Title: Cyber Security of Supply Chains (supported by HMG)

Type of award: PhD Research Studentship

Department: Computer Science

Scholarship Details: Scholarship covers full UK PhD tuition fees and a tax-free stipend of approximately £22,000 per annum subject to contracts

Duration: 3.5 years

Eligibility: Home/UK applicants only

Latest Start Date: 30 September 2018

PhD Topic Background/Description
A fully funded PhD studentship is available within the Bristol Cyber Security Group, led by Professor Awais Rashid. The group forms part of the Academic Centre of Excellence in Cyber Security Research (ACE-CSR) at Bristol.

Industrial control systems (ICS) underpin critical national infrastructure such as power, water and gas. Disruption to such infrastructures from cyber-attacks can have major consequences for society. Such systems have complex supply chains – with devices and services supplied by a range of suppliers – hence threats arising from the supply chains can have a major impact on the security of the infrastructure. The risks arise both from technologies and humans and organisations involved in the supply chain. The project will aim to identify the blind spots in ICS settings with regards to risks from the supply chain. The socio-technical causes of such blind spots will be used as the basis to develop a kill chain (adapting existing cyber kill chain models) designed for ICS supply chains. The ideal candidate will have a background in studying human/organisational behaviors or expertise in control systems. The student will have access to a state-of-the-art industrial control systems testbed in the Bristol Cyber Security Group.

Further Particulars
Doing research at the University of Bristol
The quality of research at the University of Bristol places it within the top five Universities in the UK based on the Research Excellence Framework and Times higher Education rankings 2014-15. The PhD candidate will be a part of a friendly and diverse community. The University has a Doctoral College (BDC) which offers approximately 200 courses, interactive workshops and seminars as a part of the University’s Personal and Professional Development Programme for PGR students. The BDC organises University-wide events and provides a hub of information, guidance and resources to help researchers to get the most of their time at Bristol.
Candidate Requirements
We are looking for an enthusiastic student with a first-class degree or Master’s in computer science, human-computer interaction, electrical and electronics engineering, control systems or a related discipline.

Interested candidates are strongly encouraged to contact the supervisor informally to discuss their research interests before making an application.

The applicant must be willing to undergo Developed Vetting (DV) clearance prior to the start of the studentship (cost of clearance is covered by the grant).

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Informal enquiries
Please email Prof Awais Rashid (Awais.Rashid@bristol.ac.uk)
For general enquiries, please email sceem-pgr@bristol.ac.uk

Application Details
To apply for this studentship submit a PhD application using our online application system [www.bristol.ac.uk/pg-howtoapply]

Please ensure that in the Funding section you tick “I would like to be considered for a funding award from the Computer Science Department” and specify the title of the scholarship in the “other” box below with the name of the supervisor.

Interested candidates should apply as soon as possible; applications will be evaluated as they are submitted and once a suitable candidate has been selected the studentship will close.

Closing date for applications 15 June 2018.

Apply now