Research Institute in Trustworthy Inter-connected Cyber-physical Systems (RITICS)

Fellowship Call

Closing date: Monday 27th October 2025, 5pm GMT

The Research Institute in Trustworthy Inter-connected Cyber-physical Systems (RITICS) is inviting proposals from researchers for part-time fellowships.

Topic Areas

We invite applications which respond to the challenges identified in the NCSC's Cyber-Physical Problem Book. The challenges currently include:

- How do we build security for systems with long operational lives?
- How do we incentivise better security for cyber-physical systems?
- How can we understand the security of a wide variety of cyber-physical assets?
- How do we have confidence in the security of cyber-physical systems?
- How can we make use of emerging technologies in a secure way within cyber-physical systems?
- How do we build resilience across a 'system of systems' ?

Alternatively, proposals could address either Problem CC5 or Problem CC6 from the Problem Book chapter on Cross-cutting problems:

- How can we accelerate the adoption of modern security mitigations into Operational Technology?
- How do we incentivise investment in - and markets for - foundational technology that is secure by design?

Proposals should make clear how the proposal addresses Cyber-Physical and OT aspects of the problem. This call is open to researchers in UK universities and industrial research laboratories. University researchers will be expected to cost their fellowship using their Institution's Full Economic Cost (FEC) model and will be reimbursed at 100% of FEC costs. Industrial researchers may add a reasonable overhead to their costs.

Responsibilities

The RITICS Fellowship roles are leadership roles. Supported by RITICS and the NCSC, you will provide thought leadership in your topic across the RITICS Community and beyond. Specifically, you will:

- Explore the problem space to determine the research questions that need to be addressed and the benefits and means of growing the research topic beyond the initial period of a year.
- Engage with existing, established communities or establish a new community around the topic where appropriate.
- Identify and engage with relevant research projects that fall under your scope and identify new opportunities to develop and grow the area.
- Consider the pipeline for and sustainability of the topic, providing development opportunities, establish pathways to develop a new research angle, or connect relevant communities that are currently disparate.

Deliverables

The period of the Fellowship (1st April 2026 – 31st March 2027) is intended to be exploratory and stimulate your own innovation and creativity. Therefore, the exact nature and format of the deliverables to satisfy the responsibilities outlined above will naturally vary. The specifics of the exact programme of work to achieve the following can be discussed with the NCSC Technical Lead and the RITICS Co-Directors. The initial set of desired outcomes are:

- Demonstrate how you have built the community.
- Present outcomes of your problem definition activities.
- Articulate existing and recurrent research questions.
- Articulate the strategy for the topic going forward.

Assessment

Assessment of proposals will be undertaken by a panel who will be looking at the relevant strengths of the candidates and the proposed method for delivering in the topic areas.

Key Dates

Activity	Date
Call for Fellows Published	Wednesday 3rd September 2025
Proposals due to be submitted	Monday 27th October 2025
Announcement of Results	Monday 1st December 2025
Fellowships Starts	Wednesday 1st April 2026

Activity	Date
Fellowship Completed	Wednesday 31st March 2027

Funding

Funding is available for at least two part-time fellows. The total pool of funding available is £170K to support the engagement and activities of the fellows. The funding can be used to cover the cost of the fellows' time and appropriate travel and meeting costs.

Application Requirements

1. A 2-page plan of work which clearly indicates the topic area being addressed should be provided describing the plan to deliver the desired outputs of the chosen topic.
2. 2-page CV
3. The proposal plan should specify clear milestones and deliverables.
4. The plan of work should also mention where and how you hope to collect relevant data (if applicable).
5. How the fellowship will help bring together a community and how this community could be sustained in the long term. How will the RITICS fellowship further develop your career?
6. Breakdowns of any known costs should be included – costings should be calculated using 100% FEC model.
7. How does the proposed fellowship relate to your existing and future work?

Applications should be sent to Furrah Hussain, RITICS Programme Manager (ritics@imperial.ac.uk). We must receive your application by **Monday 27th**th **October 2025, 5pm.**