National Center of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity
PhD Scholarship Program
NCAE-C-002-2022

Application Background and Requirements
Recruitment / Basic Scholarships
ATTACHMENT C

1. *BACKGROUND*

Cybersecurity is considered so important to our national defense that a formal cyber scholarship program was established by the National Defense Authorization Act for 2001 (Public Law 106- 398). The DoD Cyber Scholarship Program (DoD CySP) has successfully operated since 2001 to promote the education, recruitment, and retention of rising second-year NCAE-C community college, junior and senior undergraduate, and graduate/doctoral students in cybersecurity studies.

The NCAE-C Program Office, in partnership with the DoD CySP is seeking to establish a PhD scholarship program to students who are interested in full-ride scholarships for concentrated studies in cybersecurity and other cyber-related disciplines. Students selected for the program will receive a full scholarships. This requires the student to agree to serve four years of service to a NCAE-C institution as member of their faculty, upon graduation. An opportunity may also exists for scholarship payback through employment as a faculty member at a non-designated minority serving institution. In this situation, approval from the NCAE-C Grant Program Office would be required. All faculty positions must be cyber-related.

HOW TO APPLY

Only students at designated National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity (Cyber Defense Education, Research, and Operations), hereinafter referred to as NCAE-Cs may apply. Review the list of schools included with this announcement for clarification: https://www.caecommunity.org/cae-map

Review all application instructions and materials included with this announcement. Pay close attention to the mandatory conditions of financial assistance and employment.

2. *DESCRIPTION OF SCHOLARSHIP AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY*

Chapter 112 of title 10, United States Code authorizes the DoD CySP and the NCAE-C Program Office. The purposes of the program are to recruit and retain well-qualified cyber personnel to cultivate continuing capacity for cyber faculty at select institutions of higher learning (NCAE-Cs) throughout the United States. As directed by the Secretary of Defense, the DoD CIO has delegated authority and responsibility to establish scholarship and institutional grant programs to achieve these purposes, including the authority to conduct civilian employee recruitment for these purposes. This program is executed by the National Security Agency (NSA) on behalf of the DoD.

Doctoral candidates, who are U.S. citizens and are at least 18 years of age are eligible for consideration for the program. Students must be within two years of completion or graduation of the PhD program. Students selected as Cyber Scholars will receive two years of tuition, books (from the institution/degree specific required book list, not books which are optional for the class), required fees (including health care), travel to attend one cyber-related conference within the United States where the student is presenting a paper (No foreign travel will be authorized), and a stipend of $35,000. Awards will be made via a grant to the NCAE-C. Disabled students may receive additional allowances. There are no allowances for dependents.

Selected scholars who fail to successfully complete the degree program and begin working will be required to reimburse the NCAE-C Grant Program Office/NSA/DoD for the full amount of scholarship funds received. Only two years of funding will provided; however, the grant PI may request a no-cost extension to allow the student additional time to complete any last minute degree requirements. This request should come at least 6 months before the identified graduation date and may only be for a period of 6 months. Selected scholars who are dismissed, terminated, or separate on their own accord from the faculty position prior to completion of the service obligation will be required to reimburse the NCAE-C Grant Program Office/NSA/DoD for any time not completed.

3. *APPOINTMENT AND HIRING AUTHORITIES*

NCAE-C PhD Scholars will be expected to begin working in a faculty positions at either their parent institution, a designated NCAE-C institution, or in some instances at a non-designated minority serving institution within 6 months of completion of the degree or graduation. NCAE-Cs will assist scholars in finding open vacancies either through their own institution, utilizing the NCAE-C network, or faculty vacancies posted on the CAE Community Website. NCAE-C PhD Scholars must qualify for the positions they apply to. The NCAE-C Grant Program Office cannot assist in the hiring of scholars but will provide a listing of potential faculty applicants to the entire NCAE-C Community.

