UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA

A Scholarship for Service Program in Cybersecurity
Sponsored by the National Science Foundation

www.tacoma.uw.edu/set/scholarships

Application Deadline-Undergraduate students: August 31, 2021
Application Deadline-Graduate students: April 30, 2021

About the Program

• CyberCorps®: Scholarship for Service is a unique program designed to increase and strengthen the cadre of cybersecurity professionals that protect the government’s critical information infrastructure.

Minimum Eligibility Requirements

• Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident
• Currently enrolled in, or applied for admission/transfer to, Bachelor of Science in Information Technology or Master of Cybersecurity & Leadership at University of Washington Tacoma
• Be within one or two years of graduation
• Have a Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better
• Meet selection criteria for federal employment, including obtaining a security clearance
• Intent to pursue a cybersecurity doctoral level, and/or to work for the US government.

Minimum Program Requirements

• Be a full-time student
• Maintain a minimum 3.5 GPA while in the program
• Complete a course of study in cybersecurity as approved by the program director. Though there will be some flexibility for individual student interests, most will be required courses.
• Participate in all University of Washington Tacoma CyberCorps® program activities.
• Maintain a lifestyle compatible with government agency requirements to maintain security clearance (e.g. no drugs/felonies, good financial stewardship, etc.).
• Undergraduate students must participate in a summer internship with a government agency as approved by the program director between their first and second year in the program*
• Work for a federal agency in a qualifying position, upon completing academic degree requirements. Length of service depends on length of scholarship support—one year of service for each year of support.

Scholarship Benefits

• Full tuition and academic fees for up to 2 years
• Annual stipend of $25,000 for undergraduate students and $34,000 for graduate students; paid over 3 academic quarters for undergraduates and over 4 quarters for graduate students.
• Annual professional allowance of up to $6,000.

For more information visit: https://www.sfs.opm.gov/
To apply visit: [www.tacoma.uw.edu/set](http://www.tacoma.uw.edu/set)
Submit your application form and all documents listed on page 3 to sfs2021@uw.edu

**University of Washington Tacoma CyberCorps Application Form**

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*Note: please type your information into this form, do not write by hand*
The following documents must be included with this application:

- **Resume**
Reference any degrees, awards, extra-curricular activities, technical certifications and work experience.

- **Transcript(s)**
Provide transcripts, preferably official, from all colleges and/or universities you have attended.

- **Essays**
Write a single spaced, 550 to 650 word, essay describing your educational and career objectives. You should include information on any prior related academic and work experience, and discuss the motivations for a cybersecurity career in government. For graduate students, you should also discuss your research interest and plan for pursuing a PhD in cybersecurity after your graduation. Priority consideration will be given to students who will pursue a PhD in cybersecurity with University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS)(https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/set/pathway-phd) after graduation.

- **Letters of Recommendation**
Two (2) Letters of Recommendation from people knowledgeable of your potential for successful learning and current knowledge and ability. These should be from a current or former employer or a faculty member who knows you well. Each letter must contain the full name, position or title, telephone number, email address, and institutional or organizational address of the referee. In addition, please request that each referee refer to and address some or all of the following abilities/skills:
  a. Knowledge of the techniques of the information security discipline, including encryption, access control, physical security, training, threat analysis, and authentication.
  b. Knowledge of the human factors in information security, including human computer interaction, design, training, sabotage, human error prevention and identification, personal use policies, and monitoring.
  c. Ability to identify and analyze problems, distinguish between relevant and irrelevant information to make logical decisions, and provide solutions to individual and organizational problems.
  d. Ability to consider and respond appropriately to the needs, feelings, and capabilities of different people in different situations; is tactful, compassionate and sensitive, and treats others with respect.
  e. Ability to make clear and convincing oral presentations to individuals or groups; listens effectively and clarifies information as needed; facilitates an open exchange of ideas and fosters an atmosphere of open communication.

- **Service Agreement Form**
Read and sign the Service Agreement Form, a statement of understanding of program requirements: including the UW Tacoma degree requirements and the post-graduation government service commitments.

