



Academic Partners

CREST's mission is to build capability, capacity and consistency in the global technical assurance, detection and response and threat intelligence markets. Our relationship with academic institutions forms a core part of this strategy and we work actively with colleges and universities to encourage and attract the very best people to the cyber security industry.

At CREST, we recognise that to build talent for the future, we must invest in education, training and professional development today. By working in partnership with academia, we can harness knowledge and skills to develop and expand future talent pools.

Why join?

Benefits to universities and students

- Publicity for the university and its relevant cyber security courses
- Career advice and guidance to students
- Subsidised CREST Practitioner Security Analyst (CPSA) examination vouchers
- Free access to hundreds of hours of professional and up-to-date video content relating to current thinking and best practice in cyber security
- Support to universities to run their own cyber security events / conferences
- Discounted tickets to CREST's annual conference, discounted exhibitor rates and opportunity for students to showcase work
- Membership of the CREST Advocate industry forum
- Support for syllabus creation and refinement
- Access to internship and work placement opportunities
- Use of CREST Academic Partner logo

Spreading the word

CREST works with many parts of industry and government both in the UK and other parts of the world from the US and Europe to Singapore and Australia. Inclusion on the register of CREST Academic Partners will help raise the profile of your University among key influencers and potential students and employers as well as promoting your services to industry.

We will also provide details of all CREST Academic Partners and their courses on the CREST website.

Career advice and guidance

To help students identify opportunities and to plot their career paths, CREST provides a wide range of services from lectures and career advice from industry experts to guidance on ethics and professional development. This is supported by career guides and the Inspired Careers website.

For more information, visit: www.inspiredcareers.org or www.crest-approved.org/uk/research/index.html to download the careers guides.

The latest careers guide for university students, in collaboration with the NCSC's CyberFirst initiative is available for download. Printed copies are available to Academic Partners on request.

Subsidised CPSA Exam Vouchers

We are keen to help provide real-world context to university courses and help FastTrack talented students, so CREST will provide a 20% subsidy against the cost of examination vouchers for universities that run syllabuses aligned to CPSA. Universities that qualify for this subsidy will need to purchase vouchers centrally, with a minimum block purchase of ten.

CRESTx Information Exchange

Good quality, in-depth and current information on industry trends and details on the latest exploits and threats is not readily available to the student population and what is published is often out of date. The problem is that cyber security professionals do not have the time to write white papers and access to discussion groups is often closely restricted.

That's why we have come up with CRESTx, designed as an information exchange, initially focused on providing presentations from technical information assurance professionals. As part of this activity, CREST makes video copies of all professional presentations from its annual CRESTCon conference, available to our Academic Partners.

We support universities to run their own conferences, preferably organised by students and utilising material provided by CREST, combined with presentations from students and guest speakers. In return, we ask that these presentations are filmed and posted on the CREST site at www.youtube.com/crestadvocate. We believe that this:

- Helps provide students with access to current research and threats
- Starts the processes of sharing resources and information between universities – a key Government objective
- Provides exposure for universities and allows potential employers to see the quality of individual students and departments.

CREST's collaborative research material provides a strong voice for the industry, opportunities to share knowledge and provides good practice guidance to the wider community. This is available at: www.crest-approved.org/uk/research/index.html.

CRESTCon – the annual conference

CREST provides discounted tickets to students at Academic Partner universities. Academic Partners also receive a substantial discount on exhibiting at the event. There are also several places every year for students to showcase / demonstrate their work in the demo area of the event.

Internships and work placements

These schemes are a great opportunity for students to gain real world experience to complement their academic studies and improve employment opportunities, as well as a fantastic chance for businesses to get access to new talent.

CVs for internships and or work placement opportunities sent to CREST are passed to representatives at CREST Member companies, resulting in a high take up.

We do not charge for this service and will continue to provide it free of charge to our Academic Partners. There is also no fee associated with the placement of the students. But in return we would like universities to provide case studies and testimonials from students working in industry.

Syllabus support

CREST publishes a syllabus for each examination it runs and these have been used by universities to create or refine their own courses. This support will continue to be available to universities signed up to our CREST Academic Partner scheme.

Use of CREST Academic Partner logo

Once your membership has been approved you will be sent the CREST Academic Partner logo, which you will be able to use on you website and marketing materials.

What you need to become a partner

Only universities with a dedicated Cyber Security degree course or a Computer Science degree with a significant amount of cyber security content will be considered to join the CREST Academic Partner program. CREST will review the course content prior to awarding the university with academic partner status.

How to become a partner

If you have any questions about becoming a member or would like a copy of the application form, please contact: Allie Andrews, allie@crest-approved.org

About CREST

CREST is a not-for-profit accreditation and certification body that represents and supports the technical information security market. CREST was set up in 2006 in response to the clear need for more regulated professional services and is now recognised globally as the cyber assurance body for the technical security industry.

CREST provides internationally recognised accreditations for organisations and individuals providing penetration testing, cyber incident response and threat intelligence services. All CREST member companies undergo stringent assessment; while CREST qualified individuals have to pass rigorous professional level examinations to demonstrate knowledge, skill and competence. CREST also supports the industry by providing in-depth guidance material and commissioning detailed research projects. All CREST research is provided to the industry free of charge.

Through CREST's demanding accreditation process, organisations buying security testing and incident response services get the assurance that:

- The services will be delivered by trusted companies with best practice policies and procedures.
- The work will be conducted by highly-qualified individuals with up to date knowledge, skill and competence to deal with all the latest vulnerabilities and techniques used by real attackers.
- Both the company assessments and individual qualifications are underpinned by meaningful and enforceable codes of conduct.