



CHERISH-DE Centre
Complex Human Environments Transformed by Digital Economy Thinking

1st Call for Funding Proposals

Deadlines: Escalator Fund: 4pm, Monday February 29th 2016,
Strategic Secondment Fund and Mobility Fellowships: Applications processed
monthly

Applications open 22nd January 2016

Overview

The CHERISH DE Centre is one of six national Digital Economy Centres funded by EPSRC and a range of Project Partners for a five-year period. Each Centre is focused on a specific area of digital innovation and all are charged with developing the impact of their work and researchers on society and the economy. Swansea's Centre targets challenging human environments ranging from health care, deprived regions to security contexts.

All of the Centre's work will be interdisciplinary in recognition that difficult social and economic challenges can be best tackled through the combined insights from arts and humanities, STEM, medical and social sciences.

The Centre has three objectives:

- Maximise impact of the unique Challenging Human Environment Digital Economy (DE) work grown within Swansea;
- Act as a beacon for an innovative impact-led way of working; and,
- Develop a generation of ambassadors who will be the sustaining dynamic of DE working.

One of the key ways we will achieve these aims is by facilitating a large number of projects, research-impact visits and secondments.

At this time, we are seeking interdisciplinary proposals that will lead impact within three broad areas of the Digital Economy:

- [Health and Social Care;](#)
- [Resource Constrained Communities;](#)
- and, [Safety and Security.](#)

If your proposal meets the objectives of the centre and other criteria, but does not fall neatly into any of the three themes, we would still welcome your proposal.



Researchers can bid for support from three funds:

- Escalator Fund (up to £15K per proposal) to create and develop impact ideas;
- DE Mobility Fellowships (up to £2K to support travel to, or to provide funding for a visit from, an international research collaborator which will build alliances for impact);
- and the Secondment Fund (up to £2K) to enable researchers and academics to build up an understanding of a research user's needs.

This is the first call for proposals and we anticipate making similar calls twice a year over the 5 years of initial funding for the Centre. For this Call, up to £93,000 of funding is available, subject to the quality of the proposals received.

In the rest of this Call Document we outline the types of proposal we seek in more detail, the assessment criteria and application process.

Escalator Fund

The Centre will offer seedcorn funding through an innovative three-stage sustainability supporting **Escalator Fund** that encourages beneficiaries to return to it for additional funding over time. The Fund's three tiers are:

- *Pilot* (to create or trial a promising impact-driving idea) – Up to £5K,
- *Escalate* (to further develop the idea) – Up to £10K, and
- *Impact* (to provide funds for a well-developed idea to be articulated in a way that optimises the delivery of impact) – Up to £15K.

Impact ideas will combine digital innovations and insights from social, medical, economic, legal, historic and other perspectives leading to case-studies, proofs of concept, toolkits and platforms that will be “open source” to stimulate novel products, services, laws and policies.

Proposals must be co-created with one or more research users, drawn from our user partners or another external stakeholder identified by the proposers. Proposals should show how these non-academic partners will actively support the work (through in-kind contributions such as time or equipment, or directly).

Proposers are encouraged to work, where appropriate, with other researchers in one of the other 5 [DE Centres](#) in the UK (or equivalent).

Proposers can request funds for travel and subsistence; and, materials and equipment (where no piece of equipment should be valued at £10,000 or more).

The Centre employs two Post Doctoral Research Officers who have a strong background in digital economy working including the design and development of



prototypes; and, the facilitation of user-centred prototyping and evaluation. Proposers can request a proportion of these researchers' time to assist in the project work. We anticipate allocating up to 80% of a FTE researcher per annum for this support work and proposers are encouraged to bid for up to 20% FTE in their applications, if needed.

DE Mobility Fellowships

The Centre seeks to establish and develop connections with leading research groups globally that are similarly engaged in digital economy innovation and impact work. The University already has strategic partners (e.g. Grenoble and Texas) but we will support visits to or from any group that can help in achieving the Centre objectives.

A contribution of up to £2,000 for Travel and Subsistence costs will be provided by the Centre. We anticipate making up to 10 Fellowships a year.

Strategic Secondment Fund

Secondments will follow the model of the pan-Wales Strategic Insight Programme and will enable researchers to spend dedicated time with research users to understand their needs and opportunities. Typically, these awards will enable proposers to further co-design ideas that may be funded by the Escalator Fund or other schemes.

A contribution of up to £2,000 for Travel and Subsistence costs will be provided by the Centre. We anticipate making up to 25 Secondment awards a year.

Application Process & Assessment

Applicants are encouraged to discuss their proposal with any of the [Centre Theme Leads](#) and [Centre Staff](#).

Support is also available from your Hub research team.

For this round, all applicants are to complete the proposal form via the website, [apply for funding](#).

Application forms will be made available on the CHERISH-DE website on 22nd January, the day of the official launch of the CHERISH-DE Centre



Deadlines: Escalator Fund : 4pm, Monday February 29th 2016,
Strategic Secondment Fund and Mobility Fellowships: Applications are rolling
and will be processed monthly.

The **Escalator Fund** proposals will be assessed by a panel consisting of members of the Centre's Steering Committee and external reviewers where necessary. Proposals will be ranked by the review committee and applications funded subject to the budget. Decisions will be communicated to proposers by email, within five days of a panel decision.

The **Strategic Secondment Awards and DE Mobility Fellowships** will be reviewed by the Centre once a month. Proposals that clearly address the assessment criteria will be funded and decisions communicated as soon as possible. This mode of assessment and award is designed to provide flexible engagement with research users.

All proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Quality of the work proposed
- Interdisciplinarity
- Fit with the objectives of the Centre (see above)
- Co-design and engagement with stakeholders (e.g. research partners, international group, other DE Centres or equivalent)
- Outcomes including plans for work beyond the funding
- Value for money

Engaging with Research Users

The CHERISH-DE website lists our founder Project Partners. Where researchers wish to discuss potential ideas with these partners, they are asked to liaise with the Centre's User Engagement Officer (cherish-de@swansea.ac.uk) in the first instance. A list of our partners is included at the end of this guidance.

Eligibility

Proposers must be academic or research staff at Swansea University and hold a post that will outlive the duration of the award. Research Officers/ Associates must have their application endorsed by their line manager to indicate that the project is aligned with the wider duties of their research projects and activities.

Award Spend and Reporting

All spending related to an award must be completed before 31st December 2016. Award holders will be asked to complete some brief reporting on the outcomes of the work by 30th January 2017.



CHERISH-DE Project Partners

Our partners all contribute to the development of the centre's research themes and have established collaborations with Swansea University. They are committing significant resource to support the development and implementation of the Centre, offering researchers:

- Training and development
- Access to facilities
- Hosting secondments
- Staff time
- Co-funding research
- Proof –of-concept activity

Partner List

Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board

Accelero

BBC Research & Development

Blurrt

City and County of Swansea

DVLA

FRAM3

GPC

Grŵp Gwalia

IBM Research (India)

Leadin

Microsoft (India)

Microsoft Research Ltd (UK)

Protect 2020

South Wales Police Cyber Crime Unit

Symconnect

TechHub

WePredict