Request for 2025 Data Analytics Center-Digital Humanities Center Fellowship Proposals

The Digital Humanities Center (DHC) and Data Analytics Center (DAC) are seeking proposals from UVA faculty for a DHC-DAC Team Fellowship to include one faculty member and one student. This is an experimental iteration to encourage and support the use of high-performance computing resources in the humanities and to identify UVA DH projects that require collaborations with DHC and DAC.

The DHC comprises the Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities (IATH) and the Scholars' Lab, creating a team that supports humanities scholarship in the digital arena by faculty, staff, and students through its fellowship programs, events, staff expertise, and workshops and colloquia. These two groups have experience with a wide range of projects from both students and faculty. IATH works with faculty who are using information technology as a tool for scholarly humanities research, providing intellectual and technical support and development. The Scholars' Lab is an interdisciplinary research lab for digital scholars and students, providing mentoring, consulting, and collaboration.

The DAC is the hub for assisting researchers across Grounds with the management and analysis of large datasets on Research Computing platforms. The staff has expertise in artificial intelligence and machine learning, bioinformatics, data science, image processing, and parallel computing.

The fellowship period will run from September 2025 through August 2027, and will include $40,000 to be used for project-related expenses such as Research Computing resources, student wages, graduate student course release, travel for conferences, etc. A budget included with the proposal will indicate how the funds will be spent. A minimum of 50% of the allocated funds should be dedicated to a combination of student support and purchased services, including but not limited to, access to datasets and/or RC services and support.

The award will include guidance and training from DHC and DAC staff and technical expertise and training. The award period will include theoretical and practical discussion and planning for the intellectual and technical aspects of the project. At the end of the two-year period, the project team will produce a final report and lessons learned assessment for future collaborations between digital humanities and high-performance computing practitioners. The student will be additionally asked to present a poster of their research at the UVA Research Computing Exhibitions in April 2026 and April 2027 and to prepare a workshop, tutorial, or video on how to use RC resources for research in the Humanities.

A successful proposal would include a mix of traditional digital humanities work and cutting-edge computer science applications and would provide a case study for the use of the DAC resources for humanities research. The team will have opportunities throughout the award period to share work-in-progress and lessons learned to colleagues and the community at DAC and DHC events.

WHO CAN APPLY?

A team consisting of one faculty member and graduate student, pursuing humanities research through any department of the University of Virginia system is eligible to apply for fellowships. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns about eligibility.

Possible projects might utilize AI, gaming platforms, imaging tools, geospatial technologies, use of new tools, and more. We encourage teams and projects that challenge traditional understanding of digital humanities (or even what has been considered humanities research), involve ethical and philosophical issues raised by new technologies, or explore new opportunities for using high-performance computing tools and techniques to better understand the human record.

Digital scholarship is more time-intensive and collaborative than many more traditional forms of humanities scholarship. Therefore, we strongly encourage applicants to discuss their proposal with their Department Chair, Dean, or Director of Graduate Studies and secure a letter of support for the allocation of research time during the fellowship period.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Proposals are due *April 1, 2025*. We highly recommend all possible applicants contact lb-dac-dhc-fellowship@virginia.edu to set up a time to talk with DHC and DAC representatives about the suitability of preliminary ideas, ideas for budgeting, and proposed collaborations with the DAC and DHC.

Completed applications should include:

- A two-page (single-spaced) narrative that will include:
    - A description of the proposed project
    - An identification of the experiences and background they have that will lead to a successful project
    - The proposed project development plan for the fellowship duration
    - How this project would benefit from collaboration with both the DAC and DHC
    - A detailed plan for student involvement and the resultant professional development
- A rough budget narrative for how the award funds will be used (e.g., research activities, travel to conferences, student course release, professional development, or dissemination of project findings). A sample template is available here.
- A letter of support from your chair, dean, or supervisor.

Sample Budget for DH/DAC Fellowship

Suggested categories (other categories might cover purchase of data sets, subscriptions, etc.)	FY25 Sept. 25 - June 26	FY26 July 26 - June 27	FY27 July 27 - Aug. 27	TOTALS	
PERSONNEL (*Required***)**					
Graduate Student					
Hourly salary	$17	$18	$19		Please note that rates will vary according to department and program.
Number of Hours	250	300	60		Assumed 10 hrs/week & 3 weeks /month. May be increased
Category Totals	$4,250	$5,400	$1,140	$10,790	
COURSE BUYOUT (*Optional, can be for student or faculty, subject to department or program***)**					
Cost per course	$4,000	$4,000	$0		
Number of Courses	1	2	0		Assumed courses taught in Fall & Spring, not Summer
Category Totals	$4,000	$8,000	$0	$12,000	
CONFERENCE TRAVEL (*Optional***)**					
Cost of travel	$0	$3,200	$3,200		Assumed no conference in first year
Number of Conferences	0	2	2		Assumed one for faculty and one for student in following years
Category Totals	$0	$6,400	$6,400	$12,800	
RC RESOURCES (*Required***)**					
Storage for Data					Assumes data are not highly sensitive: if so, would need to include the
Monthly cost per TB	$5	$8	$10		cost of High Securiy Computing (Ivy/Rio)
Number of Terabytes	2	2	2		Assumed cost for storage will increase in FY26 and FY27
Number of Months	10	12	2		
Category Totals	$100	$192	$40	$332	
RC Consultant					
Hourly Cost	$48	$50	$0		
Number of Hours	25	25	0		
Category Totals	$1,200	$1,250	$0	$2,450	
Total	$8,350	$19,992	$7,580	$38,372	