



CENTER FOR
ADVANCED
INTERNET STUDIES

Call for Applications

The funding program is continuous.

If you submit your application by **9 August 2021**, you can expect a decision by the end of January 2022.

[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 two lines of funding:

- **Fellowships** for scholars and practitioners who spend three or 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 three weeks

These programs can be combined with each other. If you wish to do that, please contact Dr Esther Laufer (esther.laufer@cais.nrw) 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 two programs at CAIS – fellowships and working groups – make it possible to tailor any stay to the requirements of the project and the participants. The framework for the projects is provided by the [agenda of CAIS](#).

The CAIS Community

For the duration of their program at CAIS, fellows and working groups stay 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. The weekly dinners also allow for an exchange in an informal atmosphere.

Dialogue with the Public

The center hosts several public events to which experts staying 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 and working groups present their work in public weekly colloquia.

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

- 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 director of fellowships and working groups, 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 either three or six months.

Fellowships of six months usually start in October or April. Fellowships of three months can start in October, January, April, or July. Exceptions are possible in the case of different international semester or trimester structures, or other work commitments. In such cases, please contact Dr Esther Laufer (esther.laufer@cais.nrw) to agree a possible period of stay before submitting the application.

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 does not only foster concentration but also inspiration. In order to promote exchange at the center, regular activities take place on the core days from Tuesday to Thursday, including breakfast on Tuesday, colloquium and fellows' dinner on Wednesday, and excursions or self-organized discussion formats on Thursday. Participation in these on-site activities is mandatory. Fellows who are in employment should be released from their work duties for the duration of their fellowship.

Each fellow is expected to initiate at least one discussion format on a cross-sectional topic of digitalization research (e.g. reading group, discussion group, workshop of up to five hours). The presentation of the concept for the own contribution to the exchange at CAIS is part of the application. A request to invite experts for lectures or workshops can be made as part of the application or during the 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 per month from CAIS. Alternatively, reimbursement for the costs of their salary or of a substitute can be paid within reasonable limits. Fellows with no regular income will receive a grant of €1843 per month. Fellows with a regular income below €1243 will be given a grant that covers the difference to the full scholarship.

Fellows can receive financial support for research expenses (e.g. travel expenses, license fees, services). They can furthermore apply to invite a visiting fellow with whom they wish to collaborate for up to three weeks during their stay. It is also possible to invite experts for lectures or workshops. CAIS will cover the travel and accommodation expenses for these guests and pay them a daily allowance of €24. Applications for financial support or the invitation of guests can be submitted with the main application or during the fellowship. Furthermore, fellows and alumni can apply for grants of up to €5000 for innovative measures of knowledge transfer.

Fellows are provided with desks at CAIS and rent-free, fully furnished two-room apartments. For fellows arriving with more than one underage child CAIS can also provide bigger apartments. 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. 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

Applications can be submitted in German or English via the [application form](#) on the CAIS website. An application must be understandable to a general audience and consists of the following elements:

1. Personal data and funds requested
2. Outline of proposal
 - abstract (max. 300 words)
 - subject and lines of research (max. 1.500 words)
 - academic results (max. 300 words)
 - practical results (max. 300 words)
 - preliminary work (max. 300 words)

- work plan (max. 300 words)
 - concept for own contribution to the exchange at CAIS (max. 300 words)
- in the case of academic projects
- current state of research (max. 700 words)
 - theories and methods (max. 700 words)
3. Where applicable: application for the invitation of a visiting fellow and/or of experts for talks or workshops
 4. Curriculum Vitae (PDF, max. two pages with no more than five publication references)
 5. One relevant publication (PDF, max. 5 MB)

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 three weeks in Bochum. It is also possible to meet several times during a year.

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, the majority of the invited experts must have confirmed their attendance.

Funding and Facilities

Funding for working groups is usually limited to €10,000. Members of working groups receive a daily allowance of €24 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 does not require accommodation in Bochum.

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- practical results (max. 300 words)
- preliminary work (max. 300 words)
- work plan (max. 300 words)

in the case of academic projects

- current state of research (max. 700 words)
 - theories and methods (max. 700 words)
3. Curriculum Vita (PDF, max. two pages with no more than five publication references)
 4. One relevant publication (PDF)
 5. List of participants with the following information: name, institution/company, discipline/profession, traveling from/to, status of participation (invited/confirmed) (PDF)