Pathway highlights

This pathway offers a new and unique opportunity for students to specialise in the interdisciplinary fields of security, privacy and surveillance. Reflecting the broad application and implications of security in society today, students will be drawn from a wide range of social sciences providing a highly interdisciplinary cohort. The pathway will appeal to students who wish to pursue careers addressing the societal and commercial issues associated with security.

Overview

The pathway will support research in a broad range of areas related to security, privacy or surveillance. The pathway will be available to students with or without a Masters degree and can be studied either full or part-time.

The pathway will be led OU’s Faculty of Business and Law, which is home to the Centre for Policing Research and Learning. The OU has over 30 academics with security, privacy or surveillance expertise across social science and technology disciplines.

Specific areas of interest are:

- Policing
- Leadership and management in the police and security services
- Law relating to security, privacy and surveillance including international and human rights law
- Leadership in organisations related to security, privacy or surveillance e.g. public sector bodies, NGOs and charities
- Inter-organisational collaborations and multi-agency working related to security, privacy or surveillance
- Block chains and cryptocurrencies (use and legal issues)
- Law and neuroscience aspects of security, privacy or surveillance
- Entrepreneurship related to security, privacy or surveillance
- Critical management studies related to security, privacy or surveillance
- Social marketing and security, privacy or surveillance
- Ethics and corporate social responsibility and security, privacy or surveillance
Training and skills

Students will be expected to attend both general research training and subject specific training. For students without relevant research skills, they will be expected to pursue a +4 programme and will be provided with core research methods training. All students on the pathway will be provided with subject specific research methods training, interdisciplinary research training and advanced subject specific training. Advanced research methods training will be provided as required by individual students, for example, by attending institutional or external training or workshops. Students will be provided with a suite of transferable skills training and will also be encouraged to participate in student-led training and networking activities.

Structure

There are a number of routes into and through the security pathway.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List of Training Pathways</th>
<th>Structure(s) of Provision</th>
<th>FT/PT/Distance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Security (Oxford and OU)</td>
<td>1 (Oxford MSc Criminology/Social Science of the Internet) + 3 (OU)</td>
<td>FT or PT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security (OU)</td>
<td>+ 3, + 4</td>
<td>FT or PT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Knowledge exchange, internships and careers

The OU’s Faculty of Business and Law was recognised for impact in the REF2014. Students will benefit from this expertise by being offered training and experience of public engagement and knowledge exchange using a range of media channels. The OU continues its unique partnership with the BBC and where possible students will be able to contribute to programme ideas and content, and the supporting material provided for all co-productions. The OU is highly active in the dissemination of research online, including a dedicated channel on Apple’s iTunesU and the production of multiple MOOCs.

All students will be encouraged to undertake an internship during their studies of between 1 and 3 months. These may be in commercial, not-for-profit or public sector bodies. Where relevant students will be encouraged to apply to the RCUK Policy Internship scheme, in which significant number of the participating host organisations have an interest in security.

Career destinations will include government, regulators, NGOs, technology companies, the police, security services and academia.

Further reading

Papers in leading journals, books and monographs related to the topic of interest. For example:

Further details:
Prospective students should have a strong background in a relevant social science discipline, such as: business and management, law, sociology, geography, criminology
Please contact: Pathway lead Professor Elizabeth Daniel (Elizabeth.Daniel@open.ac.uk)

Applying for a studentship:
• Applications should include a cover letter outlining why the project is an important area of study, how your background relates to the proposed research topic and why you wish to study at the Open University;
• An outline research proposal of no more than 2,000 words, covering research topic and methodology. General advice on the proposal can be found here: http://www.open.ac.uk/postgraduate/research-degrees/how-to-apply/mphil-and-phd-application-process;
• an academic CV that includes contact details of three referees (of which, at least two should be academic);
• an Open University application form, downloadable from http://www.open.ac.uk/postgraduate/research-degrees/how-to-apply/mphil-and-phd-application-process

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Applications should be sent to research-degrees-oubs@open.ac.uk by 17:00 on 19th January 2018.