

DIGITAL SOCIETY RESEARCH GRANT 2020: CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Frequently Asked Questions

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

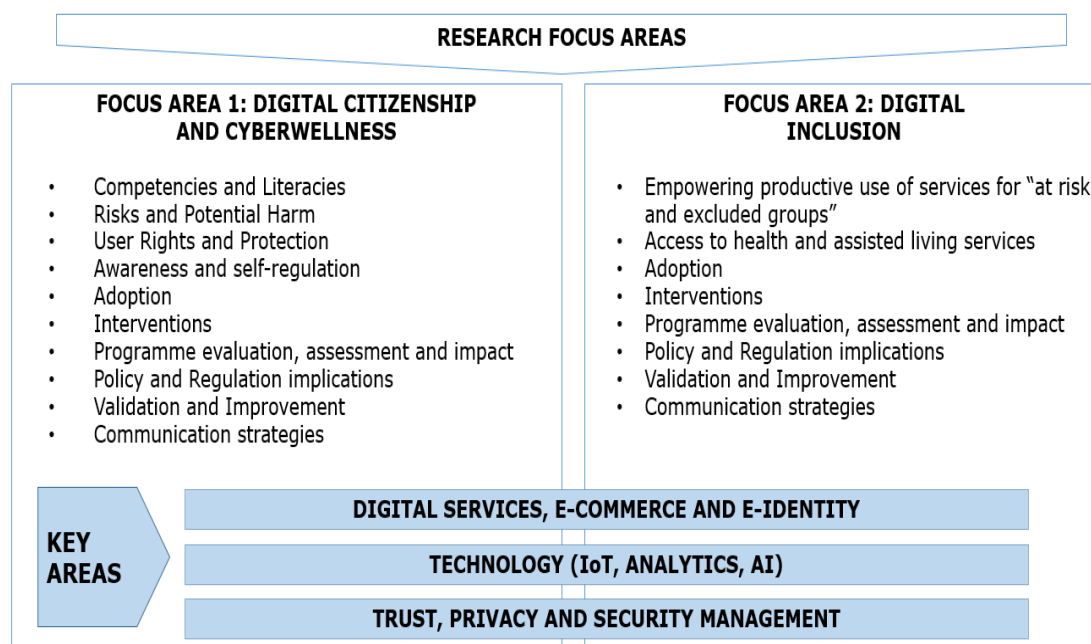
A MCMC initiative that funds research to researchers and academics at public and private universities across the country within a faster time frame from studies of a duration of no more than six months with the value of each grant offered is up to RM10,000. The grant is offered from July to December this year and the total allocation for 2020 is RM150,000.00.

2. What is the objective of the DSRG?

The objective of this grant is to contribute to the evidence base that is necessary for the nation to optimize on the advancements made in the deployment of communications infrastructure and service. This will in turn inform policy, programmes and interventions aimed at promoting the inclusion and participation of all segments of the population as the nation transitions towards being a fully digitally connected and informed society.

3. What are the research focus areas for the grants?

The research focus areas are Digital Citizenship and Cyberwellness and Digital Inclusion. Please refer to section 1.3 of the CFP guidelines for details:



4. Who is eligible to apply?

The grant is open to full-time academic faculty in schools of communications, social sciences, humanities or related fields of private and public institutions of higher learning (IHLs). Each proposal must have a lead applicant who will be subject to the general terms and conditions for granting. Please refer to section 2.1 of the CFP guidelines for details.

- 5. When I can apply?**

Applications may be submitted at any time from 3 July 2020 for as long as the grant remains open.
- 6. What can I apply for?**

You may apply for research grants for up to RM10,000, and as long as the suggested topic falls within the broad focus areas of the Call for Proposal. Research awards can be made for a period of up to six months.
- 7. 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, but reserve the right to reject an application that do not meet the requirements.
- 8. Who are the Technical Panel members?**

The Technical Panel is made up of approximately 5 members comprising subject specialists and its chaired by MCMC.
- 9. Would I requested to present my proposal to the Technical Panel? Would that mean that my proposal has been shortlisted?**

No, it does not. The MCMC may request for a presentation to better evaluate the proposal.
- 10. I was unsuccessful in applying in a previous round. Are re-submissions accepted?**

Yes, re-submission of the same proposal may be made, however, applicant is strongly encouraged to re-apply with a revised or different proposal according to the priority focus areas and so long as they meet the eligibility criteria.
- 11. I am not sure whether to list someone as a co-researcher or other participant. What is the difference?**

The grant requires a researcher to be the designated Lead Researcher for the project. A collaborative partner may be a co-researcher from the same institution or another institution and actively associated with the project.
- 12. Can funds be re-budgeted between budget categories?**

Yes, this may be done without the necessity of obtaining the prior written permission of the MCMC. However, the transfer of budget between heads of expenditure which, in respect of a particular head of expenditure, cannot exceed the amount of grant given according to the project costing. The researcher is expected to manage the fund effectively to ensure that the project is completed as per their proposal and in accordance to the terms and conditions of the award.

- 13. 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 give additional strength to the proposal.
- 14. How will I know if my application has been successful?**
An evaluation will be conducted at the close of every submission cycle which is at the end of every second month, namely, at the end of August, October and December for 2020. Applicants will be notified within 2 weeks of the close of the submission cycle.
- 15. How long does it take to implement the Letter of Award?**
The average time taken for the finalisation of documentation until disbursement is two weeks. The time taken will be largely determined by the speed with which all parties respond. The lead researcher may be asked to liaise with the relevant parties to expedite the process if necessary.
- 16. Is the award transferable?**
No, the award is none-transferable.
- 17. What happens if at the end of my project tenure, the funds have not been fully utilised? Is it possible to extend the Letter of Award?**
No, the Letter of Award cannot be extended if the project has been completed. All unutilised funds are to be returned to the MCMC and formal research and financial reports have to be submitted. The reporting responsibilities are explained under the Project Implementation and Monitoring section of the Guide.