

SPRITE+ Expert Fellow Clinic

Matchmaking Process and FAQs

About

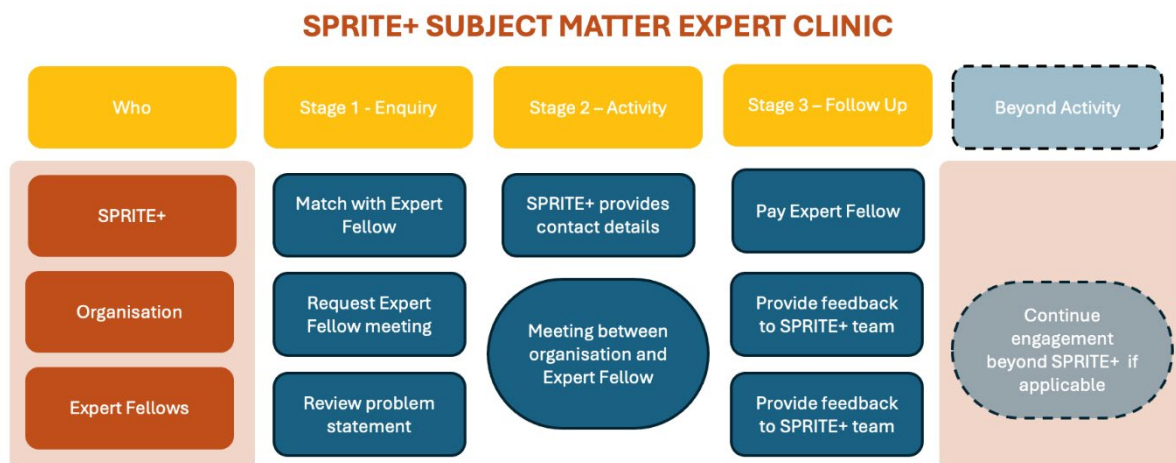
One of SPRITE+'s primary goals is to bring together people involved in research, practice, and policy with a focus on digital contexts and to act as 'one stop shop' for engagement between academic and non-academic communities. Our Expert Fellow network comprises over two hundred Expert Fellows - subject matter experts in specialist areas Trust, Identity, Privacy and Security (TIPS).

The aim of this initiative is to make this body of expertise accessible to organisations facing a real-world problem and seeking a specific expert input. SPRITE+ will act as a triaging platform to enable organisations meet an Expert Fellow with expertise relevant to their issue.

The process

In most cases, the external organisation (company, government agency, etc.) will approach SPRITE+ with a particular problem. The SPRITE+ team will identify which of our fellows has the most relevant expertise and contact that fellow with a brief problem statement.

If the Expert Fellow is interested in the engagement, they confirm their interest. SPRITE+ then contacts the organisation, passing on the Expert Fellow's contact information and, if they are happy with the suggested fellow, they will contact them to arrange a time and date to hold the one-hour clinic session. After the clinic, both parties then complete a feedback form and SPRITE+ pays the Expert Fellow an honorarium (£100) for their time.



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The process is straightforward:

1. The organisation emails SPRITE+ requesting a clinic and outlining the topic or problem which they are looking to discuss (and possibly the goals and expectations of the meeting).
2. The SPRITE+ team will identify the best-matched Expert Fellow based on the specific expertise required. SPRITE+ will then reach out to that Expert Fellow and share with them the brief problem statement. If the Expert Fellow is interested in engaging with the organisation, SPRITE+ will share the Expert Fellow's profile and background information with the organisation, who then arrange a clinic session with the Expert Fellow. This will typically be a one-hour online meeting.
3. After the clinic, both parties will fill out a feedback form and SPRITE+ will compensate the Expert Fellow for their time. The meeting is free of charge for client organisations.
4. After the clinic, the organisation and Expert Fellow are free to engage in further collaboration directly. It could be that the clinic session is sufficient, and the organisation has progressed with the problem to its satisfaction (for whatever its purposes are). On the other hand, it may be that the organisation wishes to engage the Expert Fellow as a consultant. This downstream arrangement lies outside of SPRITE+'s remit and will need to be handled through a direct contract between the Expert Fellow (or their institution) and the organisation.