4. *MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY FOR SCHOLARSHIP AND APPOINTMENT*

To be eligible for the opportunity described in this announcement, you must meet all of the following minimum requirements:

a) You must be 18 years of age or older.
b) You must be a citizen of the United States at the time of application.
c) You must be enrolled (or accepted for enrollment) in one of the identified NCAE-C colleges or universities, or enrolled (or accepted for enrollment) at an institution selected by a NCAE-C as a collaborative partner for these purposes.
d) You must have only two academic years remaining of a doctoral program. Students who are all but dissertation may apply as well.
e) You must be pursuing a course of study and/or have a declared major in one of the scientific, technical, or managerial disciplines related to cyber or with a concentration in cybersecurity. For these purposes, the scientific, technical and managerial disciplines related to computer and network security and

cybersecurity are:

- o Cybersecurity encompasses the scientific, technical, and management disciplines required to ensure computer and network security, including the following functions:
  - System/network administration and operations
  - Systems security engineering
  - Information assurance systems and product acquisition
  - Cryptography
  - Threat and vulnerability assessment, to include risk management
  - Web security
  - Operations of computer emergency response teams
  - Computer forensics
  - Defensive information operations
  - Critical information infrastructure assurance
- o Relevant cyber-related academic disciplines, with concentrations in cyber security, would include, but are not limited to:

Biometrics	Data Science
Business Management or Administration	Digital and Multimedia Forensics Electrical
Business Process Analysis	Engineering
Computer Crime Investigations Computer	Electronics Engineering
Engineering	Information Security (Assurance)
Computer Programming	Information Systems
Computer Science	Information Technology Acquisition
Computer Systems Analysis Cyber Operations	IT Program/Project Management
Cybersecurity	Mathematics
Cybersecurity Policy	Network Management/Operations
Database Administration	Software Engineering
Data Management	Systems Engineering

5. *ACADEMIC SUFFICIENCY*

Applicants must be recommended by their school for the scholarship. The NCAE-C shall review the application materials, and conduct such verification as may be necessary to establish the following standards of academic sufficiency. NCAE-Cs shall exclude from further evaluation (and provide an endorsement of "Not Recommended" for) any applicant unable to meet the following academic requirements:

The applicant is pursuing a course of study and/or has a declared major in one of the scientific, technical or managerial disciplines related to computer and network security that are enumerated under Section 4.E. above. As a doctoral candidate, the applicant 3.5 GPA out of 4.0, or an analogous rank based on a comparable scale.

Factors to be considered in arriving at the rating for "demonstrated potential" are:
- The applicant's original transcript(s) from all institutions of higher education attended
- The applicant's current Grade Point Average (GPA)
- Academic honors, distinctions and awards
- Letters of reference

6. *GENERAL INFORMATION*

Application Forms and Materials: applicants will be available as part of the solicitation. Please read all questions and answer to the best of your ability. The application itself consists of a questionnaire, resume, honors/awards listing, brief synopsis of dissertation subject, one letter of recommendation from a faculty member (author of the letter should be different from the proposed grant PI), and official transcripts.

Students should understand that the NCAE-C is required by the NCAE-C Grant Program Office to

participate in the evaluation of their application for scholarship assistance under this program. The NCAE-C may fulfill its responsibilities to evaluate applications in a variety of ways. The NCAE-C might constitute a panel to review application materials or conduct interviews with applicants.

Equal Employment Opportunity: The Department of Defense is an Equal Opportunity Employer and this requirement extends to the NCAE-C. All qualified persons shall receive consideration for this opportunity without regard to political, religious, labor organization affiliation or non-affiliation, marital status, race, color, sex, national origin, non-disqualifying physical disability, age, or sexual orientation.

7. *APPLICATION CONTENT REQUIREMENTS*

DO NOT *INCLUDE SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS, COPIES OF PASSPORTS or DRIVERS LICENSE, BIRTH CERTIFICATES, or ANY OTHER TYPE OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.*

- The application will ask specific questions to determine if you are eligible to apply. If you are eligible you will be required to provide the following:
  - **Questionnaire Form**
  - **Listing of recognitions, honors and awards**.
  - **Resume/CV**
  - **Synopsis of dissertation research**
  - **One (1) Letter of Reference** from a current faculty member who is fully knowledgeable of your potential for successful learning, your knowledge, and your ability. The author of this letter should be different from the proposed grant PI.
  - **Official Transcripts** identifying the required GPA. Electronic transcripts may be accepted as long as they are certified by the institution. NOTE: University POCs processing applications for submission may open the transcripts.