The Digital Policy Hub

Centre for International
Governance Innovation

About the Program

The new Digital Policy Hub at the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) will host a diverse group of emerging, innovative thinkers from the social and natural sciences, providing opportunities for them to further develop their own research, analytical and policy skills. The Hub, in partnership with universities, governments and the private sector, offers a highly collaborative space for undergraduate and graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and visiting fellows.

Launching in fall 2023, fellows will spend periods ranging from four months to two years in residence at the state-of-the-art CIGI Campus and remotely, linking to CIGI's existing network of more than 100 CIGI fellows from around the world. Participants will join common seminars and other activities that bring together innovative perspectives on research, provide an interface between research and policy, and advance career development. Full funding for fellowships available, please email us for more details.

Research Focus Areas and Approaches

Transformative technologies are rapidly reshaping our world. Many are widely known — although often not well understood — for example, new, hyper-connected social media platforms such as TikTok, mRNA vaccines, electric vehicles, blockchain, quantum computing and artificial intelligence large language models. In parallel, the digitization of almost everything has created a more interdependent, data-driven world.

While broad technological change is nothing new, many current developments are moving at an accelerated pace, on a global scale and with little or no coherent governance framework nationally or internationally. There is, therefore, a pressing need for transdisciplinary understanding on governance issues across the range of technologies and digitization.

The Hub's research focuses address this need, centring on digital ethics and rights frameworks that assist in identifying and mitigating the gaps between rapid technological disruption and diffusion, and the lack of governance frameworks at the national and international levels.

Core research areas include:

- Data, economy and society
- Artificial Intelligence
- Outer space
- The digitization of security and democracy
- The environment and natural resources

The Hub is founded on transdisciplinary approaches (i.e., research that cuts across disciplines and engages fellows with policy makers and industry professionals) that seek to increase understanding of the socio-economic and technological impacts of digitization, as a means to improve the quality and relevance of research. Such an approach also broadens the capacity of participants to conduct work across disciplines.

Eligibility and Application Information

- Canadian, permanent resident and international undergraduate students based at a Canadian academic institution are welcome to apply.
- Applications must be submitted through students' university co-op office.
- Candidates must provide a CV outlining their qualifications, a description of their proposed research and how it relates to the Hub's focus areas, in addition to two letters of support.
- **Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis with the aim to have cohorts begin in September 2023 and January 2024. (Alternative start dates may be negotiated.)**

About CIGI

CIGI is an independent, non-partisan think tank based in Waterloo, Ontario, whose research and analysis influence policy makers to innovate. Our global network of multidisciplinary researchers and strategic partnerships provide policy solutions for the digital era.

www.cigionline.org

Contact

For additional information or inquiries, please contact digitalhub@cigionline.org.

CIGI acknowledges that we live and work on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee peoples. CIGI is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes 10 km on each side of the Grand River.