Selected potential scholars will be invited for an in-person interview. Those students selected for interviews will be notified via phone or email of the date, time and place of the interview.

For program or application related questions contact:

- Dr. Yan Bai, Program Director
- Email: yanb@uw.edu
- DC Grant, Program Coordinator
- Email: dcgrant@uw.edu
CyberCorps®: Scholarship For Service (SFS) (Scholarship Track)

Service Agreement

The CyberCorps®: Scholarship For Service (SFS) Program provides the means for program-approved academic institutions to grant scholarships to students (hereinafter referred to as participants) who agree to pursue a degree in the information assurance fields and serve at an approved Federal, State, local, or tribal Government agency (hereinafter referred to as “participating agency”) in a qualifying position (i.e., a position in the information assurance field) for a period of up to three years upon completing academic degree requirements, depending on the length of the scholarship. This Service Agreement sets forth the participant’s responsibilities.

I. Participant Responsibilities

The SFS scholarship participant agrees to the following:

1. Scholarship Phase:
   During the scholarship phase the participant will:
   a) maintain enrollment at a participating college or university on a full-time basis;
   b) maintain good academic standing, as defined by his or her academic institution, in an information assurance program of study;
   c) at the end of the semester (or quarter or trimester, as applicable), submit an official course transcript to the Principal Investigator (PI) at the academic institution, the hiring official at the participating agency making an employment offer to the participant, or to the SFS Program Office, if so requested, listing the courses in which the participant is enrolled and the final grade(s) received;
   d) if the period of scholarship exceeds an academic year, search for and serve an information assurance-related internship of at least 10 weeks at a participating agency;
   e) participate in SFS-sponsored job fairs and all other SFS program activities;
   f) register with the SFS program, complete a participant profile, and create a résumé on-line at www.sfs.opm.gov;
   g) update SFS profile (résumé, job search activity report, and contact information) at least once quarterly;
   h) search for post-graduation employment with a participating agency in an information assurance-related position;
   i) complete periodic surveys as requested by the SFS Program Office; and
   j) respond to all requests from SFS Program Office and PI for information concerning the SFS program and participant status in accordance with guidance provided in the request.
2. Commitment Phase:
Following completion of academic degree requirements, the participant will:
   a. work full time in a qualifying position at a participating agency for a period commensurate with the length of the scholarship or one year, whichever is longer;
   b. provide documentation to the SFS Program Office verifying employment;
   c. ensure contact information in SFS profile remains current throughout period of obligation;
   d. complete periodic surveys as requested by the SFS Program Office; and
   e. respond to all requests from SFS Program Office and PI for information concerning the SFS program and participant status in accordance with guidance provided in the request.

3. Monitoring Phase:
Upon completion of the Service Commitment Participants enter the Monitoring Phase. During this phase the Program Office monitors the Participant’s employment status and keeps current contact information on Participants. This begins upon completion of the Service Commitment and concludes 8 years after the Service Commitment end date. Participants will be required to:
   a. update contact information when it changes;
   b. complete periodic surveys as requested by SFS Program Office (usually annually).

4. Failure to secure a qualifying position:
If participant has not secured a qualifying position upon graduation, the participant agrees to:
   a. continue to search for employment with a participating agency in a qualifying position;
   b. respond to all requests from SFS Program Office and PI for information concerning the SFS service commitment in accordance with guidance provided in the request; and
   c. continue to update SFS profile (résumé, job search activity report, and contact information) at least once quarterly.

It is expected that the participant enters the commitment phase within 18 months of graduation however an extension may be granted by the SFS Program Office. If the participant has not secured a qualifying position within 18 months of graduation or by the end of the granted extension the participant understands that he/she will be indebted to the Federal Government and may be required to reimburse the SFS Program. Section II-2 addresses exceptions.

