



MARYLAND CYBERSECURITY CENTER | MC2

MC2 Student/Postdoc Seed Funding

The goal of this award is to support MC2 students and postdocs pursuing new research in security or privacy that has not yet received external funding. Selected students or postdocs can receive up to \$5,000 for documented expenses associated with conducting research, including but not limited to purchasing new equipment or cloud computing resources, compensating human subjects, or purchasing other materials or supplies specific to the proposed research. Selection is held three times a year, with application deadlines of January 31, May 31, and August 31. One or two winners are selected each cycle. The award amount will vary based on the requested budget and on actual incurred expenses. 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 research idea must be focused on cybersecurity and/or privacy and must have strong intellectual merit as judged by the award committee.
- The proposed budget items must directly and specifically support the proposed research.
- The proposed research should be a new / early-stage idea and the proposed purchases cannot already be externally funded.
- 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 seed 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 application process:

- By the advertised deadline, applicants must submit: a CV, a letter (up to 3 pages) outlining the research plan and proposed purchases along with why the student is qualified for the award, a letter of support from a faculty member associated with MC2 who will oversee the project, 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).
- Purchasing will be conducted via the standard UMIACS purchasing 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 purposes. Any change in budget must be approved by the director.

Note: Any items purchased with these funds are property of the University. They must be used in accordance with UMD policy and must be turned over to UMIACS staff at either the conclusion of the project or when the student or postdoc leaves the University (whichever happens first). Also, all purchases and/or reimbursements are subject to UMD policy and procedure. Use of these funds must be consistent with all UMD policies and procedures. Students must have IRB approval before utilizing (and paying) human subjects. (When appropriate, students or postdocs may apply for this award before having IRB approval, on the basis of a plan to seek approval, but approval is needed before any human subjects work or payment occurs.)