



RESEARCH
FOR THE
DIGITAL AGE

For the winter semester 2025/2026, we will award up to three fellowships on the topic of “Sustainability in the Age of Digital Transformation” in addition to the open call.

Extreme heat, drought, flooding – the importance of sustainable lifestyles to mitigate human-caused climate change is becoming ever clearer in the face of natural disasters. At the same time, everyday life is increasingly characterized by digital technologies. Smart homes promise not only support for various domestic tasks but also optimized energy consumption in private households. Likewise, major industry players rely heavily on digital technologies to reduce emissions and achieve sustainability targets. However, great expectations for the ecological benefits of digital technologies contrast with their immense water consumption, high electricity demand and overexploitation of natural resources.

Research exploring the intersection of these aspects emphasizes the need to integrate digital technologies with environmental and social goals. This raises many questions, for example:

- Can the digital transformation be sustainable?
- Can digital technologies be used to promote sustainable lifestyles, and if so, how?
- Can the ecological impact of the high computing power required for artificial intelligence be minimized and an optimal cost-benefit ratio be achieved?
- Which ethical issues, for example concerning privacy or democracy, are raised by digital solutions to sustainability?

We invite submissions of fellowship projects (three to six months) that inspire an inter- or transdisciplinary dialogue. Proposals should also explore the potential of participatory approaches to shaping the digital transformation in a sustainable way by addressing questions such as:

- How can (organized) civil society or global environmental movements be involved in the development of technical or social solutions for sustainable development?
- How can consumers be included in the development and implementation of sustainable consumption practices?
- How can digital inclusion be ensured in policies for sustainable development?
- What is the role of digital platforms in enhancing community-led sustainability initiatives?

Please submit your application by 31 October 2024 via the application form on our website. For more details on the fellowship program and application procedure please refer to the [open call](#).