



CHERISH-DE Centre
***Challenging Human Environments Transformed by Digital Economy
Thinking***

4th Call for Funding Proposals

Deadline: 4pm, Monday, 6th November 2017

Applications open 27th September 2017

Overview

The CHERISH DE Centre is one of six national Digital Economy Centres funded by EPSRC and a range of project partners for a five-year period until 2020.

The Swansea centre targets challenging human environments ranging from health care, deprived regions to security contexts.

All of our work is interdisciplinary in recognition that difficult social and economic challenges can be best tackled through the combined insights from arts and humanities, STEM, medical and social sciences.

CHERISH has three objectives:

- 1. Maximise impact of the unique Challenging Human Environment Digital Economy (DE) work grown within Swansea;**
- 2. Act as a beacon for an innovative impact-led way of working; and,**
- 3. Develop a generation of ambassadors who will be the sustaining dynamic of DE working.**

We are currently seeking interdisciplinary proposals that will lead impact within three broad areas of the Digital Economy:

- [Health and Social Care;](#)
- [Resource Constrained Communities;](#)
- and, [Safety and Security.](#)

Proposals can be in one or more of these broad areas. Where the proposal has a focus on one area only, applicants must demonstrate how their work can also inform one or more of the other two themes.



For example:

- **A project that considers the fast paced interactions in a hospital setting (Health and Social Care) might inform broader human-security system interactions (Safety and Security) and vice versa; and,**
- **A study that looks at shared mobile devices (Resource Constrained Communities) might lead to insights into identity management (Safety and Security)**

This is the fourth call for proposals. For this Call, a total of £80,000 of funding is available. The funding is split across two modes:

- **Focused mode (£50,000),**
- **Open mode (£30,000).**

Escalator Fund

In this call cycle we are inviting proposals to our Escalator Fund, in focused and open modes.

CHERISH DE offers seedcorn funding through an **Escalator Fund** that encourages beneficiaries to return to it for additional funding over time. The fund's three tiers are:

- *Pilot* (to create or trial a promising impact-driving idea) – Up to £5K,
- *Escalate* (to further develop the idea) – Up to £10K, and
- *Impact* (to provide funds for a well-developed idea to be articulated in a way that optimises the delivery of impact) – Up to £15K.

Impact ideas will combine digital innovations and insights from social, medical, economic, legal, historic and other perspectives leading to case-studies, proofs of concept, toolkits and platforms that will be “open source” to stimulate novel products, services, laws and policies.

1. Focused mode

We live, and will increasingly live, in a world of the “internet of things”, “big data” and “artificial intelligence”. The CHERISH Centre works to shape and understand such technologies by focusing on not “things” but “people” and not “big” but the precious smallness of human life.



We are seeking proposals that take one or more of the following emergent technology areas and innovate to create a novel form of device, platform or service. The work should aim at enhancing well-being and health; making people safer and more secure; or, tackling inequalities of access to digital content and services:

- Internet of Things
- Speech and conversational systems
- Big Data
- Autonomous vehicles
- Robotics
- Augmented, Virtual or Mixed Reality

In this call the platforms, devices or services prototyped and evaluated should be ones that are **directly** used by individuals or groups in their everyday experience of life. It is a requirement then that proposals in this mode should result in a system or service that can act as a demonstrator others can learn from and built upon.

We would expect that each proposal would combine computational expertise with one or more disciplines. Strong proposals will demonstrate clear cross-disciplinarity – that is, where there is a plan to reshape and challenge ways of working and concepts across the disciplines involved.

As with the open call, all proposals should involve one or more external stakeholders who should be involved in the co-design of the proposal and fully involved in the work itself.

We expect many of the focused call proposals to be pitched at the Escalate and Impact level of funding.

2. Open mode

Open mode allows for those submitting proposals based on research that meets the objectives of CHERISH, that is interdisciplinary and that centres around digital innovation.

General information

Proposals **must** be co-created with one or more research users, drawn from our user partners or another external stakeholder identified by the proposers.



Proposals should show how these non-academic partners will actively support the work (through in-kind contributions such as time or equipment, or directly). Partners may not receive any funding.

Proposers are encouraged to work, where appropriate, with other researchers in one of the other 5 [DE Centres](#) in the UK (or equivalent globally).

Proposers can request funds for travel and subsistence; and, materials and equipment (where no piece of equipment should be valued at £10,000 or more).

The Centre employs two Post Doctoral Research Officers who have a strong background in digital economy working including the design and development of prototypes; and, the facilitation of user-centred prototyping and evaluation. Proposers can request a proportion of these researchers' time to assist in the project work. We anticipate allocating up to 80% of a FTE researcher per annum for this support work and proposers are encouraged to bid for up to 20% FTE in their applications, if needed.

Application Process & Assessment

Applicants are encouraged to discuss their proposal with any of the [Centre Theme Leads](#) and [Centre Staff](#).

Support is also available from your Hub research team.

All applicants are to complete the proposal form **and** application document.

Focused Call

[Application document](#)

[Online project form](#)

Open Call

[Application document](#)

[Online project form](#)



Deadlines: Escalator Fund : 4pm, 6th November 2017

Escalator Fund proposals will be assessed by a panel consisting of members of the Centre's Steering Committee and external reviewers where necessary. Proposals will be ranked by the review committee and applications funded subject to the budget. Decisions will be communicated to proposers by email, within five days of a panel decision.

All proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Quality of the work proposed
- Interdisciplinarity
- Fit with the objectives of the Centre (see above)
- Co-design and engagement with stakeholders (e.g. research partners, international group, other DE Centres or equivalent)
- Outcomes including plans for work beyond the funding
- Value for money

Engaging with Research Users

The CHERISH-DE website lists our founder Project Partners. Where researchers wish to discuss potential ideas with these partners, they are asked to liaise with the Centre's User Engagement Officer (cherish-de@swansea.ac.uk) in the first instance. A list of our partners is included at the end of this guidance.

Eligibility

Proposers must be academic or research staff at Swansea University and hold a post that will outlive the duration of the award. Research Officers/ Associates must have their application endorsed by their line manager to indicate that the project is aligned with the wider duties of their research projects and activities.

Award Spend and Reporting

All spending related to an award must be completed before 31st December 2018. Award holders will be asked to complete some brief reporting on the outcomes of the work by 30th January 2019.

CHERISH-DE Project Partners

Our founding partners all contribute to the development of the centre's research themes and have established collaborations with Swansea University. They are committing significant resource to support the development and implementation of the Centre, offering researchers:



- Training and development
- Access to facilities
- Hosting secondments
- Staff time
- Co-funding research
- Proof –of-concept activity

Partner List

Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board

Accelero

BBC Research & Development

Blurr

City and County of Swansea

DVLA

FRAM3

GPC

Grŵp Gwalia

IBM Research (India)

Leadin

Microsoft (India)

Microsoft Research Ltd (UK)

Protect 2020

South Wales Police Cyber Crime Unit

Symconnect

TechHub

WePredict