



**MALAYSIAN COMMUNICATIONS AND MULTIMEDIA COMMISSION**

**DSRG**  
DIGITAL SOCIETY RESEARCH GRANT

**2022 CALL FOR PROPOSALS, CYCLE 1**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)**

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## A. ABOUT DSRG

### 1. What is the Digital Society Research Grant ("DSRG")?

The DSRG was first launched on 3 July 2020 to grow broader evidence-based research studies with a shorter time frame bearing current data. The value of each grant is limited to a maximum of Malaysian Ringgit ten thousand (RM10,000) for research activities no longer than six (6) months.

### 2. What is the objective of the DSRG?

This grant aims to contribute to the evidence base necessary for the nation to optimise on the advancements made in communications infrastructure and service deployment. Research under the DSRG takes cognisance that beyond deployment of technology and services. There is a need to address the human and social factors and understand the implication of technology and services, the factors enabling user adoption, and impact of MCMC and national initiatives towards the realisation of a Digitally Connected and Informed Society (Digital Society).

## B. APPLICATION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

### 3. Who is eligible to apply?

The grant is open to full-time academics and researchers in the school of communications, social sciences, humanities or related fields of private and public institutions of higher learning ("IHLs"). Each proposal must have a Lead Researcher, subjected to the general terms and conditions for granting. Please refer to section 2.1 of the CFP guidelines for details.

### 4. I am a PhD student. Can I apply for DSRG as the Lead Researcher?

No, the Lead Researcher must already have a PhD to be eligible. However, you may be named as a Co-Researcher for the project.

### 5. When can I apply?

Applications may be submitted at any time from 01 March 2022 until 31 March 2022 at 5:00 pm.

### 6. How to submit my application?

The electronic copy of the proposal and other documents should be emailed to the Secretariat with '**DSRG 1/2022 SUBMISSION**' in the subject line and addressed to [dsrg@mcmc.gov.my](mailto:dsrg@mcmc.gov.my). Hardcopies are not required.

### 7. Can I submit the application directly, or do I need to go through my university?

Researchers may submit directly to us. However, if the university requires, we allow the researchers to submit through their respective universities.

**8. I have an existing grant and would like to apply for a supplemental grant. Am I eligible?**

No, the MCMC will not consider supplementing existing grants.

**9. I was unsuccessful in the previous round. Are re-submissions accepted?**

Yes, re-submission of the same proposal may be made, however, the applicant is strongly encouraged to re-apply with a revised or improved proposal according to the priority focus areas and as long as they meet the eligibility criteria and requirements of the current Call.

**10. I missed the submission deadline. Can I still submit my proposal?**

Any submissions submitted after the closing date will not be considered.

**11. How would I know if the Secretariat has received my application?**

An acknowledgement receipt will be sent once the Secretariat has received the proposal. Those who have submitted the proposals and have NOT received any email confirmation within a week should contact the Secretariat by emailing [dsrg@mcmc.gov.my](mailto:dsrg@mcmc.gov.my).

**C. QUALIFICATION, LEAD RESEARCHER AND RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS**

**12. Are the research team members' curriculum vitae ("CV") required?**

Yes, the CVs of all research team members is an important element of the submission requirement.

**13. Do I need to submit my PhD certificate?**

Yes, you only need to submit a verified copy of your PhD certificate. Other academic qualification certificates (e.g. Master's degree) are not necessary.

**14. Are the team members required to submit their academic qualifications?**

Yes, they only need to submit a verified copy of their highest academic qualification certificates.

**15. Who can verify my academic qualifications?**

Solicitor, commissioner for declarations, government official, public notary or university staff (head of department/faculty, dean, registrar or other authorised persons).

**16. What if the Lead Researcher does not have expertise in the proposed focus area of the study, but the team members do?**

The role of the Lead Researcher is to provide strategic direction to the research project and liaise with MCMC. Thus, it is recommended that the Lead Researcher has the expertise, skills and knowledge in the proposed area of research.

**17. Is the Lead Researcher required to be attached to IHLs?**

Yes, however, research team members in professions other than academia are allowed to be part of the research team to complement the expertise and with the expectation that the product of the research will contribute to the broader body of knowledge on the topic specified.

## **D. RESEARCH PROPOSAL**

**18. Can I submit the proposal in Bahasa Melayu?**

Yes, proposals in Bahasa Melayu are accepted.

