

# Guidelines for DFCRC Affiliates Program for Researchers and PhD Students

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## 1. Introduction and Purpose

The Digital Finance Cooperative Research Centre (DFCRC) aims to pioneer research in digital finance to maximise the economic benefits from the next transformation of the financial system.

The purpose of this Affiliates Program is to:

- i. Provide researchers and research students in Digital Finance with more opportunities for collaboration, research support, events, networking, masterclasses, and access to certain DFCRC resources like data;
- ii. Clarify when and how researchers and research students can use the DFCRC affiliation and get recognition for their involvement;
- iii. Expand and strengthen DFCRC's network of affiliated researchers and research students; and
- iv. Better track the outputs and impact of researchers and students in its network for DFCRC's reporting.

These Guidelines provide an overview of eligibility criteria for DFCRC-affiliated researchers, their rights, privileges, and constraints. It describes the selection process and expectations for continued engagement. The Guidelines aim to ensure a positive and mutually beneficial relationship between the DFCRC and its affiliated researchers and PhD students while protecting the DFCRC's reputation and resources.

## 2. DFCRC Affiliated Member Definitions

### 2.1. Affiliated Researchers:

These are researchers in Digital Finance who are engaged with the DFCRC in various forms, including but not limited to:

- Leading a research program, stream, or discipline area within the DFCRC.
- Supervising DFCRC research students.
- Actively participating in DFCRC-funded projects.
- Delivering classes, lectures, or seminars in collaboration with or for the DFCRC.
- Engaging in DFCRC research or education activities and events, such as seminars, workshops, and discussion forums, or disseminating relevant Digital Finance research through the DFCRC.
- Visiting researchers undertaking research or teaching activities with the DFCRC.

The affiliation status must be mutually agreed by the DFCRC and the researcher.

### 2.2. Affiliated PhD Students:

These are PhD students contributing to research in Digital Finance who are engaged with the DFCRC in various forms include, but are not limited to:

- Receiving support through DFCRC scholarships, including industry PhD scholarships, top-up scholarships, internships, or project funding.

- Participating in DFCRC masterclasses, with potential agreements for credits towards coursework at their home universities.
- Being supervised by, or collaborating with, DFCRC-affiliated researchers.
- Being sponsored by DFCRC to attend relevant conferences, providing exposure to academic and industry communities.
- Accessing research support through DFCRC’s resources, including data, software, advice, and specialised training.
- Engaging in DFCRC research and education activities and events, such as seminars, workshops, and discussion forums.

### **3. Benefits for Affiliates**

Access to benefits may include some or all of the following, depending on resource availability, commercial conditions and any other relevant conditions as may arise or apply in the circumstances.

#### **3.1. Access to Resources**

- DFCRC datasets, research tools, and findings.
- Research support, including expert advice, and training resources.

#### **3.2. Visibility and Publication Opportunities**

- Promotion of their work through DFCRC’s newsletters, social media channels, website, and industry networks.
- Opportunities for co-authorship in high-impact journals and presentations at international conferences under DFCRC’s banner.

#### **3.3. Professional Development and Mentorship**

- Workshops and seminars, including on the latest trends and research methodologies in digital finance.
- Mentorship and guidance from senior DFCRC researchers.

#### **3.4. Collaborative Research Opportunities**

- Cross-disciplinary collaboration through DFCRC research clusters.
- Joint research proposals to external funding bodies, with DFCRC as co-applicant or sponsor.

#### **3.5. Networking and Recognition**

- Participation in DFCRC-hosted networking events, both virtual and in-person, fostering connections between researchers, students, and industry professionals.
- Recognition through DFCRC’s annual awards for outstanding research contributions.
- Certification of affiliation with DFCRC, which can be added to academic portfolios, CVs, and publications.

### **4. Responsibilities and Expectations of Affiliates**

#### **4.1. Use of DFCRC Affiliation**

Affiliates may use their DFCRC affiliation in publications, academic profiles, and professional communications. However:

- Affiliates must not represent the DFCRC's views externally or speak on behalf of the DFCRC without explicit written authorisation. For example, while a researcher may bear the DFCRC Affiliation, their views expressed in public settings (papers, conferences, media, etc) remain their own and should not be attributed to DFCRC.
- Dissemination of research using DFCRC resources must properly acknowledge DFCRC.

#### 4.2. **Conflict of Interest and Integrity**

Affiliates are required to:

- Disclose to DFCRC any potential conflicts of interest, particularly in collaborations with industry or external entities.
- Ensure that research outputs do not compromise DFCRC's reputation or pose operational risks.
- Exercise a high level of integrity when conducting and disseminating research, and comply with relevant legal, institutional, and professional guidelines.

#### 4.3. **Contribution to DFCRC's Mission**

Affiliates are expected to contribute to DFCRC's broader mission by:

- Sharing research insights, co-authoring publications, and participating in DFCRC events.
- Contributing to DFCRC's research output through publications in areas aligned with its strategic objectives.
- Responding to DFCRC's annual data gathering of relevant research outputs of Affiliates, and agreeing to those outputs being included in DFCRC research repositories and reports.

### 5. **Selection Process and Revocation**

Affiliated Researchers and PhD Students are selected/approved by the DFCRC Affiliates Committee, based on the individuals meeting the definition outlined in Section 2, and being actively involved in research, teaching, or public dissemination of Digital Finance projects, or providing meaningful contributions through workshops, seminars, or research collaborations.

DFCRC reserves the right to revoke affiliation, at its discretion, for reasons including if the Affiliate:

- No longer satisfies the definitions in Section 2.
- Fails to adhere to the Responsibilities and Expectations in Section 4.
- Misuses DFCRC resources or engages in conduct or external activities that compromise DFCRC's reputation or are contrary to the objectives of this program.

Affiliates may voluntarily terminate their affiliation by providing written notice to DFCRC. Upon termination, they must cease representing themselves as affiliated with DFCRC in any academic or professional capacity.