



Centre for Research in  
Assessment and Digital Learning

# CRADLE Fellowship Scheme Frequently Asked Questions

## 1 Can a team apply?

No, the Fellowship is awarded to individuals only. The purpose of the Fellowship is to build an individual's education research ability in assessment and/or digital learning. If successful, the monies may be used to fund a team research project(s).

## 2 Can casual staff apply?

No, the CRADLE Fellowship scheme is only available to applicants on continuing or fixed-term position at Deakin with more than two years remaining on their contract. In relation to prospective applicants who have a fractional appointment, approval from a direct manager to spend an equivalent of one day per week on the Fellowship is required. The CRADLE Fellowship scheme is for academic staff only.

## 3 How much involvement can I expect from CRADLE staff?

CRADLE staff will work with you in a mentorship role. A CRADLE academic partner is assigned to work with each Fellow to fulfil an aim of the Fellowship. This is to assist educational researchers develop their capacities and outputs as researchers. If projects align closely with CRADLE's research they may be research partners and/or grant co-applicants in future projects. Please visit the [CRADLE blog site](#) to view our team and their research interests.

## 4 How much involvement does CRADLE expect from me?

We expect Fellows to participate in CRADLE's research community. This type of scholarly exchange is designed to enhance both the Fellows and CRADLE staff through collaboration. We have found that working with CRADLE at our Deakin Downtown location one day per week enables our Fellows to get the most from the Fellowship and spend the necessary time on their projects.

## 5 Can my project only be about digital learning or assessment?

In general, yes it can be about assessment and/or digital learning. Our three broad and intersecting research themes are:

1. Assessing for learning,
2. Learning in a digital world, and
3. Learning through, and for, work.

Our current programs of research are as follows:

- Academic security and academic integrity.
- Assessment design (including self/peer, authentic and programmatic).
- Feedback and feedback literacy.
- Developing evaluative judgement.
- Assessment in a digital world.
- Digital identities.
- Inclusion and belonging in a digital world.
- Learning in, and for, the workplace.
- Representation in and beyond assessment.
- Quality and standards.

We are best able to support Fellows in one of these programs, however, a strong research proposal on a related area, with demonstrated capacity in educational research, is also acceptable.

## 6 Can the focus be on development and evaluation of a particular assessment tool?

Generally, no. This Fellowship is not about educational practice, it is about educational research. If your application concerns introducing a new assessment design into your teaching program, this is usually not the type of application we find to be successful. (We are not saying development of tools is not important, however, it does not align with the focus of this scheme). Research using an assessment tool you have developed is within the scope.

## 7 What type of proposals for the Fellowship is CRADLE looking for?

We are most interested in an idea or concept that:

- Addresses a particular problem,
- is based on a gap in the literature,
- draws from a conceptual/theoretical framework,
- demonstrates a broad understanding of the relevant higher education literature, and
- extends the conversation within the education community (i.e., beyond your local context).

## 8 I've got some ideas from my discipline but I haven't published in educational research, what do I do?

We welcome applications from educational research novices, however, a successful Fellowship requires a substantial engagement with the literature in assessment/feedback in higher education. Demonstrating this is critical to the success of the application. Prior publication is one means of demonstrating your understanding of this literature. Moreover, we would anticipate that you would

have some expertise in the basics of social sciences research such as ethics, or data collection, as Fellows who come with such skills can best leverage the opportunity. Please note that mentorship provided by CRADLE is not intended as a 'how to do educational research' training.

## 9 If I get rejected, can I apply next time?

Yes, we welcome re-applications but applicants are not permitted to apply more than once per 12 months. Most applications are rejected are around points 6, 7 and 8 above.

## 10 What happens if I can't use all of the \$15k in 18 months?

Unfortunately you may lose any remaining balance of the Fellowship award. Once the \$15k is transferred from CRADLE, it is your responsibility to spend the funds according to your indicative budget within the nominated time. Your faculty may be able to 'roll' those funds over into the following year but the responsibility for that lies with your faculty or institute finance team. There is an opportunity to receive the funds in increments and this can be negotiated as required.

## 11 What are my expected outputs?

As part of the Fellowship you are expected to do the following:

1. Meet with your mentors at our Deakin Downtown location,
2. attend CRADLE Seminars where possible (to develop further understanding of research and findings associated with CRADLE's areas of interest),
3. present your findings as part of the [CRADLE Seminar Series](#) after your Fellowship finishes,
4. write posts for the [CRADLE Blog](#) (1-2 per tenure, e.g., reviewing a seminar),
5. use CRADLE as your affiliation and acknowledge your Fellowship on publications associated with your research,
6. submit a mid-tenure report, and
7. develop a grant application proposal.

## 12 What are the restrictions on using the funding?

Generally there are no restrictions as long as the expense is associated with your research. Payout of teaching time must be discussed with your mentor. Once the funding is transferred all expenditure, acquittal and rollover processes are your responsibility.

## 13 Can I use the CRADLE Fellow title as part of my Deakin email signature?

Yes, you can use the title and the CRADLE logo during your Fellowship. If you continue to undertake research after your Fellowship ends you can retain the title.