UQ Cyber PhD Scholarships – Round 2

Call for Expressions of Interest (EOI)

UQ Cyber Security is inviting Expressions of Interest (EOIs) for Round 2 of the UQ Cyber PhD Scholarships.

1. EOI Submission Process

The EOI should be submitted through the UQ admissions portal, with Associate Professor Dan Kim nominated as the Principal Supervisor, as he will collect and coordinate all EOIs for this scholarship round. Applicants must submit the full set of required documentation at the EOI stage through the portal.

EOIs must not be submitted by email.

2. Important Information about Supervision

Associate Professor Dan Kim is the main contact person for this scholarship process and serves as Chair of the Scholarship Selection Panel. Although applicants must nominate him as the Principal Supervisor in the admissions portal at the EOI stage so that he can collect and coordinate all EOIs, he will not be the actual Principal Supervisor or an Associate Supervisor for the proposed PhD project.

Applicants must therefore identify a suitable UQ Cyber Security-affiliated academic staff member who is willing to act as the proposed Principal Supervisor for the PhD project. Applicants should also identify suitable proposed Associate Supervisor(s). All members of the proposed supervisory team must agree to participate before the EOI is submitted, and their details must be included in the EOI documents.

3. Selection Process

The scholarship selection process consists of **two stages**.

3.1 Stage 1 – Expression of Interest (EOI)

Applicants must first submit an EOI containing all required information and supporting documents described below. EOIs will be assessed by the Scholarship Selection Panel against the specified evaluation criteria. In the admissions portal, applicants must nominate Associate Professor Dan Kim as the Principal Supervisor for the EOI submission only. The proposed supervisory team for the PhD project must be identified separately in the EOI documents.

3.2 Stage 2 – Full Application

Candidates shortlisted through the EOI process will be invited to submit a **full PhD and scholarship application**.

Some documents submitted for the EOI may also be used for the full application. However, shortlisted candidates may be required to provide additional information and documentation as part of the formal UQ application process, including personal identification information where required.

4. How to Submit Your EOI

Before submitting an EOI, applicants must carefully read all instructions and ensure that all required information and supporting documents are included.

Applicants must complete the following steps.

4.1 Identify the Proposed Supervisory Team

Identify a UQ Cyber Security-affiliated academic staff member whose research expertise aligns with the proposed PhD research. Applicants must contact the academic and obtain their agreement to act as the proposed Principal Supervisor for the PhD project before submitting the EOI. Applicants should also establish an appropriate proposed supervisory team in accordance with the requirements in Section 5.1. This proposed team must be listed in the EOI documents, even though Associate Professor Dan Kim is nominated as the Principal Supervisor in the admissions portal for administrative purposes at the EOI stage.

4.2 Prepare All Required EOI Documents

Carefully review the requirements in Section 5 and ensure that **all requested information and supporting documents are included**. Incomplete or non-compliant EOIs may not be fully assessed and may be disadvantaged during the selection process.

4.3 Submit the EOI

Once the proposed supervisory team has been confirmed and all required documents have been prepared, submit the EOI through the UQ admissions portal using the link provided in the scholarship advertisement, with Associate Professor Dan Kim nominated as the Principal Supervisor. Applicants must upload the full set of required documentation at the EOI stage, with each document uploaded as a separate PDF file. Do not email the EOI and do not combine the documents into a ZIP file.

5. Required EOI Documents

Each EOI submission must include the seven documents listed below.

All documents must:

- be submitted as **separate PDF files**;
- comply with the stated page limits;
- use the specified file-naming convention; and
- be uploaded individually through the admissions portal; a ZIP file is not required.

Applicants must name each file using the following format:

DocumentNumber_DocumentName_FamilyName_GivenName.pdf

For example: **01_Response_to_Selection_Criteria_Smith_John.pdf**

Applicants must use the numbered file names specified below.

5.1 Response to Selection Criteria

File name:
01_Response_to_Selection_Criteria_FamilyName_GivenName.pdf

Length limit: Maximum 4 pages

Applicants must submit a separate document titled **Response to Selection Criteria** as part of the EOI package. This document must address **all evaluation criteria and subcriteria** used by the Selection Panel. Applicants should use the headings below and respond clearly to each item.

A. Applicant Profile

Applicants should address:

- **AP1. Quality of qualifying degree:** Quality and relevance of the qualifying degree, particularly in cyber security, privacy, computer science, engineering, or related fields.
- **AP2. GPA:** GPA or equivalent academic performance.
- **AP3. Relevant experience:** Relevant research, professional, or industry experience in cyber security, privacy, or related areas.
- **AP4. Research outputs:** Research outputs, including peer-reviewed publications, patents, software tools, datasets, prototypes, or other relevant outputs.

B. Research Proposal

Applicants should address:

- **RP1. Quality of project:** Clarity of the research problem and its real-world relevance.
- **RP2. Multidisciplinary nature:** How the project integrates multiple fields or perspectives to enhance its impact.
- **RP3. Project benefits:** Expected benefits of the project to UQ Cyber Security, industry, government, the community, or the broader research sector.
- **RP4. Measurable outcomes:** Expected deliverables, such as publications, prototypes, datasets, tools, policy contributions, industry engagement, or other measurable outcomes.
- **RP5. Proposal content:** Clarity, structure, accessibility, and overall quality of the proposal.

