

MARYLAND CYBERSECURITY CENTER | MC2

MC2 Travel Awards

The goal of this award is to recognize MC2 students and postdocs for their excellence and support travel that might not otherwise be funded. Selected students or postdocs can receive up to \$5,000 for documented expenses for travel to an academic conference, workshop, or other research event focused on cybersecurity and/or privacy. Selection is held twice a year, with application deadlines of September 30 and March 31. Up to two awards are applicants are selected each cycle. Applications must be submitted in a zip file to Dana Purcell at purcell2@umd.edu.

The selection criteria are as follows:

- The awardee must be an active and engaged member of MC2. Examples include (but are not limited to) participating regularly in reading groups or seminars, organizing or volunteering at MC2 events, mentoring fellow MC2 students, etc. The awardee must have been participating in MC2 for at least one year at the time of application.
- The awardee must demonstrate research excellence in the areas of cybersecurity and/or privacy.
- The proposed travel must be to an academic event related to cybersecurity and/or privacy (or to present cybersecurity/privacy work at a more general event). Travel funds can support travel (e.g., airfare), housing (e.g., hotel), food (at standard UMD per diem rates), event registration fees, and other allowable expenses under UMD and UMIACS rules.
- Preference will be given to supporting travel that is not otherwise externally funded (e.g., not supported by a relevant grant or contract). Preference will be given to people who are participating in or presenting at the event.
- Graduate students, postdocs, and undergraduate students are eligible, but graduate students will generally be preferred (and undergrads must demonstrate significant research commitment).
- No one student or postdoc can receive the travel grant more than twice, and an awardee cannot apply for a second award until two years after their successful application. Some preference will be given over time to balancing awardees among different research topics, faculty advisers, etc.
- The awardee is required to also apply for any available travel grants associated with the event, in order to reduce costs of the travel award.
- The awardee is required to take appropriate measures to reduce costs, including finding roommates, choosing less expensive flights and hotels, etc.

The application process:

- By the advertised deadline, applicants must submit: a CV, a letter (up to 2 pages) outlining their travel plans and why they are qualified for the award, a letter of support from a faculty member associated with MC2, and a proposed budget
- The MC2 director will appoint a three-person committee to review applications and make a recommendation about who should receive the award(s).
- The award amount will vary (up to \$5000 maximum) based on the requested budget and on actual incurred expenses. The committee and/or director may adjust the requested budget. Travel will be reimbursed through the standard UMIACS reimbursement process and is subject to all department, university, and state policies and procedures. Unused funds revert back to MC2 and may not be used for other trips or expenses.