MALAYSIAN COMMUNICATIONS AND MULTIMEDIA COMMISSION

DSRG

DIGITAL SOCIETY RESEARCH GRANT

2021 CALL FOR PROPOSALS, CYCLE 2

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Table of Content

A.   ABOUT DSRG

1.   What is the Digital Society Research Grant (DSRG)?
The DSRG was first launched on 3 July 2020 with the aim to grow a broader evidence-based research studies with a shorter time frame bearing data that is current. The value of each grant is limited to a maximum of RM10,000 for research activities no longer than six months.

2.   What is the objective of the DSRG?
The objective of this grant is to contribute to the evidence base that is necessary for the nation to optimize on the advancements made in the deployment of communications infrastructure and service. Research under the DSRG takes cognizance that beyond deployment of technology and services there is a need to address the human and social factors and understand the implication of technology and services, the factors enabling user adoption, and impact of MCMC and national initiatives towards the realisation of a Digitally Connected and Informed Society (Digital Society).

B.   APPLICATION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

3.   Who is eligible to apply?
The grant is open to full-time academics and researchers in the school of communications, social sciences, humanities or related fields of private and public institutions of higher learning (IHLs). Each proposal must have a lead researcher who will be subject to the general terms and conditions for granting. Please refer to section 2.1 of the CFP guidelines for details.

4.   I am a PhD student. Can I apply for DSRG as the Lead Researcher?
No, the Lead Researcher must already have a PhD to be eligible. However, you may be named as a Co-Researcher for the project.

5.   When can I apply?
Applications may be submitted at any time from <u>9 August until 8 September 2021 at 5:00 pm.</u>

6.   How to submit my application?
The electronic copy of the proposal and other documents should be emailed to the Secretariat with '**DSRG 2021 Research Proposal'** in the subject line and addressed to <u>dsrg@mcmc.gov.my</u>. Hardcopies are not required.

7.   Can I submit the application directly or I need to go through my university?
Researchers may submit directly to us. However, if so required by the university, we allow the researchers to submit through their respective universities.

8. **I have an existing grant and would like to apply for a supplemental grant. Am I eligible?**
    No, the MCMC will not consider supplementing existing grants.

9. **I was unsuccessful in the previous round. Are re-submissions accepted?**
    Yes, re-submission of the same proposal may be made, however, the applicant is strongly encouraged to re-apply with a revised or improved proposal according to the priority focus areas and as long as they meet the eligibility criteria and requirements of the current Call.

10. **I missed the submission deadline. Can I still submit my proposal?**
    Any submissions submitted after the closing date will not be considered.

11. **How would I know if the Secretariat has received my application?**
    An acknowledgement will be sent once the proposal has been received by the Secretariat. Those submitting proposals and NOT receiving an email confirmation within a week should contact the Secretariat by sending an email to dsrg@mcmc.gov.my.

C. QUALIFICATION, LEAD RESEARCHER AND RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS

12. **Are the CVs of the research team members required?**
    Yes, CVs of all research team members is an important element of the submission requirement.

13. **Do I need to submit my PhD certificate?**
    Yes, you need to only submit a verified copy of your PhD certificate. Other academic qualification certificates (e.g. Master's degree) are not necessary.

14. **Are the team members required to submit their academic qualification?**
    Yes, they need to only submit a verified copy of their highest academic qualification certificates.

15. **Who can verify my academic qualifications?**
    Solicitor, commissioner for declarations, government official, public notary or university staff (head of department/faculty, dean, registrar or other authorised persons).

16. **What if the Lead Researcher does not have expertise in the proposed focus area of the study but the team members do?**

The role of lead researcher is to provide strategic direction to the research project and liaise with MCMC. Thus, it is recommended to the lead researcher have the expertise, skills and knowledge in the proposed area of research.

17. Is the Lead Researcher required to be attached to institutions of higher learning (IHLs)?

Yes, however, research team members in professions other than academia are allowed to be part of the research team to complement the expertise and with the expectation that the product of the research will contribute to the wider body of knowledge on the topic specified.

D. RESEARCH PROPOSAL

18. Can I submit the proposal in Bahasa Melayu?

Yes, proposals in Bahasa Melayu are accepted.

19. Can I submit more than one proposal?

Yes, you can submit more than one proposal. However, researchers can only submit one proposal as the Lead Researcher and each researcher can act no more than twice as applicant.

