Center for Advanced Internet Studies (CAIS)
Call for Applications 2017

Applications for later periods (up to twelve months in advance) are possible at any time.

If you submit your application by September 15th, 2017, you can expect a decision by the end of January 2018.

If you submit your application by December 15th, 2017, you can expect a decision by the end of April 2018.

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. With its programs it aims to actively contribute to the public discussion on the social, political and economic changes that are caused by the impact of digitalization and the internet. The exchange between science and society is a main objective of the Center.

Three programs are offered:

- **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 and collaborate for up to two weeks at a time.
- **Events** such us conferences, workshops, seminars or summer schools which take place in Bochum.

Research at CAIS

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

CAIS as a Community

Fellows and guests reside in Bochum for the duration of their program at CAIS and are free to pursue autonomous research and collaborative exchange according to their own priorities. During their time at the Center they are part of a community which not only serves academic cooperation but also social interaction. The facilities provide for diverse forms of cooperation with their flexible office space and group rooms. A lounge with a tea kitchen can be used for relaxing and talking. Once a week a fellow-dinner takes place to which external guests are invited.

Research and Dialogue

The Center hosts several public events at which scholars at CAIS are expected to contribute. The creative use of various formats of knowledge communication shapes the profile of the Center. These include dialogue via 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 surrounding region. Fellows present their work in weekly seminars where it is discussed with other

fellows and external guests. At the end of their stay, fellows and guests will be expected to contribute to the 'CAIS Studies' to inform a wider audience about the results of their work at the Center.

Selection Process

The applications submitted for all three programs will be assessed by the Center's program committee on the basis of three reviews per application.

The evaluation criteria are:

- professional expertise and qualification
- relevance and topicality
- originality and innovative potential
- aims and academic/practical results
- interdisciplinarity
- transfer into practice
- accordance with the [CAIS agenda](#)
- feasibility of work plan

in the case of academic projects

- theories and methods

in the case of working groups and events

- professional expertise and qualification of further participants

On the basis of this assessment and with additional consideration of disciplinary balance, of budget restrictions, workspace 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 a collaborative project are also possible. The duration of residency at CAIS is between one and six months.

Requirements

Fellowships are awarded to highly accomplished academics and professionals with practice-based expertise.

A concept for the communication of project results to the public and for their transfer into practice must be part of the application. In addition to this, fellows are expected to participate in the transfer activities organized by CAIS.

Funding and Facilities

Fellows at CAIS should as far as possible be on sabbatical from their home institution with a full salary. In that case, fellows will receive a grant of 600 euros per month. Alternatively, financial compensation for the salary or costs of a substitute can be provided by CAIS within reasonable limits. Fellows without current employment will receive a grant of 1,800 euros per month. Fellows with a regular income below 1,800 euros will be given a grant that covers the difference.

Fellows can apply for additional travel grants to participate in conferences and workshops 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 a daily expense allowance of 24 euros. Applications for travel grants or visiting fellows can be submitted with the main application or during the fellowship.

Fellows are provided with flexible work spaces and rent-free, fully equipped single apartments in the center of Bochum. In addition, CAIS will cover fellows' travel expenses in accordance with the state regulations on the reimbursement of travel costs. Alternatively, CAIS can cover the cost of a daily commute if this is within a distance of 100 km from the Center and the fellow does not require accommodation in Bochum.

Application Instructions

Applications in electronic form (one single PDF) are to be submitted in German or English to application@cais.nrw. The application should not exceed 15 pages (plus publication and additional applications for travelling grants or visiting fellows).

Applications should include:

1. Application form for fellowships

2. Abstract of proposal (max. 300 words)

3. Outline of proposal
   - subject and lines of research
   - aims and projected results
   - preliminary work
   - concept for transfer into practice
   - work plan
   in the case of academic projects
   - theories and methods
   - current state of research

4. Curriculum Vitae with no more than five publication references (max. 2 pages) and one relevant publication as a link or an appendix

5. Where applicable: informal application for a travel grant or for the invitation of a visiting fellow (max 2 pages plus CV)

Working Groups

Working groups are aimed at scholars and practitioners who wish to make use of the resources of the Center to meet and collaborate. A working group usually consists of two to twelve members who spend from a couple of days to two weeks at CAIS. It is also possible to meet several times in the course of a six-month period. Fellows at CAIS can also apply to organise a working group during their stay.

Requirements

Main applicants responsible for working groups should be highly accomplished academics or practitioners in the field of internet and digitalization.

A concept for the communication of project results to the public and for their transfer into practice must be part of the application. In addition to this, members of working groups are expected to participate in the transfer activities organized by CAIS.

Funding and Facilities

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 four people.

During their stay at the Center working groups are provided with flexible work spaces. 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 cost of a daily commute if this is within a distance of 100 km from the Center and the fellow does not require accommodation in Bochum.

Application instructions

Applications in electronic form (one single PDF) are to be submitted in German or English to application@cais.nrw. The application should not exceed 10 pages (plus CVs and publications).

Applications should include:

1. Application form for working groups
2. Abstract of proposal (max. 300 words)
3. Outline of proposal
   - subject and lines of research
   - aims and projected results
   - preliminary work
   - concept for transfer into practice
   - work plan
   in the case of academic projects
   - theories and methods
   - current state of research
4. Curricula Vitae of all participants with no more than five publication references (max. 2 pages)
5. One relevant publication of each main applicant as a link or an appendix

Events

CAIS funds events such as conferences, workshops, seminars and summer schools. This program also enables CAIS fellows and members of working groups to apply for additional funding. Already established series of events cannot be funded.

Requirements

Main applicants responsible for events should be highly accomplished academics or practitioners in the field of internet and digitalization.

A concept for the communication of event results to the public and for their transfer into practice must be part of the application. In addition to this, organisers of events are expected to participate in the transfer activities organized by CAIS.

Applications for events should be discussed with the CAIS team before submission. An outline including dates, number of speakers and participants as well as a schedule is to be presented at least 14 days prior to final submission. Applicants should allow for enough leeway 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.

Funding

Funding for events, as a rule, is limited to 10,000 euros. CAIS will provide event locations and catering. In addition, CAIS covers accommodation and travel expenses for organisers and speakers in accordance with the state regulations on the reimbursement of travel costs. In justified exceptional cases professional fees for speakers (usually 300 euros) can be paid, too.

Application instructions

Applications in electronic form (one single PDF) are to be submitted in German or English to application@cais.nrw. The application should not exceed 10 pages (plus CVs, publications and list of speakers).

Applications should include:

1. Application form for events
2. Abstract of event (max. 300 words)
3. Outline of event
   - subject and lines of research
   - aims and projected results
   - preliminary work
   - concept for transfer into practice
   - schedule
   in the case of academic events
   - theories and methods
   - current state of research
4. Curricula Vitae of all organisers with no more than five publication references (max. 2 pages)
5. One relevant publication of each main applicant as a link or an appendix
6. List of speakers with position, institutional affiliation and contact information