

# CyberExL: Cybersecurity Graduate Experiential Learning Program

## Purpose:

CyberExL, a COVA CCI graduate experiential learning program, is designed to provide graduate students with opportunities to gain vital experience and mentorship in various areas of cybersecurity by working directly with companies, faculty, researchers, and university administrators. This request for proposals (RFP) allows those interested in providing placements for graduate students to apply to receive support. **This application is for potential placement providers only. The student applications will be available in October.**

## Eligibility:

COVA CCI business partners, faculty members, researchers, and university administrators [can submit a proposal](#) to request graduate student support. Students will be degree-seeking graduate students with at least a 3.0 GPA from Christopher Newport University, Norfolk State University, Old Dominion University, and William & Mary.

## Award Amount:

Each selected graduate student will receive a \$5000 stipend paid incrementally across the semester (subject to taxes) from the program.

## Award Conditions:

Students will work 20 hours per week beginning January 25, 2023-April 21, 2023. Placement mentors will need to provide an evaluation of graduate students, and the evaluation form will be provided once the full selection process is complete.

Selected applicant(s) must participate fully in COVA CCI activities including providing materials needed for reports, participation in COVA CCI meetings, and responding to data collection requests by COVA CCI. All publications and presentations resulting from this award should acknowledge support from Coastal Virginia Center for Cyber Innovation (COVA), Commonwealth Cyber Initiative (CCI) and must include the following statement.

*"This work was supported [in part] by the Commonwealth Cyber Initiative, an investment in the*

advancement of cyber R&D, innovation and workforce development. For more information about CCI, visit [cyberinitiative.org](http://cyberinitiative.org).”

## Proposal Submission

Proposals are due by September 30, 2022 [here](#) or by using the following link: [https://wmsas.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_74yxhqIE5ovn9Q2](https://wmsas.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_74yxhqIE5ovn9Q2)

## Proposal & Student Application Evaluation:

Both the placement proposals and student applications will be reviewed by a committee of individuals selected for their experience. The evaluation criteria for placement proposals includes the following:

- Alignment with COVA CCI goals and objectives
- Broader impacts and benefits the Commonwealth, CCI, or COVA CCI outcomes, including improvements in diversity and inclusive representation
- Proposal clearly identifies the duties and responsibilities of the graduate student
- Project objectives and goals are clearly laid out and achievable, and includes project deliverables that align with the timing for the program

*Student Applications:* Once student applications are reviewed by the evaluation committee, pre-selected student applications will be provided to the awardees for their consideration and the option of an interview. Awardees will provide the names of the graduate student/s they want to work with by November 29th.

## Schedule

**Proposals due:** September 30, 2022

**Award notification:** October 7, 2022

**Notification of pre-selected students:** November 21, 2022

**Names of students selected from interviews due:** November 29, 2022

**Program dates:** January 25, 2023-April 21, 2023

## Questions

If you have questions about CyberExL or the proposal process, please contact Dr. Stephanie J. Blackmon ([sjblackmon@wm.edu](mailto:sjblackmon@wm.edu)), CyberExL program facilitator.