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Frequently Asked Questions

Question: What can organisations expect from meeting with Expert Fellows?

Answer: As organisational needs vary and can be unique, we do not impose any specific format on the clinic. However, we encourage organisations to have a clear idea about what kind of information they would like to elicit from the Expert Fellow and formulate a particular objective of the meeting. These will be shared with Expert Fellows before the meeting, enabling Expert Fellows to have a clear understanding what organisations expect from them. Organisational objectives can include, but are not limited to:

- Exploring key developments in a particular field/technology relevant to their organisation,
- Developing a better understanding of a poorly specified problem,
- Exploring avenues to approaching a complex problem,
- Building a relationship with an Expert Fellow that can extend beyond the initial clinic.

Question: Are Expert Fellows compensated for taking part in the clinic?

Answer: Once an organisation submits a problem statement, SPRITE+ matches them with best-suited Expert Fellow (who has registered an interest in providing this services). SPRITE+ then provides the identified Expert Fellow with the problem statement. If the Expert Fellow is interested and has capacity to engage with the organisation, SPRITE+ will provide the contact details of the Expert Fellow to the organisation.

Question: How do you match organisations and Expert Fellows?

Answer: Once an organisation submits a problem statement, SPRITE+ matches it with best-suited Expert Fellow from the SPRITE+ network. SPRITE+ then provides the identified Expert Fellow with the problem statement. If the Expert Fellow is interested and has capacity to engage with the organisation, SPRITE+ will provide the contact details of the Expert Fellow to the organisation.



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Question: What personal data will be provided to the organisation and what will they do with it?

Answer: SPRITE+ will only pass on an Expert Fellow's contact information (name and email address), which they will use for the purposes of contacting the Expert Fellow. Expert Fellows will also have [a profile on the SPRITE+ website](#), which we expect the organisation to review before making contact.

Question: Is the topic and the content of the initial meeting confidential?

Answer: Given these are exploratory meetings, it is not usually expected that any confidential information will be exchanged. Some organisations may request the Expert Fellow to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) directly before the meeting – as they might regard the fact that they are seeking advice on a particular topic to be sensitive. SPRITE+ will not be a party to any NDA agreement and in such cases the Expert Fellow should not share details about the organisation's issue with any other member of SPRITE+.

Question: Is one hour is enough to provide in-depth insight into the problem or area of interest?

Answer: The initial sponsored meetings are not intended to provide in-depth insight or specific advice. In case organisations would like to continue engagement with the specific Expert Fellow, they are expected to make their own arrangements with regards to fees and other terms of engagement. This is out of scope of the initial clinic session.

Question: Do SPRITE+ Expert Fellows need to have professional indemnity insurance?

Answer: SPRITE+ does not require Expert Fellows to have professional liability insurance. Nor is SPRITE+ responsible for the content or the quality of the information provided by an Expert Fellow.

If the Expert Fellow is working within the context of their employment (most likely a university), then their employer will usually have insurance to cover this. If they are operating independently, then professional indemnity insurance will be their own responsibility. Note - we would not expect for the issue of insurance to be relevant to the clinic session itself as the Expert Fellow will not be providing advice as such. This will only become relevant in the event of further collaboration.



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Question: What happens after the meeting?

Answer: We will ask both parties to complete a feedback form so that we can keep improving and fine-tuning the clinic service. After that, it is entirely up to the organisation and the Expert Fellow.

The organisation may decide the objectives of the meeting have been achieved and no further engagement is necessary. Alternatively, the organisation may decide they would like to continue the relationship with the Expert Fellow in the form of a consultancy project, expert advice, a workshop, executive education, etc. SPRITE+ will not be directly involved in this.



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