

Research Fellow (PDRA) in Interdisciplinary Cybercrime

University of Southampton

School of Electronics and Computer Science (ECS) / Interdisciplinary Research Team

Fixed-term, 3 months (0.5 FTE)

Start date: negotiable, ideally as soon as possible.

Project period: the 2026-27 academic year.

The University of Southampton is seeking a highly motivated Postdoctoral Research Associate (PDRA) to contribute to a new interdisciplinary project examining patterns of cybercrime victimisation and digital harm.

The project brings together expertise from cybersecurity, cybercrime, geography, management science, behavioural science, spatial analytics, economics and data science to investigate how cybercrime affects individuals and communities. The work will explore large-scale data sources, develop evidence-based analytical frameworks, and identify opportunities for future interdisciplinary research.

About the Role

The successful candidate will work with a multidisciplinary team spanning:

Cybersecurity

Cybercrime

Geospatial science

Behavioural and decision sciences

Economics

Management science

Public policy and digital resilience

The PDRA will contribute to:

- Conducting a structured interdisciplinary literature review;
- Mapping the current state of knowledge across multiple disciplines;
- Identifying and evaluating candidate datasets;

- Assessing data quality, access requirements, linkage potential and ethical considerations;
- Developing and implementing exploratory data analyses;
- Producing reports, visualisations and research outputs to inform future funding applications;
- Engaging with external stakeholders and supporting interdisciplinary workshops and discussions.
- The position provides an opportunity to help shape an emerging research agenda at the intersection of cybercrime, human behaviour, geography and digital society.

Candidate Profile

We welcome applicants from a range of backgrounds, including:

Cybersecurity and cybercrime

Criminology

Computational social sciences

Geography / GIS

Criminology

Economics

Behavioural science

Social data science

Management science

Related quantitative disciplines

Applicants should have:

Essential

A PhD (or near completion) in a relevant discipline;

Strong quantitative analysis skills;

Experience working with complex datasets;

Experience with statistical modelling and/or data analytics;

Excellent written and verbal communication skills;

Ability to work independently and as part of an interdisciplinary team.

Desirable

Experience with spatial or spatio-temporal analysis;

Knowledge of cybercrime, online harms, digital inequality or related areas;

Experience with survey, administrative or observational datasets;

Experience engaging with external stakeholders or policy-facing research.

What We Offer

You will join a collaborative interdisciplinary team led by internationally recognised researchers and have the opportunity to contribute to the development of a larger external funding proposal in an area of growing societal importance.

We offer a competitive salary at the upper end of the PDRA scale, commensurate with your expertise, experience, and track record. We are keen to attract outstanding researchers and believe strongly in supporting talented individuals in a stimulating, collaborative, and intellectually ambitious research environment.

The project will offer valuable experience in:

- Interdisciplinary research design;
- Cybercrime and digital-harm research;
- Advanced analytics and data integration;
- Stakeholder engagement;
- Research strategy and proposal development.

Informal Enquiries

For informal discussions about the position, please contact the PI:

Professor Jeff Yan

Professor of Cyber Security

School of Electronics and Computer Science

University of Southampton

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