



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 as a CREST Academic Partner
- 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 exhibitor rates to CREST's annual conference 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.

Go to www.crest-approved.org/professional-development/crest-careers-guides/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 10% subsidy against the cost of 10-49 examination vouchers booked, and 15% subsidy against the cost of 50+ examination vouchers booked 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.



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 on the CREST website.

CRESTCon – the annual conference

CREST's annual conference - CRESTCon - provides a great opportunity for students to learn more about technical security and meet with industry professionals ranging from CISOs and senior managers to senior penetration testers and threat intelligence analysts. Each year CREST welcomes student volunteers and demonstrations from academic partners - giving the students the chance to attend talks and showcase their skills to prospective employers. For those unable to attend, they can watch videos filmed at CRESTCon by viewing our YouTube channel [here](#).

There is even a special networking drinks event for them to attend and meet sponsors and VIPs with the opportunity to share CVs in advance.

There is a dedicated stream at CRESTCon for speaker presentations from academia and CREST Academic Partners are invited to submit their research, in particular in the areas of penetration testing, incidence response, and threat intelligence for consideration.

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: adriana.costa-mcfadden@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.