C. Research Translation

Applicants should address:

- **RT1. Industry alignment:** Alignment of the proposed research with industry, government, or community priorities, and the potential uptake of research outcomes.
- **RT2. Impact and collaboration:** Potential pathways for impact, collaboration, intellectual property management, and sustainable external engagement.

D. Supervisory Team

Applicants must provide details of the proposed supervisory team, including the proposed **Principal Supervisor** and **Associate Supervisor(s)**.

Applicants should address:

- **ST1. Track record:** The supervisory team's relevant expertise, track record, and suitability for the proposed interdisciplinary cyber security, privacy, or related research project.
- **ST2. ECMR supervision:** The contribution of any Academic Level A, B, or C supervisor and the mentoring support available to that supervisor, where relevant.

The proposed supervisory team must also satisfy the following requirements:

- the Principal Supervisor must be registered as a Principal Advisor **and** be affiliated with UQ Cyber Security;
- all proposed supervisors must have agreed to participate in the supervisory team before the EOI is submitted;
- all team members must be registered **UQ Graduate School advisors**; and
- at least one supervisor must be at **Academic Level A, B, or C**.

Applicants must not list a supervisor unless that person has agreed to be included in the supervisory team.

Associate Professor Dan Kim must not be listed as a member of the proposed supervisory team for the PhD project. His nomination as Principal Supervisor in the admissions portal at the EOI stage is solely for the administrative collection and coordination of applications.

5.2 Applicant Details

File name:
02_Applicant_Details_FamilyName_GivenName.pdf

Length limit: Maximum 1 page

Applicants must provide:

- full name;
- contact details;
- current institution;
- proposed PhD commencement period;
- proposed project title; and
- any other relevant identifying information.

5.3 Curriculum Vitae

File name:
03_Curriculum_Vitae_FamilyName_GivenName.pdf

Length limit: Maximum 3 pages

The CV should include:

- education;
- research experience;
- publications;
- awards;
- relevant professional experience;
- technical skills; and
- any other information relevant to the scholarship evaluation.

5.4 Academic Transcripts

File name:
04_Academic_Transcripts_FamilyName_GivenName.pdf

Length limit: No page limit (but it should be reasonable short).

Applicants must provide academic transcripts and any other required evidence of academic achievement.

5.5 Referee Reports or Referee Information

File name:
05_Referee_Reports_or_Referee_Information_FamilyName_GivenName.pdf

Length limit:
Maximum 1 page. Applicants must provide **two referee reports**, as required by the scholarship process.

The referees should be able to comment on the applicant's:

• research capability;

• academic potential; and

• suitability for PhD study.

5.6 Research Proposal

File name:
06_Research_Proposal_FamilyName_GivenName.pdf

Length limit: Maximum 5 pages, excluding references

The research proposal must include:

- proposed research topic;
- background and motivation;
- research problem;
- aims and research questions;
- proposed methodology;
- expected outcomes;
- relevance to UQ Cyber Security;
- potential research impact and translation pathways; and
- references (excluding this).

The proposal should be **clear, concise and accessible to a multidisciplinary Selection Panel**. It should clearly explain the real-world relevance and expected contribution of the proposed research. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that all references, citations, related work, and background information are **accurate and properly verified against original sources**.

5.7 Statement on AI Use

File name:
07_Statement_on_AI_Use_FamilyName_GivenName.pdf

Length limit: Maximum 1 page

Applicants must clearly indicate whether **generative AI tools** were used in preparing any part of the EOI package.

If generative AI tools were used, applicants must specify:

1. which parts of the EOI were assisted by AI;
2. which AI tools were used;
3. how the tools were used; and
4. what steps were taken to check and verify the accuracy of the AI-assisted content.

For both the **Research Proposal** and the **Response to Selection Criteria**, applicants are responsible for directly checking and verifying the accuracy of all:

- references and citations;
- related work;
- background information; and
- claims about the research area.

Applicants must ensure that all cited sources are **real, relevant, accurate and correctly represented**. AI-generated or AI-assisted content must not be used as a substitute for checking and verifying original sources.

6. Important Information about Incomplete or Non-compliant EOIs

EOIs must include **all required documents and information at the time of submission**.

In particular, the **Response to Selection Criteria** is a mandatory component of the EOI package and must address all evaluation criteria and subcriteria listed in Section 5.1.

The Selection Panel may be unable to assess a relevant criterion if information is:

- missing or incomplete;
- unclear or unverifiable;
- provided in the wrong document;

- submitted in a format other than PDF; or
- outside the stated page limit.

In such cases, panel members may be unable to award marks for the affected criterion or criteria. EOIs may therefore be disadvantaged in the ranking process if they contain, for example:

- incomplete supervisory team information;
- missing evidence of supervisors' agreement;
- a missing or incomplete Statement on AI Use;
- incomplete research translation information; or
- incomplete responses to the selection criteria.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to check that their EOI package is **complete, accurate, properly named, submitted in the required format, and appropriately verified** before submission.