II. Participant Reimbursement to the Federal Government

1. A participant who fails to comply with any Program requirement established under this Service Agreement will be indebted to the Federal Government and must immediately reimburse the SFS Program. Failure to promptly reimburse the SFS Program will require that the funds be collected as a debt owed the U.S. Treasury. The reimbursable amount will be prorated based on time already served to fulfill the employment obligation following completion of degree requirements.
   a. Failure to fulfill the terms of the program during the scholarship phase occurs for any of the following reasons:
      1. the participant’s enrollment is terminated by the academic institution for reasons under the control of the participant (including failure to meet academic or behavioral standards);
      2. any changes to the participant’s curriculum or major field of study that are not compatible with the SFS program;
      3. failure to complete academic degree requirements within the scholarship period unless there are mitigating circumstances agreed to by the SFS Program Office;
      4. the participant fails to qualify for internship placement, including obtaining a security clearance if required;
5. the participant is terminated from any Federal appointment for cause; or
6. the participant otherwise breaches the terms of this agreement.

b. Failure to complete the period of employment in a qualifying position occurs if the participant fails to gain employment at a participating agency, employment is terminated, or the participant leaves a qualifying position, for any of the following reasons before the post-academic employment commitment is fulfilled:
   1. the participant fails to qualify for post-graduation placement, including obtaining a security clearance if required;
   2. the employee resigns;
   3. the employee is terminated for cause or for adverse suitability/security clearance determinations;iii
   4. the employee initiates action that results in reassignment, promotion or transfer to a non-covered position;
   5. the employee refuses an offer of reassignment or transfer to a covered position in the commuting area when such an action becomes necessary because of changes in the employer’s staffing needs, organizational realignment, or staff reductions; or
   6. the employee otherwise breaches the terms of this agreement.

2. Participant reimbursement is not required under any of the following conditions:
   a) the participant receives and accepts an offer from an agency designated as “participating” by the SFS Program Office and that agency is, through no fault of the participant, unable to place the participant in a covered position that permits the fulfillment of the employment obligation upon completion of academic degree requirements; and the SFS Program Office is unable to effect alternative placement in a covered position within the continental United States;
   b) the participant is reassigned to a non-qualifying position due to changes in staff requirements, organizational realignment, or staff reductions, or at management’s discretion;
   c) the participant is involuntarily separated for reasons other than misconduct or performance;
   d) the participant leaves the agency voluntarily to enter into the service of any other participating agency in a qualified position; or
   e) the National Science Foundation (NSF) determines that seeking reimbursement is not in the Federal Government’s best interests.

I certify that I have read and understand the terms of this service agreement. I further certify that I am a United States citizen, and (if a male born after December 31, 1959) have registered with the Selective Service System, or am exempt from having to do so under Selective Service law.

_____________________________/__________ ___________________________/__________
Participant’s PRINTED Name Participant’s Signature Date

Witnessed by:

_____________________________/_______________________________________/__________
Principal Investigator’s PRINTED Name Principal Investigator’s Signature Date

SFS SA Updated 080112
NSF Scholarship for Service Program Office Signature & Date

_____________________________ / _________________________ / _________________________
PRINTED Name  Signature  Date

i An academic year (nine months) of scholarship establishes a requirement for one calendar year of work. Participants must be willing to relocate anywhere within the continental United States. Please note that a high percentage of positions are in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

ii If a participant fails to meet the terms of this agreement and is found to be indebted to the Federal Government the participant will be required to reimburse the United States Department of Treasury a sum equal to the amount outstanding plus administrative and interest fees, if any. These funds will be recovered from the participant through the appropriate provisions governing debt collection.

iii Terminations for cause or adverse suitability/security clearance determinations may occur for any of the following reasons:

- misconduct or negligence in employment;
- criminal or dishonest conduct;
- material, intentional false statement or deception or fraud in examination or appointment;
- alcohol abuse of a nature and duration which suggests that the applicant or appointee would be prevented from performing the duties of the position to which appointed, or would constitute a direct threat to the property and safety of others;
- illegal use of narcotics, drugs, or other controlled substances, without evidence of substantial rehabilitation; or
- knowing and willfully engaging in acts or activities designed to overthrow the U.S. Government by force.