20. Is it advisable to include preliminary data?

We do not have specific guidelines on this. We recommend adding it only if the proposer thinks it will give additional strength to the proposal.

21. Would I be requested to present my proposal to the Technical Panel? How will I know if my proposal has been shortlisted?

MCMC may request for the shortlisted proposals to be presented to the Technical Panel. Only shortlisted submissions will be contacted for this purpose.

22. Is there a required format for the research proposal?

Yes, it is available in the application form. Applicants are required to send their proposals in both pdf. and word.doc. format.

23. Do I need to attach the full proposal together with proposal application form?

The full proposal is part of the Proposal Submission Form. You are not required to attach a separate document.

24. Do I need to get approval from ethics committee and attach the supporting documents with grant application?

At the proposal stage, researchers are not required to obtain approval from ethics committee. The researchers only need to indicate that they take note of the ethical requirements for their projects.

25. **When will the project start?**
Tentatively in mid-November 2021.

E. RESEARCH TITLE/FOCUS AREAS

i. General

26. **What are the research focus areas?**
The research focus areas are 1) Digital Citizenship and Cyberwellness and 2) Digital Inclusion. Please refer to section 1.4 and Appendix 1 of the 2021 DSRG Guidelines for details.

27. **Do I need to strictly follow the given research title? Can I refine it as long as it is still aligned with the research title?**
For proposals under the open research category, candidates are requested to be guided by the suggested research titles. However, candidates may amend the original titles given insofar as to better clarify the requested research aims and objectives. Where necessary, the titles may also be refined to limit the scope of the study to reflect improved feasibility of the research project and alignment to MCMC research requirements.

28. **For guided research, should a proposal address all of the given research objectives? Or can I select the research objectives?**
As advised during the information session, where possible candidates are requested to address all the research objectives given. However, researchers are given the flexibility to select to limit, modify and if necessary to drop research objectives provided. However, the research objectives are identified according to MCMC knowledge requirements and all proposals will be evaluated on their relative merits and alignment to MCMC requirements.

29. **What is the difference between open research and guided research?**
Projects classified as open research are accompanied by a variety of research themes for which MCMC has general interest in understanding and sharing with identified stakeholders. Under the open research category researcher's may propose a suitable research title related to the general research area suggested.

30. **Please confirm that researchers are given the autonomy to determine research design and methodology.**

Yes, researchers may propose a suitable research design incorporating a proposed theoretical/conceptual framework, methodology and research instruments to address research aims and objectives that is feasible within the financial limits and identified research duration for the given research area or title.

31. **Does researcher have to address all the identified stakeholders?**
Where possible, yes. However, in order to ensure feasibility of the proposed study, researchers may include the basis for highlighting and selecting specific groups and the rationale for the exclusion of others. This will be taken into consideration during the evaluation process and in considering the proposal on its relative merits in relation to other proposals received.

32. **Do I have to follow any specific focus with regards to potential respondents of the research?**
Where a specific respondent group has been exclusively identified for the research, proposals must specifically address this group of respondent.

ii. ***DCC2-Understanding the Behavioural Aspects of Cyberbullying and Interventions for Victims, Perpetrators, Parents and Stakeholders***

33. **Is it possible for the researcher to have access to MCMC's database?**
Access to any information is subject to the types of data needed.

34. **Where and how can I get data or reports on cyberbullying?**
MCMC may assist in providing information on reports but it is limited. However, the relevant information can be obtained from other ministries/enforcement agencies, such as PDRM, MOH, and KPWKM, in order to obtain a holistic/overall view of the matter.

iii. ***DI-2– An Impact Study of Klik Dengan Bijak (KDB)***

35. **What is the minimum number of respondents for this study?**
There is no minimum number of respondents. However, a good sample size will be considered in the selection criteria.

F. TECHNICAL MEMBERS AND EVALUATION

36. **Who are the Technical Panel members?**
The Technical Panel is a select panel of specialist and experts from academia and industry responsible for evaluation and selection of the award of DSRG. This panel is chaired by MCMC.

G.   OTHERS

37.   What are the deliverables required?
Research report and Manuscript.

38.   Does MCMC have the requirement for publication?
Yes, we encourage the researchers to publish papers in peer reviewed journals.

H.   CONTACT DETAILS

39.   Is the applicant allowed to get in touch with the research sponsor during the proposal preparation?
Yes, you may contact the Secretariat at dsrg@mcmc.gov.my to obtain the contact details of the research sponsor.

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