

Digit Maria Jahoda Visiting Fellowship – Cohort 2021

Guidance for Applicants

About Digit

The Digital Futures at Work Research Centre (Digit) aims to advance our understanding of how digital technologies are reshaping work, impacting on employers, employees, job seekers and governments. It is jointly led by the [University of Sussex Business School](#) and the [Leeds University Business School](#) with partners from [Aberdeen](#), [Cambridge](#), [Manchester](#) and [Monash Universities](#). The Digit centre has been established with an investment from the [Economic and Social Research Council](#) (ESRC) equivalent to £8m for the period between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2024.

Digit will provide theoretically informed, empirically evidenced and policy relevant analysis of the benefits, risks and challenges for companies operating in the UK and abroad. It is intended that this analysis will draw on international, interdisciplinary and innovative mixed methods approaches. Digit aims to provide a compelling empirical base that will allow policy makers to move beyond current levels of speculation, while contributing intellectually with empirical evidence to contemporary debates on the future of work.

Maria Jahoda Visiting Fellowship

These visiting fellowships commemorate the ground-breaking work of the social psychologist Marie Jahoda (1907-2001), an emeritus Professor at the University of Sussex Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU). Her research focused on social and technological forecasting and the social psychological consequences of prolonged unemployment.

The purpose of the Marie Jahoda Visiting Fellowship (MJVF) is to expand the opportunities for research on digital futures at work that advance the Digit research objectives. This will be done by enabling synergies between Fellows and members of Digit by encouraging co-production of research.

The Marie Jahoda Visiting Fellowships will be a chance for applicants (academic or non-academic) to connect with and engage in the Digit Research Centre. Cohort 2021 will consist of 6 Fellows (we anticipate) and it is envisaged this will be wholly virtual given the current global situation - although, should things change, we will reassess whether physical 'visits' would be possible. A Digit partner will connect the Fellow to Digit and assist in arranging workshops, meetings etc.

What is involved

Fellows will conduct research that is of interest to them and which contributes to digital futures at work. The Fellow will be affiliated with the Digit centre (meetings, collaborations, etc.) during their Fellowship and will have associated privileges. The collaboration will be created between the Fellow and the Digit partner, and the rest of the Digit Research Centre. Fellows will be invited to participate in activities related to relevant Research Theme(s) and other Centre activities. We expect that there will be tangible outputs e.g. presentation(s), journal paper submissions or other publications (e.g. policy briefings) co-authored with Digit members, or joint grant submissions.

Benefits

The benefits to the Fellows will include access to the research and networks of Digit and associated members. Each Fellow will be hosted by one of the institutions of Digit (Sussex or Leeds) and will have a certain level of privileges and access to resources at the institution. Mid- and early career researchers are welcome to participate in our very active programme that supports early stage researchers. Fellows will also

have access to our internal training sessions. Fellows will be able to contribute to our Working Paper series, and Digit will promote any resulting work and outputs of Fellows.

Requirements

- We are inviting applications from those interested and working in the area of digital futures at work.
- The Fellowship will be until the end of 2021, in the first instance.
- Applicants should propose research on a social science-focused topic, though it can be interdisciplinary.
- Should the Fellowship result in data, papers, or other outputs, we would generally expect those to be jointly published with Digit members.
- Outputs will be made available on the Digit website and/or the Digit Data Observatory.
- Fellows will need to adhere to data protection and [GDPR](#) guidelines.
- Fellows will need to adhere to the UKRI's guidelines and procedures on research integrity, according to the UKRI's [Policy and Guidelines on the Governance of Good Research Conduct](#), as well as your institutions – and the [ESRC's](#) - ethics policies and procedures
- Fellows will remain in their current role / employment; we would nominally expect 10-12 days of time on the named collaborative research project.
- We ask successful applicants to be willing to participate in Digit future (post 2021) events or meetings, particularly for the purpose of sharing experience and building capacity.
- The information and application of those who are successful may be shared with relevant organisations, e.g. ESRC.
- If accepted, you will likely have another short application to the host institution (either Sussex or Leeds) to enable you to have access to resources at that institution.

Funding

Funding bursaries would normally be allocated for travel and accommodation, but as we anticipate that this is an online, virtual Fellowship in 2021, funding will only be available for research costs at this point.

A small bursary of up to £3,000 will be available. It is not the intention for this funding to pay for the time of Fellows, but to cover basic research and/or engagement expenses (see below for details). Bursaries will be awarded on a 100% full economic cost (fEC) basis.

Application guidelines and requirements

There are three parts of the application:

1. Application Form
2. Research Plan
3. 2-page CV

The research plan, of maximum 2 pages, should cover:

- **Current research activities:** If applicable, please cover your current area of research in the field of digital futures at work, with brief reference to relevant papers, talks, etc.
- **Proposed research:** We are not prescriptive about the area or topic of research. We are particularly looking to understand 'real world' problems and how we can co-develop research to address those problems.

- **Collaboration with Digit:** Please indicate your intentions for collaboration with Digit, the [Digit person\(s\)](#) you would anticipate working closely with (if applicable), and the anticipated benefits to yourself and to Digit.
- **Expected engagement plan and outputs:** Please describe how you would suggest communicating the research, linking it in with your networks (or Digit networks). Please also include any outputs, such as papers, talks, policy briefings, that would you aim to co-produce with Digit.
- **Budget (maximum £3,000) and justification:** Any proposed budget needs to be itemised and justified in the application. Outline as closely as possible what you your budget in relation to your proposed research. It is not the intention for this funding to pay for the time of Fellows. Eligible items include e.g. transcription, translation, research assistants, research-related travel, access to datasets, publication costs, etc. For applicants from government bodies in the UK, only research-related travel and subsistence are eligible.

Please include a current curriculum vitae (CV) of no more than 2 pages.

Please create one .pdf document of all 3 parts of the application.

Assessment of the Marie Jahoda Visiting Fellowship applications

Applications will be assessed according to the evaluation criteria of the project proposal as such:

1. Alignment of the proposed research to the Digit research centre
2. The benefit of the proposed research and plan for engagement
3. Track record of the applicant

Applications will be reviewed and assessed by the Digit Co-Directors and other members of Digit.

The application process aims to ensure maximum equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI). This will be done by 1) requiring assessors to ensure their EDI training is up-to-date 2) adhering to the evaluation criteria and 3) by challenging each other on any signs of unconscious bias in the assessment procedure. Reviewers will be required to follow [University of Sussex Equality & Diversity policy](#) by ensuring that applicants are assessed solely against the guidelines, and not according to “age, disability, gender reassignment or trans identity, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, trade union membership or non-membership, socio-economic background, or any other inappropriate distinction”

Key dates

- Call issued: Friday, 27 November 2020
- Application closing date: Friday, 5 February 2021 by 17:00 (GMT)¹
- Assessment panel meeting: 12 February 2021
- Decision to applicants anticipated: in week commencing 15 February 2021
- End date of Fellowship: 31 December 2021

For further information and to apply

Please contact digit@sussex.ac.uk for any information or questions.

Please email the application form, research plan and CV in *one* .pdf document to digit@sussex.ac.uk by the closing date: Friday, 5 February 2021 at 5pm (GMT).

Updated 6 January 2021

¹ This has been extended from 22 January, as originally stated.