

UU Graduate School in Cybersecurity - Call for Projects 2024

The Graduate School in Cybersecurity gathers a cohort of existing and forthcoming PhD students and their supervisors, bringing together the domain expertise and strengthening collaboration on cybersecurity-related research and education.

The school is now opening its second call for two new PhD positions in Cybersecurity to all faculty at the Department of Information Technology. The school will cover 50% of the research time of the PhD students for up to 5 years. This support aims to engage faculty that will actively contribute to the development of the Graduate School and related teaching and research activities.

The school aims to create an environment where experts in cybersecurity and related areas work together, through a core PhD-level curriculum of joint courses and research activities. The school is also envisioned to contribute to existing cybersecurity-related initiatives within the Department and the Faculty, such as undergraduate courses, activities within the Cybersecurity Arena, and the faculty-wide strength area of Systems and Cyber Security.

Regular seminars with presentations from the school's participants and by invited speakers are organized. Active participation in the school activities by all PhD students and their supervisors is a prerequisite for funding.

Scope of the Call

Applications are expected to include both a novel research project and a pedagogical development plan addressing the following aspects:

- **Course development:** Supervisors of each project commit to developing and delivering new pedagogical material related to cybersecurity, in the form of PhD courses to be offered within the first two years of the PhD project and regularly thereafter.
 - What courses do you suggest to create and offer within the school?
- **Research and collaboration:** The Graduate School seeks to promote new excellent research on cybersecurity-related challenges and newly or recently established collaborations across different Divisions or Departments.
 - What do the applicants bring to the project and how do you complement each other?
- **Active contribution** to the activities of the Graduate School.
 - What coordinating roles and new initiatives in the graduate school you could take on (seminars, education, cybersecurity network, industry contacts, etc)?
- **Funding:** Explanation of how the applicants will co-finance the PhD student.

Evaluation:

Applications will be evaluated on:

- scientific quality and novelty of the proposed research,
- contribution to the graduate school environment and the Cybersecurity Arena,
- supervising team: synergies, potential of new collaborations/research direction, track record.
- feasibility of the project as well as capacity for supervision and engagement.

Eligibility to apply:

- The main applicant shall be employed at the Department of Information Technology at the time of decision.
- Each applicant is allowed to submit one application as the main applicant, and one application as co-applicant.
- In applying, the applicants confirm that they will participate in the activities of the graduate school and that the PhD student includes the joint course curriculum in the study plan.
- The Head of the Division of the main applicant must sign the application and in doing so guarantee that the PhD student will be hosted within the division and that co-financing will be provided for the remaining part of the salary.

The ambition is to have non-overlapping supervision teams.

Application Structure

The main part of the application must not exceed 4 pages (using 11pt font) and include:

1. Title and description of the project
 - Addressing the objectives, novelty, and methodology. Key references.
2. Course description
 - Addressing the objectives, content, and added value to the PhD students.
3. Supervision team
 - Information about the applicants (name, academic position, division, email);
 - Role in the project and synergies;
 - Contributions to the graduate school
4. Explanation of how the applicants will co-finance the student.

Appendix:

- A. CV of the applicants (max 2 pages each)
 - include ongoing grants and PhD supervision;
- B. Publication list and a link to Google Scholar profile or ORCID, for each applicant;
- C. A signed statement from the Head of the Division of the main applicant guaranteeing that co-financing will be provided for the remaining part of the salary.

Applications and Evaluation Process

Deadline: February 29, 2024 at 18:00.

Applications are submitted as a single PDF file to the Box Folder:

<https://tinyurl.com/UU-GradCybSec2024> (requires login to a UU Box account)

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Evaluation Process:

- The call closes on February 29, 2024, at 18:00.
- Proposals are evaluated and ranked by external expert reviewers (March).
- The graduate school steering group makes the final funding decision (April).
- Successful applicants will be asked to write a formal call text for the respective PhD student position. To facilitate a coordinated start of the research school, all PhD positions will then be simultaneously announced in April/May 2024, with effective enrollment of the students in the second half of 2024.