



Digital Policy Hub

About the Program

The new Digital Policy Hub at the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) hosts a diverse group of emerging, innovative thinkers from the social, natural and applied 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, masters, doctoral, post-doctoral and visiting (professional) fellows.

Hub fellows will spend periods of up to 12 months linking to CIGI's existing network of more than 100 fellows and policy experts from around the world. Participants join common seminars and other activities that cut across research, analysis and policy, while advancing their career development. Full funding for academic fellowships is available; please see the program FAQ document for more information.

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 digitalization 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 and on a global scale, outpacing governance frameworks nationally and internationally. There is, therefore, a pressing need for transdisciplinary understanding of governance challenges and opportunities across a wide range of technologies.

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, as well as the lack of governance frameworks at the national and international levels.

Core research areas include:

- data, economy and society;
- artificial intelligence;
- outer space;
- digitalization, security and democracy; and
- the environment and natural resources.

The Hub is founded on a transdisciplinary approach (i.e., research that cuts across disciplines and connects fellows with policy makers and industry professionals) that seeks to increase our collective understanding of the socio-economic and technological impacts of digitalization. Such an approach also aims to improve the quality and relevance of research by broadening the capacity of participants to conduct work across disciplines.

Eligibility Requirements

- **Academic fellows — Enrollment at a Canadian post-secondary institution:**
 - Academic fellows are those applying at the undergraduate, masters, doctoral and/or post-doctoral levels.
 - Fellows must be able to demonstrate enrollment at a Canadian institution at the time of application and maintain their status as a current student at the institution for the full duration of the program. (This means, for example, that students in one-year master's programs are generally not able to demonstrate eligibility.)
 - We welcome post-doctoral applicants, including recent Ph.D. graduates. To be eligible, candidates must have completed their Ph.D. at a Canadian institution within the past four years and have current post-doctoral status at a Canadian academic institution at the time of the application and for the duration of the program. The candidate must have documentation verifying existing and official post-doctoral status to access funding via their university.
 - At the discretion of the program, Ph.D. students who successfully defend their dissertation during the fellowship may be able to transfer to post-doctoral fellowship status if ample notice is given and they continue on to a post-doctoral position with the same academic supervisor and academic institution.
 - Canadian citizens, permanent residents and international students with a valid visa allowing them to work in Canada are eligible to apply.
 - In addition to the requirements set by CIGI above, academic fellows must meet eligibility criteria for the [Mitacs Accelerate program](#).
- **Supervisors:** Students and post-doctoral applicants must have a supervisor at their academic institution who is willing to supervise them on their proposed project. They must also support their participation in the Hub, act as an applicant and signatory on the funding application, and hold and administer the funding at the academic institution. The supervisor must be eligible to hold a research account at their institution (for example, Tri-Council funding such as NSERC or SSHRC).
- **Disciplines:** All academic disciplines will be considered. The Hub cultivates disciplinary diversity in the cohort.
- **Visiting fellows — Government and private sector professionals:** Government practitioners and private sector professionals from within Canada are encouraged to apply and will serve as unfunded visiting fellows.
- **Location:** The Hub fellow must be based within Canada, and a mix of in-person, hybrid and remote participation is possible to facilitate geographic diversity in the cohort. As there are benefits to in-person participation such as shared office space and meeting the cohort face to face, we strongly urge fellows within commuting distance to attend seminars and events onsite. All fellows will be required to travel to the CIGI Campus in Waterloo, Ontario, to participate in the end-of-term research conferences.
- **Applicants based at an academic institution abroad, please note:** At this time, funding only allows for applicants based in Canada and registered at a Canadian academic institution. CIGI is not able to sponsor participants for legal status in Canada.
- **How to Apply:** Intake dates and application instructions can be found on the Digital Policy Hub website: www.cigionline.org/digital-policy-hub/.

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. Learn more at www.cigionline.org.

Contact

For additional information or inquiries, please contact the Digital Policy Hub team at digitalhubinquiries@cigionline.org.