

Purpose and Approach

The Digital Cultures and Societies Hub 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, industry.
- Invest in engagement through public events and storytelling.
- Support the development of diversified research income.

From 2022 until 2026, it is anticipated the Project Scheme will run annually and fund a number of projects led by researchers in the humanities and social sciences. Applications are now invited from researchers with projects ready for commencement in 2022. These projects may address the Hub's initial themes:

- Digital and social media
- Digital cultures, lives, bodies and intimacies
- Digital platforms
- Digital Asia
- Algorithmic recommendation and the shaping of social reality
- Computational language and media
- Automation

Applications are welcome from researchers whose work intersects with digital cultures and societies in ways not specifically addressed in these themes. Applicants are required to discuss their projects before applying with the Director and Coordinator at digitalcultures@hass.uq.edu.au to ensure they meet the scheme objectives and draw on both cash and in-kind contributions from the Hub where appropriate.

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 *Digital Cultures and Societies Projects Scheme* will operate under the following conditions:

- Awards are up to a maximum of \$15,000 per staff member.
- Activity funded by the Scheme may include: research assistance, fieldwork travel (local/interstate), infrastructure equipment, research engagement and translation activity (workshop, public seminar) up to \$2000 max, 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).

- Staff may submit a collaborative Team project involving multiple HASS researchers, with a combined budget up to a maximum of \$40,000 with a minimum of three eligible researchers. All Leads and Co-Leads need to meet the Scheme Eligibility for a Team project to be considered. Applications from multidisciplinary teams are strongly encouraged. Individual and Team projects can include other staff as collaborators or mentors where relevant.
- Projects will need to include a plan for engagement with the Digital Cultures and Societies Hub, including regular participation in working groups and the presentation of a public talk, seminar or workshop.
- It is anticipated that projects will be no longer than 12 months in duration.

Scheme Criteria

The Scheme Criteria under which applicants will be considered are:

- Quality of project to lead to concrete research outcomes that include publications, development of external funding opportunities, collaborations and partnerships, and engagement and impact.
- Potential for the project to lead to future research activity and impact.
- Relative to opportunity research track record.
- Alignment with Digital Cultures and Societies Hub research objectives and priorities.
- Plan for collaboration, mentorship and/or engagement. Mentorship may be Investigators mentoring colleagues, or Investigators being mentored.
- Budget and budget justification to demonstrate feasibility and ability to expend funds by the deadline.

Application Process and Timeline

1 April: Round Opens

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



1 April - 16 May : Development and Submission

DCS Lightning Talks on 1 and 8 April.
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 16 May at 5pm.



16 May - 27 June: Assessment Period

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



27 June - 11 July: 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

Information available on the [DCS Website](#). Please contact the DCS Hub at digitalcultures@hass.uq.edu.au.