**19. Can I submit more than one (1) proposal?**

Yes, you can submit more than one (1) proposal. However, researchers can only submit one (1) proposal as the Lead Researcher, and each researcher can act no more than twice as an applicant.

**20. Is it advisable to include preliminary data?**

We do not have specific guidelines on this. We recommend adding it only if the proposer thinks it will strengthen the proposal.

**21. Would I be requested to present my proposal to the Technical Panel? How will I know if my proposal has been shortlisted?**

MCMC may request the shortlisted proposals to be presented to the Technical Panel. Only shortlisted submissions will be contacted for this purpose.

**22. Is there a required format for the research proposal?**

Yes, it is available in the application form. Applicants are required to send their proposals in both pdf. and word.doc. format.

**23. Do I need to attach the full proposal with the proposal application form?**

The full proposal is part of the Proposal Submission Form. You are not required to attach a separate document.

**24. Do I need to get approval from ethics committee and attach the supporting documents with the grant application?**

The researcher(s) are not required to obtain approval from the ethics committee at the proposal stage. The researcher(s) only need to indicate that they take note of the ethical requirements for their projects.

**25. When will the project start?**

The project must commence within two weeks of the date of the signing of the Letter of Award ("LOA") and stamping of the same. For 2022 Cycle 1, the project is expected to commence tentatively in June.

**E. RESEARCH TITLE/FOCUS AREAS**

**26. What are the research focus areas?**

The research focus areas are 1) Digital Citizenship and Cyberwellness and 2) Digital Inclusion. Please refer to section 1.4 and Appendix 1 of the 2022 DSRG Application Guide for details.

**27. Do I need to follow the given research title strictly? Can I refine it as long as it is still aligned with the research title?**

For proposals under the open research category, researcher(s) are requested to be guided by the suggested research titles. However, candidates may amend the original titles to clarify the requested research aims and objectives better. Where necessary, the titles may also be refined to limit the scope of the study to reflect improved feasibility of the research project and alignment to MCMC research requirements.

**28. Should a proposal address all of the given research objectives for guided research? Or can I select the research objectives?**

As advised during the information session, the researcher(s) are requested to address all the research objectives. However, researcher(s) are given the flexibility to select to limit, modify, and, if necessary, to drop research objectives provided. However, the research objectives are identified according to MCMC knowledge requirements, and all proposals will be evaluated on their relative merits and alignment to MCMC requirements.

**29. What is the difference between open research and guided research?**

Projects classified as guided research are accompanied by various research themes for which MCMC has a general interest in understanding and sharing with identified stakeholders. Under the open research category, researcher(s) may propose a suitable research title related to the general research area suggested.

**30. Please confirm that researcher(s) are given the autonomy to determine research design and methodology.**

Yes, researcher(s) may propose a suitable research design incorporating a proposed theoretical/conceptual framework, methodology and research instruments to address research aims and objectives that is feasible within the financial limits and identified research duration for the given research area or title.

**31. Does the researcher(s) have to address all the identified stakeholders?**

Where possible, yes. However, to ensure feasibility of the proposed study, researchers may include the basis for highlighting and selecting specific groups and the rationale for excluding others. This basis will be considered during the evaluation process and in evaluating the proposal on its relative merits with other proposals received.

**32. Do I have to follow any specific focus regarding potential respondents of the research?**

Where a specific respondent group has been exclusively identified for the research, proposals must specifically address this respondent group.

## **F. TECHNICAL MEMBERS AND EVALUATION**

**33. Who are the Technical Panel members?**

The Technical Panel is a select panel of specialists and experts from academia and industry responsible for evaluating and selecting the award of DSRG. MCMC chairs this panel.

## **G. OTHERS**

**34. What are the deliverables required?**

The main deliverables are the Interim Report, Research Report and Manuscript. For other supporting deliverables, details can be referred to in Section 3 of the 2022 DSRG Application Guide.

**35. Does MCMC have the requirement for publication?**

Yes, we encourage the researchers to publish papers in peer-reviewed journals.

**36. Do we need to hire proofreader for our research report?**

Yes, MCMC encourages the researchers to hire a proofreader to ensure the consistency and quality of the write-up in the report.

## H. CONTACT DETAILS

**37. Is the applicant allowed to contact the research sponsor during the proposal preparation?**

Yes, you may contact the Secretariat at [dsrg@mcmc.gov.my](mailto:dsrg@mcmc.gov.my) to obtain the contact details of the research sponsor.

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