Call for Applications

The funding program is continuous. The program committee meets three times a year to decide which applications to fund. These are the dates for the next selections:

If you submit your application by **31 December 2019**, you can expect a decision by the end of May 2020.

If you submit your application by **8 May 2020**, you can expect a decision by the end of September 2020.

If you submit your application by **30 August 2020**, you can expect a decision by the end of January 2021.

The Center for Advanced Internet Studies (CAIS) invites excellent scholars and professionals with practice-based expertise to Bochum to pursue individual and collaborative projects on digitalization- and internet-related topics. It aims to actively contribute to the public discussion on the social, political and economic changes that are caused by the impact of digitalization. The exchange between academia and society is a main objective of the center.

CAIS offers three programs:

- **Fellowships** for scholars and practitioners who spend between one and six months at the center to work individually or with others on a project
- **Working Groups** of two to twelve members who wish to make use of the resources of the center to meet for up to two weeks at a time
- **Events** such as conferences, workshops, seminars or summer schools which take place in Bochum

These programs can be combined with each other. If you wish to do that, please contact the program manager before applying.

CAIS supports experts of all professional backgrounds and career stages. Therefore, persons without an academic degree are also invited to apply, if they can demonstrate a special expertise in the research topics of the center and are highly distinguished within their peer group.

Research at CAIS

CAIS is a place of innovative and interdisciplinary research and a forum for the exchange of ideas between academia and society. Researchers from a diverse range of disciplines as well as practitioners can carry out individual or joint projects in the vast field of digitalization and internet research. Modern infrastructure and ample opportunities for knowledge exchange and networking provide an ideal working environment. The three programs at CAIS – fellowships, working groups and events – make it possible to tailor any stay to the requirements of the project and the participants – from a two-day workshop to a six-month fellowship with an international conference. The framework for the projects is provided by the research agenda of CAIS.

The CAIS Community

For the duration of their program at CAIS, fellows and guests work in Bochum and are free to pursue autonomous research and collaborative exchange according to their own priorities. They are part of a community that serves academic cooperation and social interaction. With their flexible office space and group rooms the facilities provide for diverse forms of cooperation. A lounge with a tea kitchen can be used for relaxed get-togethers. Once a week fellows and guests are invited for dinner.

Dialogue with the Public

The center hosts several public events to which fellows and guests at CAIS are expected to contribute. The creative use of various formats of knowledge communication shapes the profile of the center. These include web-based information, personal meetings and shared activities with practice partners, public lectures and participation in citizens' forums, discussions and workshops in the town and the surrounding region. Fellows present their work in weekly colloquia to discuss it with other fellows and guests. At the end of their stay, fellows and guests write a report to inform a wider audience about the results of their work at the center.

Selection Process

Each application will be assessed by three reviewers. The evaluation criteria are:

- professional expertise and qualification
- relevance and topicality
- originality and innovative potential
- academic results
- practical results
- interdisciplinarity
- accordance with the CAIS-Agenda
- feasibility of the work plan

in the case of academic projects

  theories and methods

in the case of working groups and events

- expertise and qualification of other participants

Based on this assessment and under consideration of interdisciplinary balance, budget restrictions, office and accommodation capacities, the program committee will make its final decisions. The voting members of the program committee are the academic director, the program manager, the head of knowledge transfer and public relations, six distinguished scholars from the field of digitalization and internet studies as well as two professionals with practice-based expertise.

Fellowships

Scholars and practitioners can apply for the residential fellowship program to conduct studies and projects in their various fields. Fellowships are usually awarded to applicants working on individual projects. However, joint applications for collaborative projects are also possible. The duration of residency at CAIS is between one and six months.

Requirements

Fellowships are awarded to highly accomplished academics and practitioners. CAIS supports experts of all professional backgrounds and career stages. Therefore, persons without an academic degree are also invited to apply, if they can demonstrate a special expertise in the research topics of the center and are highly distinguished within their peer group. Master or PhD dissertations cannot be funded.

As a residential college CAIS actively supports the exchange between its fellows and guests. Fellows are expected to be present continuously to concentrate on their projects and participate in joint activities like colloquia and dinners. If fellows are employed, they should be exempted from their work duties for the duration of their fellowship.

CAIS supports the exchange between academia and practice and the public discourse on the process of digitalization. Therefore, the practical implications of academic projects and the academic benefits of practical projects should be stated clearly in the applications. Concepts for the exchange between academia and other realms of society will be considered positively in the selection process. In addition to this, fellows are expected to participate in the knowledge transfer activities organized by CAIS.

Funding and Facilities

Fellows at CAIS should ideally be on sabbatical from their home institution with a full salary. In that case, fellows will receive an additional grant of 600 euros per month from CAIS. Alternatively, financial compensation for the salary or costs of a substitute can be paid within reasonable limits. Fellows with no regular income will receive a grant of 1,843 euros per month. Fellows with a regular income below 1,243 euros will be given a grant that covers the difference to the full scholarship.

Fellows can apply for travel grants of up to 400 euros to participate in events where they present their CAIS projects. They can furthermore apply to invite a visiting fellow with whom they wish to collaborate for up to three weeks during their stay. CAIS will cover the travel and accommodation expenses for visiting fellows and pay them a daily allowance of 24 euros. Applications for the invitation of visiting fellows can be submitted with the main application or during the fellowship.

