

<b>Department</b>	School of Computing
<b>Supervisors</b>	JP Vargheese
<b>Project Title</b>	Behaviour change for Cybersecurity: Increasing awareness and reducing susceptibility
<p><b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION</b></p> <p>Cyberattacks are often designed to exploit and manipulate users' behaviour to encourage actions and behaviour that may compromise security. This may include imitating or use of compromised and previously legitimate sources of communication, to encourage insecure behaviours. Understanding the underlying causes of users' susceptibility to cyberattacks is challenging due to the inherent complexity of human behaviour and the influence of confounding factors across the users' social and technological environment. This has led to increasing calls for a greater understanding of the role of human factors in cybersecurity to identify potential solutions to address insecure users' behaviour.</p> <p>Behaviour change interventions and persuasive technologies are designed to encourage changes in behaviour without coercion. These have been demonstrated to be effective across a broad range of domains including education, commerce, safety, health, and well-being.</p> <p>This project will investigate the potential role of behaviour change interventions and persuasive technologies for increasing users' awareness of and reducing susceptibility to cyberattacks. This research will involve engaging with users and conducting experiments designed to measure susceptibility to common cyberattacks and the design and evaluation of suitable countermeasures.</p> <p>Perspective applicants are encouraged to contact the Supervisor before submitting their applications. Applications should make it clear the project you are applying for and the name of the supervisors.</p> <p><b>Academic qualifications</b> A first degree (at least a 2.1) ideally in Computing Science with a good fundamental knowledge of human computer interaction.</p> <p><b>English language requirement</b> IELTS score must be at least 6.5 (with not less than 6.0 in each of the four components). Other, equivalent qualifications will be accepted. <a href="#">Full details of the University's policy</a> are available online.</p> <p><b>Essential attributes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience of fundamental concepts within Human computer interaction</li> <li>• Competent in programming and use of analytical research tools</li> <li>• Knowledge of research methods, experimental design and data analysis</li> <li>• Good written and oral communication skills</li> <li>• Strong motivation, with evidence of independent research skills relevant to the project</li> <li>• Good time management</li> </ul> <p><b>Desirable attributes:</b> Interest in behaviour change interventions, persuasive technology, human factors in cybersecurity, and data analysis</p>	

<b>Enquiries</b>	For informal enquiries about this PhD project, please contact Dr John Paul Vargheese (j.vargheese@napier.ac.uk)
<b>Web page</b>	<a href="https://www.napier.ac.uk/research-and-innovation/research-degrees/application-process">https://www.napier.ac.uk/research-and-innovation/research-degrees/application-process</a>

