

Universities recognised for excellence in cyber security

Two UK universities have been added to the growing list of Academic Centres of Excellence in Cyber Security Research (ACEs-CSR), further enhancing the UK's leading position in cyber security research.

The two new centres at De Montfort University and Northumbria University have been recognised by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) as having first rate research capabilities.

Their strengths include improving our approaches to help people better understand how to protect themselves online, and developing new technologies to protect critical infrastructure like telecommunications.

They join a list of 17 other institutions across the whole of the UK which are regarded as strategic partners to Government, and are producing cutting edge research in cyber security.

Digital Minister Margot James said:

The UK has some of the best minds in the cyber security field and it's only right that we recognise those universities that can excel when it comes to carrying out world leading research. The global threat of cyber security is never far from our minds we want to ensure that our best and brightest can help shape our national cyber security strategy.

Chris Ensor, NCSC Deputy Director for Cyber Growth said:

I'm delighted to welcome Northumbria and De Montfort Universities to the ACE-CSR community. We have seen the community grow from 8 universities to 19 and that has been down to the hard work and investment they have all put in. Both are existing members of our Research Institutes and it is brilliant to see how they have built on and developed their broader capacity and capability over several years, to now meet the standards required of an Academic Centre of Excellence in Cyber Security Research.

Professor Lynne Coventry, Principal Investigator and Research Director of Psychology who leads the Northumbria Cyber Security Research Group said:

Cyber security research has typically been directed towards finding technological solutions, but as our technological perimeter has

strengthened, people have been left behind and become prime targets for cyber attackers.

To stop today's advanced attacks we need to understand how to better protect the general public by adopting a people-centric cybersecurity strategy and exploring how to design security technology and policies which support individuals in their endeavours, rather than being perceived as a barrier. At Northumbria our holistic, multidisciplinary approach to cyber security integrates diverse knowledge from specialists in technology, human behaviour, business, law and design. We are delighted to receive this recognition for our work in these areas.

Professor Eerke Boiten, Director of the CTI and Professor in Cyber Security at De Montfort University said:

We are very proud of this achievement. Being named an ACE-CSR highlights our strong industry engagement and first class research capabilities

This recognition will strongly support our future plans for national and international collaborative research in topics such as industrial control systems, human factors in security, incident response, cybercrime and privacy. It also perfectly complements the provisional NCSC certification that DMU offers for two of its Master's degrees in Cyber Security and Cyber Technology. The ACE-CSR programme is part of delivering by Government's £1.9 billion National Cyber Security Strategy (NCSS) 2016-2021.

Northumbria University was a founding member of the Research Institute in Science of Cyber Security, while De Montfort is an Airbus Centre of Excellence in Cyber Security and Forensics.

Notes to editors:

- List of institutions that are recognised as Academic Centres of Excellence in Cyber Security Research are:
- University of Birmingham
- University of Bristol
- University of Cambridge
- Cardiff University
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Kent
- Imperial College London
- King's College London
- Lancaster University
- Newcastle University
- University of Oxford
- Queen's University Belfast

- Royal Holloway, University of London
- University of Southampton
- University of Surrey
- University of Warwick
- University College London
- The universities will be recognised as Academic Centres of Excellence in Cyber Security Research until June 2022.