The Research for Intelligence & Security Challenges (RISC) Initiative

Summer Internship for Difficult Security Problems
May 30 – August 4, 2023
Virtual & in College Park, Maryland

The Applied Research Laboratory for Intelligence and Security (ARLIS) at the University of Maryland, College Park, is seeking outstanding undergraduate and graduate students to participate in the virtual **Research for Intelligence & Security Challenges (RISC)** Initiative internship program. This exciting **10-week paid program** pairs students with faculty mentors from INSURE consortium member institutions and the Department of Defense (DOD) and Intelligence Community (IC) community, and offers the opportunity to be sponsored for a security clearance and to be considered for **future employment with the U.S. government.**

Students will be introduced to career opportunities with the DoD and IC as well as develop their technical capabilities through hands-on real world problems. Project topics will be posed by government operators, and supported with realistic data sets and other materials.

The program is structured to facilitate interactions within teams, between teams, and with government sponsor representatives. Interns attend weekly seminars and regular team development meetings in a shared virtual work environment (though select projects may require on-site work). Interns then participate in final week briefings and activities in person, with travel support.

Eligibility[1]:

- We seek outstanding graduate and undergraduate students[2] with expertise in disciplines listed below.
- Candidates should not have graduated before Fall 2022.
- Students must be U.S. citizens and be available full-time (40 hours/week) for the duration of the program[3].

While specific topics are in development, the missions supported are likely to include augmenting intelligence with machines, geospatial analysis, disinformation, geopolitically informed data analysis, insider risk, and critical technology protection. The RISC Initiative is particularly seeking interns with expertise in one or more of the following disciplines:

1) **Computer Science, Information Science & Engineering:** AI/ML algorithmic development, HCI, software engineering, systems engineering, media analysis and forensics, information systems design, geographic information systems, AI Assurance, Human Systems Integration;
2) **Mathematics and Statistics:** Data analytics, quantitative modeling, experimental design, graph analytics;
3) **Social & Behavioral Sciences:** cognitive/neuroscience & psychology, sociology, criminal justice, teamwork and group dynamics, communications, disinformation and misinformation, social network analysis, anthropology, human geography (e.g., pattern of life/mobility modeling), political science, international relations;
4) **Languages and Linguistics:** languages of interest to global security including but not limited to Mandarin, Russian, Farsi, Korean, and Arabic; computational linguistics and natural language processing; natural language understanding;
5) **DataScience:** Data and knowledge engineering, data curation, tagging, metadata, repositories, data visualization, library sciences;
6) Additional topics may include: Measurement and evaluation of learning outcomes, environmental modeling and remote sensing, human factors, regulatory public policy.

Remuneration:

- Interns will be paid on an hourly basis equivalent to **between $9,000 and $12,000 over the ten weeks**, commensurate with education and experience.
- Given the virtual platform, housing accommodations, transportation, and food allowances are not provided. However, for those local to the DC area, part-time physical campus workspace can be provided.

To Apply:

Please assemble a package including:

    A. Your résumé.

    B. Copy of your transcripts[4].

    C. A letter of interest, which should describe:

        a. Your disciplinary focus (referencing the topic areas above).

        b. Experiences that have prepared you for success in an internship focused on intelligence and security challenges.

        c. Experience with machine learning, programming, and/or statistics (not required for all roles).

        d. Anything else in your background that could be helpful for the selection committee to know.

    D. A letter of recommendation submitted by a professor or past supervisor.

        a. Should be submitted by the recommender through the LOR Google Form.

Submit your application package online via www.arlis.umd.edu/risc2023_applications.

The deadline for applications is **Monday, February 6th, 2023**.

Notifications to accepted students will be sent out by **Friday, March 10th, 2023**.

More information at: https://www.arlis.umd.edu/risc2023_applications

Write risc@arlis.umd.edu with questions.

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1. Selection criteria emphasize technical strengths in relevant fields, experience working both independently and in teams, and demonstrated interest in contributing to national security.

2. Candidates do not need to be students at the University of Maryland. All U.S. citizens enrolled in an accredited university program -- particularly rising juniors and seniors and early graduate students -- are eligible and encouraged to apply.

3. Internships are a 40-hour-a-week commitment and second employment and summer courses are strongly discouraged. Candidates should engage the program office to discuss further.

4. Graduate students should submit undergraduate transcripts as well, particularly if in their first year of study.