Digit Innovation Fund Information

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Co-Directors of Digit
About Digit

Our ESRC-funded research aims to increase understanding of how digital technologies are changing work and the implications for employers, workers, job seekers and governments.
Research Themes

1. The impact of digitalisation on work and employment
2. Employers’ digital practices at work survey
3. Employers’ and employees’ experiences of digital work across sectors
4. Reconnecting the disconnected: new channels of voice and representation
Digit Innovation Fund supports:

- Theoretical work, methodological innovation and emerging empirical developments.
- Comparative research
- Applications which develop and sustain strong partnerships with external partners in the private, third and public sectors.
- Innovative co-production of knowledge between academics and non-academic partners.
- In Round 4, we are particularly interested to receive applications that incorporate plans to engage with stakeholders. This could include policy forums, roundtables, or other creative ways to engage those working in business, third sector and policy. Proposals may focus on businesses and / or business needs (Digit Research Themes 2 and 3), current UK policy development (all Research Themes) and third sector organisations, particularly those focusing on inequalities and the disconnected (Digit Research Theme 4).
Aims of the Innovation Fund

• Pump-prime new projects - complement the core research programme.

• Open to the wider academic community across the UK (though partners may be based elsewhere).

• This is the last of four rounds

• Projects must be costed at 100% full economic cost (fEC) and will normally be funded at 80% fEC, according to UKRI guidelines.

• Funding in Round 4 is available for projects which cost between £10,000 to £50,000 fEC. Projects to last up to one year.
Guide for Applicants

See details in the guide for applicants on the web site

https://digit-research.org/innovation-fund/
Application

• Simple form, not Je-S
• Project Details (PI/ summary)
• Team (add 2 page CVs)
• Proposal (aims/ research design and methods/ project management/ collaborators/ deliverables and impact)
• Ethics
• Data Management Plan
• Budget
• Supporting statement
Application (pointers)

• Clarity
• Stick to word limits
• Focus (get to the point)
• Make relevance to Digit research objectives explicit (added value)
• Social science focused (mainly)
• Think about data plan and impact
• Read guidance and eligibility criteria carefully
Assessment

Two step process: peer review + panel evaluation

1. Aims, objectives, project rationale & fit with Digit centre
2. Research design & methods
3. Deliverables & impact
4. Appropriate expertise of project team & project management
5. Value for money
Closing date

• Email all applications and attachments in one .pdf document to digit@sussex.ac.uk by the closing date:

• Wednesday, 30 August 2023 at 5pm (BST).
Next steps, if successful:

- Decisions to applicants: mid-late October
- Award Letter issued
- Project start date: by 1 December 2022
- Over course of project:
  - Participation in Digit activities
  - Invitation to present ideas & progress & discussions with Digit community
- Project end date: 30 Sept 2024
Further information

Please view our FAQs

Or contact:
Megan McMichael, Centre Manager, (m.mcmichael@sussex.ac.uk) and cc: digit@sussex.ac.uk.