uq.edu.au.