

Research Role Profile

Job Title:	Research Fellow A
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Responsible to:	Head of research group, or principal investigator
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Responsible for:	Not applicable
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Job Summary and Purpose:
To undertake research in accordance with the specified research project(s) under the supervision of the principal investigator.

Main Responsibilities/Activities
<p>To undertake a range of research activities within a specified research area, assuming responsibility for specific areas of projects and making use of new research techniques and methods, in consultation with the research award holder or supervisor. This may include fieldwork, interviews, laboratory experimentation, critical evaluation and interpretation, computer-based data analysis and evaluation or library research.</p> <p>Using initiative and creativity to identify areas for research develop new research methods and extend the research portfolio. Analysing and interpreting results of own research. Write up results and prepare papers for submission to appropriate journals and conferences, and other outputs as required and/or appropriate. Attend appropriate conferences for the purpose of disseminating research results of personal development. The post holder may also contribute to writing bids for research grants and will contribute to collaborative decision making with colleagues in areas of research.</p> <p>Continually to update knowledge and develop skills, and translate knowledge of advances in the area into research activity.</p> <p>To plan and manage own research activity in collaboration with others. To carry out administrative tasks associated with specified research funding, for example risk assessment of research activities, organisation of project meetings and documentation. Implementation of procedures required to ensure accurate and timely formal reporting and financial control.</p> <p>To contribute to teaching in the Faculty by carrying out student supervision and/or demonstrating within the post holder's area of expertise and under the direct guidance of a member of departmental academic staff, as appropriate.</p> <p>The post holder may occasionally be required to supervise more junior research staff.</p>

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Person Specification

The post holder must have:

A doctoral degree in a relevant discipline (although individuals who have almost completed a doctoral degree may be appointed). Consideration may also be given to individuals who do not hold a doctoral degree but have required skills based on a number of years experience in specified / relevant fields

The post holder will have authority over some aspects of project work and must be capable of providing academic judgement, offering original and creative thoughts and be able to interpret and analyse results.

Relationships and Contacts

Direct responsibility to the principal investigator or academic supervisor. The post holder may be asked to serve on a relevant Faculty committee. There may be additional reporting and liaison responsibilities to external funding bodies or sponsors. The post holder may work on original research tasks with colleagues in other institutions.

Special Requirements

To be available to participate in fieldwork as required by the specified research project

All staff are expected to:

- Positively support equality of opportunity and equity of treatment to colleagues and students in accordance with the University of Surrey Equal Opportunities policy.
- Help maintain a safe working environment by:
 - Attending training in Health and Safety requirements as necessary, both on appointment and as changes in duties and techniques demand
 - Following local codes of safe working practices and the University of Surrey Health and Safety Policy
- Undertake such other duties within the scope of the post as may be requested by your Manager.

Addendum

This document provides additional information relating to both specific aspects of the post/faculty and any post specific person specification criteria. The information contained within this document should always be read in conjunction with the accompanying generic Role Profile.

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Background Information/Relationships

Applications are invited for a 30-months Research Fellow in E-Voting to work full time on an EPSRC-funded project *TrustVote: Dispute-Resolution Mechanisms and Systems for Private and Verifiable Voting*. The successful post holder is expected to start 1 May 2024 or as soon as possible thereafter and will be based in the Department of Computer Science and its highly regarded Surrey Centre for Cyber Security (SCCS), working with Dr. Cătălin Drăgan.

Focus of the role

The aim of the project is to build foundations for dispute-resolution and to enhance existing protocols (e.g., Helios, Belenios, Selene, ElectionGuard, Swiss Postal Voting) and/or propose new voting protocols or dispute-resolution mechanisms. Based on the successful candidate's expertise and interest the role can incorporate machine-checked proof guarantees using tools such as EasyCrypt, Squirrel, Proverif, etc.

The Surrey Centre for Cyber Security (SCCS) is a widely recognized centre of excellence for cyber security research and teaching. There are approximately 17 permanent academic members and 15 non-academic researchers with expertise on voting, formal modelling and verification, applied cryptography, trust systems, social media, communication and networks, and blockchain and distributed ledger technologies over key sectors such as government, finance, communications, transport and cross-sector technologies.

Skills/Experience and how applied

We are looking for applicants that demonstrate strong research and analytical skills, have strong communication skills and enthusiasm for developing their own research ideas.

Applicants should have expertise in one of the following areas: e-voting, or formal verification of cryptographic protocols, or provable security.

A PhD in Computer Science, Mathematics, or other closely related area (or be on course of getting one very soon at the time of application).

The post runs until October 31st 2026. For informal enquiries and further information please contact Dr. Cătălin Drăgan c.dragan@surrey.ac.uk

Person Specification

This section describes the sum total of knowledge, experience & competence required by the post holder that is necessary for standard acceptable performance in carrying out this role. This is in addition to the criteria contained within the accompanying generic Role Profile.

	Essential/ Desirable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A PhD in Computer Science, Mathematics, or other closely related area (or be on course of getting one very soon at the time of application). 	Essential
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantifiable experience in <i>electronic voting</i>, or <i>formal verification</i>, or <i>provable security</i>. 	Essential
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to take initiative and work independently. 	Essential

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to present ideas to other experts in the area, as evidenced by conference presentations, seminars, invited talks, or similar. 	<p>Essential</p>
<p>Key Responsibilities</p> <p>This document is not designed to be a list of all tasks undertaken but an outline record of any faculty/post specific responsibilities (5 to 8 maximum). This should be read in conjunction with those contained within the accompanying generic Role Profile.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To undertake a range of research/development activities within the research area, assuming responsibility for specific areas of the project and making use of new research techniques and methods, in consultation with the research award holder. Continually update technical knowledge and skills, and translate knowledge of advances in the area into the research activity. Liaise closely and regularly with other members of the research group including industrial and external partners. Produce materials for project deliverables, dissemination of the results of the project at scientific meetings. Conduct independent research to support project dissemination plans. Perform any other duties associated with the project, as deemed appropriate to the grade by the supervisor <p>N.B. The above list is not exhaustive.</p>	