Fellows are provided with desks at CAIS and rent-free, fully equipped single apartments in the center of Bochum. In addition, CAIS will cover travel expenses for one return-trip to Bochum in accordance with the state regulations on the reimbursement of travel costs. If required, CAIS can also provide family accommodation for fellows arriving with underaged children or caretakers. Alternatively, CAIS can cover the costs of a daily commute if the fellow lives within 100 km from the center and does not require accommodation in Bochum.

Further costs will not be covered by CAIS. Expenses for health and liability insurance, moving or visa fees cannot be reimbursed.

Application Instructions

Please submit your application in electronic form (**one single PDF**) to application@cais.nrw. The application can be written in English or German and should not exceed 15 pages (excluding publication and application for the invitation of a visiting fellow). Applications should include:

1. [Fellowship Application Form](#)
2. Abstract of proposal (max. 300 words)
3. Outline of proposal
- subject and lines of research
- academic results
- practical results
- preliminary work
- work plan

in the case of academic projects
- theories and methods
- current state of research

4. Curriculum Vitae (max. two pages with no more than five publication references)
5. One relevant publication as a link or an appendix
6. Where applicable: informal application for the invitation of a visiting fellow (max. two pages plus CV)

Working Groups

The working group program is aimed at scholars and practitioners who wish to make use of the resources of CAIS to meet and collaborate. A working group consists of two to twelve members who spend from a couple of days to two weeks in Bochum. It is also possible to meet several times in the course of a six-month period.

Requirements

Applicants for working groups should be highly accomplished academics or practitioners. CAIS supports experts of all professional backgrounds and career stages. Therefore, persons without an academic degree are also invited to apply, if they can demonstrate a special expertise in the research topics of the center and are highly distinguished within their peer group.

CAIS supports the exchange between academia and practice and the public discourse on the process of digitalization. Therefore, the practical implications of academic projects and the academic benefits of practical projects should be stated clearly in the applications. Concepts for the exchange between academia and other realms of society will be considered positively in the selection process. In addition to this, organizers of working groups are expected to participate in the knowledge transfer activities organized by CAIS.

At the time of application, some of the invited experts must have confirmed their attendance.

Funding and Facilities

Funding for working groups is usually limited to 10,000 euros. Members of working groups receive a daily allowance of 24 euros during their stay at CAIS. Alternatively, catering can be arranged for groups of more than five people for up to three days. Working groups are provided with flexible workspaces at the center. In addition, CAIS will cover participants' hotel costs and travel expenses in accordance with the state regulations on the reimbursement of travel costs. Alternatively, CAIS can cover the costs of a daily commute if the participant lives within 100 km from the center and does not require accommodation in Bochum.

Application Instructions

Please submit your application in electronic form (**one single PDF**) to application@cais.nrw. The application can be written in English or German and should not exceed 10 pages (excluding CVs and publications). Applications should include:

1. [Working Group Application Form](#)
2. Abstract of proposal (max. 300 words)
3. Outline of proposal
- subject and lines of research
- academic results
- practical results
- preliminary work
- work plan

in the case of academic projects
- theories and methods
- current state of research

4. Curricula Vitae of all organizers (max. two pages each with no more than five publication references)
5. One relevant publication of each organizer as a link or an appendix
6. List of participants with the following information: name, institution/company, discipline/profession, traveling from/to, status of participation (invited/confirmed)

Events

CAIS funds events such as conferences, workshops, seminars and summer schools that take place in Bochum. Already established series of events cannot be funded.

Requirements

Applicants for events should be highly accomplished academics or practitioners. CAIS supports experts of all professional backgrounds and career stages. Therefore, persons without an academic degree are also invited to apply, if they can demonstrate a special expertise in the research topics of the center and are highly distinguished within their peer group.

CAIS supports the exchange between academia and practice and the public discourse on the process of digitalization. Therefore, the practical implications of academic projects and the academic benefits of practical projects should be stated clearly in the applications. Concepts for the exchange between academia and other realms of society will be considered positively in the selection process. In addition to this, organizers of events are expected to participate in the knowledge transfer activities organized by CAIS.

Applicants should allow for sufficient planning time between a potential acceptance and the date of the event. Travel bookings, public announcements or calls etc. cannot be made before an official acceptance letter has been issued by CAIS.

At the time of application, some of the invited speakers must have confirmed their attendance.

Funding

Funding for events is usually limited to 10,000 euros. CAIS finances the costs for event locations and catering. Accommodation and travel expenses for organizers and speakers will be covered in accordance with the state regulations on the reimbursement of travel costs.

Application Instructions

Please submit your application in electronic form (**one single PDF**) to application@cais.nrw. The application can be written in English or German and should not exceed 10 pages (excluding CVs and publications). Applications should include:

1. Event Application Form
2. Abstract of proposal (max. 300 words)
3. Outline of proposal
- subject and lines of research
- academic results
- practical results
- preliminary work
- schedule

in the case of academic projects
- theories and methods
- current state of research
4. Curricula Vitae of all organizers (max. two pages each with no more than five publication references)
5. One relevant publication of each organizer as a link or an appendix
6. List of speakers with the following information: name, institution/company, discipline/profession, traveling from/to, status of participation (invited/confirmed)