



# CRADLE Fellowship Guidelines 2025

## About CRADLE

The Centre for Research in Assessment and Digital Learning (CRADLE) focuses on investigating high quality assessment in higher education and how assessment practices can be enhanced through emerging digital environments. Founded in 2015, the Centre collaborates closely with assessment and digital learning researchers across Deakin and has excellent connections to the Australian and international research community. In addition to a core team of five researchers and a research manager, CRADLE has a network of doctoral students, project-specific staff, and visiting professors and Deakin-based CRADLE Fellows.

## CRADLE Fellowship Scheme

The Centre has established a designated fellowship scheme for academic staff aligned to the research program of the Centre. The CRADLE Fellowship scheme provides competitive funding of \$15k per fellow for Deakin academic staff to conduct collaborative research about assessment and/or digital learning in higher education with the Centre. The funding is for a period of up to 18 months and ongoing honorary title of 'CRADLE Fellow' may be available contingent on an ongoing record of relevant research.

The objectives of the CRADLE Fellowship Scheme are to attract internal applicants to:

- Foster the development of relevant research expertise.
- Enhance CRADLE's research capacity and performance.
- Support excellent practice in assessment and/or digital learning at Deakin.
- Promote excellent research collaboration between CRADLE and its fellows leading to outputs.

CRADLE Fellows can use the Centre's facilities at Deakin Downtown and collaborate with the Centre's researchers. The \$15k of funding attached to the Fellowship is intended to support the Fellow to develop their research profile and that of their faculty or institute or portfolio, for example:

- Direct costs associated with research, such as salaries of research assistants.
- Research dissemination at national or international conferences.
- Professional development, such as methodological training.

The funding may be considered to buy out teaching time in some circumstances (this must be discussed with your CRADLE mentor).

CRADLE Fellows are expected to participate in accordance with the research [aims](#) and culture of CRADLE through the following activities:

1. Presenting a seminar as part of the [CRADLE Seminar Series](#) after finishing the Fellowship,
2. Collaborating on an existing or new project, and publishing a paper in a prominent Q1 higher education journal (to be submitted within the 18-month fellowship) with CRADLE affiliation and acknowledgement of the Fellowship funding provided; and
3. Developing an external grant application on a topic related to assessment and/or digital learning in higher education.

CRADLE Fellows must provide a report after 9 months and a final report (within 2 months of completing the 18-month Fellowship) to CRADLE outlining activities and outcomes.



## Benefits of the Fellowship Scheme

- Become widely recognised within Australia and worldwide as being part of an international research centre in assessment in higher education.
- Ability to interact with eminent researchers from overseas, with opportunities for collective research partnerships.
- Mentoring and financial support for research.

## Applications

The Centre welcomes applications from researchers from early career to senior scholars. Applicants must hold a research doctoral degree or have extensive research experience including publications in well-regarded journals. Applicants must hold a continuing or fixed-term position at Deakin with more than two years remaining on their contract. The CRADLE Fellowship scheme is for academic staff only.

The purpose of the CRADLE Fellowship scheme is to support Deakin academic staff to conduct research into assessment and/or digital learning. We support educational research that tackles a generalizable or translatable problem (one that is of relevance to the community beyond the local context), is theoretically informed and positioned to address a gap in the educational research literature. It is the responsibility of the applicant to negotiate for time in their role to conduct the research activities they propose. The CRADLE Fellowship scheme is not a job and is not accompanied by any remuneration.

Prospective candidates are required to submit a substantive submission for the Fellowship and complete the application form (including a curriculum vitae). The submission must include (note that there is no template to fill out):

1. The nature of your research describing significant work to date relevant to the proposal and a proposed 18-month research plan that describes:
  - a. the significance and proposed outcomes of the research;
  - b. the strategic fit between the project and the interests of CRADLE; and
  - c. benefits for the applicant's faculty or school (1,000 words maximum);
2. Identification of potential grant opportunities;
3. Proposed potential collaborative activities with CRADLE researchers;
4. An indicative budget; and
5. A letter or email of endorsement from your Head of School or equivalent that specifically mentions support to spend time on your CRADLE Fellowship scheme project.

**Applications should be submitted via the [online application form](#).**

## Selection Process

Selection is made based on the scholarly merits of the research proposed; the potential development of national and international research networks; and the considered fit with the research of CRADLE, as demonstrated by proposed collaborative activities with CRADLE researchers. Education research track record is desirable but not essential.

Potential candidates will be notified within four weeks of the closing date if they have been selected to attend an interview. Successful applicants can commence their Fellowship at a mutually agreed date. Funding will normally be provided in the same calendar year and is to be used within 18 months and it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure funds are spent as planned throughout the project. Funding may be rolled over into the next calendar year if your finance department permits. Feedback information will be provided to unsuccessful applicants.

Applicants are not permitted to apply more than once per calendar year. Publications arising from the fellowship should acknowledge the CRADLE fellowship. Please see our Fellowship FAQs for more details.

For further enquiries please contact us at [cradle@deakin.edu.au](mailto:cradle@deakin.edu.au).