**Discribe Hub+**

**Connecting Capabilities Fund**

**Project background**

The ESRC Discribe Hub+ (Digital Security by Design Social Science Hub+) is an ESRC-funded initiative that forms part of the wider Digital Security by Design (DSbD) Programme ([http://dsbd.tech](http://dsbd.tech/)). The Digital Security by Design ([DSbD](https://www.dsbd.tech/)) Programme, supported by the UK Government, aims to radically update the digital infrastructure currently underpinning the global economy, making it secure against future threats. The DSbD challenge has up to £70 million to invest in technology platforms and support for software development and business-led demonstrators. The funding is matched by £117 million from industry. The Discribe Hub+ is one part of this wider initiative, with funding in place until 2024.

Discribe was established in September 2020 with funding from the ESRC, and is a consortium of four academic institutions: the Universities of Bath, Bristol and Cardiff, and Royal Holloway, University of London comprising researchers from the social sciences, economics, business and management, computer science and arts and humanities. The core mission of the Discribe Hub+ is to support the wider DSbD challenge by applying social and economic science to questions around the adoption of new secure technologies, the readiness of different sectors (and roles) to adopt new secure hardware, the regulatory and policy environment and how that might influence the adoption of DSbD technologies, and what social and cultural factors might influence the success of the wider DSbD ecosystem. We also support an extensive research programme using methodologies from arts and humanities to explore the future implications of new secure digital technologies.

**About the call**

This call is for proposals within our “connecting capabilities” fund to support the engagement of both researchers and industrial partners with the Digital Security by Design eco-system. There is more information on the DSbD eco-system on the DSbD.tech website (<https://www.dsbd.tech/whos-involved/> ).

Specifically, we are interested in funding both academics (in particular early career researchers) and industrial partners to work in the following ways:

* To support a project or event that builds new connections / engagements within the DSbD eco-system, or facilitates knowledge sharing between parts of the wider DSbD community.
* To support placements and exchanges between academic institutions and industrial partners within the DSbD eco-system. This can be used to support a) academic placements into industry, b) industrial placements into academic institutions, and c) academic exchanges that connect one DSbD eco-system partner with a non-DSbD partner.
* To support the development of impact for existing DSbD-funded research work by providing short term funding for work with potential end users.

The total funding per application is capped at £12,000 (at 100% fEC), of which 80% will be funded by Discribe Hub+.

In practical terms this means that UK HEI researchers should cost their projects using the same process as they would cost a UKRI grant. All other applicants must recognise that an application to Discribe’s commissioning programme requires a commitment to provide the remaining 20% of full Economic Cost from their own resources. That is, Discribe will pay 80% of the total costs outlined within the proposal, with an expectation that the organisation covers the remaining 20%. All costs should be inclusive of VAT and/or any other applicable tax. A guide of fEC and the ESRC’s position on its payment is available at: <https://www.ukri.org/files/funding/tcs/fec-questionnaire-pdf/>

**Submissions**

All proposals should be costed and approved by the applicant’s organisation before submission.

Submissions should be made on an individual basis (i.e. one single researcher). Please submit the proposal as a single PDF and email to discribehub@bath.ac.uk

Submissions should not exceed three pages, with the addition of a short CVs. We will require:

1. Outline of research proposal including, proposed methodology, proposed outcomes (deliverables with timescales) and financial summary (divided into directly incurred and allocated staff costs, travel, subsistence and other costs, estates and indirect costs. (½ page max). The costs should be in sufficient detail to allow for value for money judgements to be made. (3 page maximum)
2. Short (2 page) CV at the end of the proposal.

**Assessment**

All projects will be assessed on an individual basis against the Assessment Criteria outlined below.

All proposals are expected to demonstrate how they will engage with, and contribute to, the wider DSbD challenge.

**Deadline**: Ongoing.

**Funding panel meeting:** Applications with be assessed monthly by the Discribe Hub+ Executive Team.

**Decisions communicated**: within 1 week of Executive Team meeting.