



Security, Privacy, Identity, Trust,
Engagement, NetworkPlus

Call for SPRITE+ Expert Fellows from Academia

Call overview

We invite applications for academic Expert Fellows from any disciplinary background to join SPRITE+, the EPSRC-funded NetworkPlus for Trust, Identity, Privacy, and Security (TIPS) in the Digital Economy. We are funded until 31 August 2027 under the Engineering and Physical Science Research Council (EPSRC) Digital Security & Resilience Theme (grant references EP/S035869/1 and EP/W020408/1). We work with academic and non-academic stakeholders to build and strengthen the TIPS community and identify requirements and promising new directions for research in this area.

We are seeking new Fellows to join a diverse group of expert scholars, each bringing deep expertise and creative thinking to SPRITE+ activities, and together providing a broad, challenging and informed range of viewpoints on TIPS in digital contexts.

The scope of [SPRITE+'s remit](#) is broad and can be viewed through many disciplinary lenses. The Expert Fellows group includes many with a track record of research in TIPS in digital contexts. But new insights may also come from Expert Fellows who have not previously worked in this area but who may have expertise in related or pertinent topics or in methods that have not previously been applied to digital security challenges.

We welcome applications from any disciplinary background, but we are particularly keen to boost our representations from maths, computer science and engineering disciplines.

Applications from those involved in running cognate organisations and networks are welcomed.

Detail

SPRITE+

SPRITE+ creates opportunities for interdisciplinary discussions, events and projects on the future of TIPS in the digital age. We bring together diverse academic and non-academic communities to take part in developing those interactions, helping them to work together to address the key research challenges, in an inclusive and constructive way. SPRITE+ activities are based around four broad [Challenge Themes](#) relevant to a wide range of societal and industrial concerns. We have a 'pump-priming' budget to [fund activities](#) that explore and test new ideas and that create new collaborations between academic disciplines and non-academic partners.

This NetworkPlus is a focal point for coordination between existing academic and non-academic communities focused on TIPS, including research institutes and hubs, Academic Centres of Excellence, and other cognate networks.

<https://spritehub.org/admin@spritehub.org> Twitter [@SpritePlus](#)

SPRITE+ Project Team, Humanities Bridgeford Street, University of Manchester, Oxford Road M13 9PL





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SPRITE+ is led by Professor Mark Elliot (University of Manchester). Co-investigators are Professor Deeph Chana (Imperial College London), Professor Stacey Conchie (Lancaster University), Professor Vladimiro Sassone (University of Southampton), and Professor Sakir Sezer (Queen's University Belfast). Professor Emma Barrett (University of Manchester) is Expert Fellows Co-ordinator.

Expert Fellows

Expert Fellows play a key role in SPRITE+, working with the Management Team to shape the research agenda and programme of activities, and helping to build the network. You can see the current list of Expert Fellows [here](#).

As a SPRITE+ Expert Fellow:

- You will have opportunities to shape the future of TIPS research, achieve impact, and develop enjoyable and productive relationships with new collaborators within and beyond academia.
- You will be invited to participate in an annual sandpit-style requirements-setting meeting, alongside our non-academic partners. In these meetings we will identify potentially fruitful lines of collaborative research to address the most significant challenges. These challenges will be the focus of future SPRITE+ activities, including funding calls, workshops, industry attachments, and the development of working groups.
- You will have the opportunity apply to SPRITE+ funding calls.
- You will be encouraged to take an active role in Working Groups, alongside colleagues from diverse backgrounds, to explore challenge areas and develop authoritative position papers.
- The papers will inform stakeholders; provoke them to think differently and creatively about the future of TIPS; and propose future research directions and funding priorities.
- You will be our 'go to' people in your area of expertise when industry, government and other non-academic stakeholders ask SPRITE+ for expert advice.
- You will help ensure excellence across our programme, by, for example, providing peer review and light touch mentoring and advice for early career researchers.

Expert Fellows will not be remunerated for this role. However, we will cover UK travel and accommodation expenses (within UKRI funding rules) for attendance at the annual Expert Fellows meetings.

Feedback from current Expert Fellows

About our events:

"Meeting other Expert Fellows was very useful, especially those from other disciplines who I would not have typically come to know otherwise."

"Thanks so much for organising the first SPRITE+ Expert Fellow event in Manchester – I really enjoyed these two interdisciplinary days and felt it was very inspiring to meet the experts from different fields."

"I made great contacts for a current ESRC bid."

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"The sandpit brought people together which would have never met otherwise. I met fantastic colleagues and am very grateful for this opportunity."

"I will be looking at some possible research funding applications with people I met at the event."

How they use SPRITE+:

"I am using SPRITE+ network as a catalyst to identify where there may be problems in areas I can contribute to, and how I can work more effectively across those divides. "

"SPRITE+ has been great for making me think about the questions I care about in new ways. The program's focus on connecting people working in similar areas also has great potential to help me build out my network, especially in the UK. "

"I made a few contacts with whom we share interests. I expect to get in touch with them to share papers, views, and look at ways to collaborate."

Eligibility

Any researcher, at any career stage (including early career researchers), who can evidence the essential criteria below is eligible to apply.

Non-UK-resident researchers are welcome to apply, but we regret we will be unable to meet the costs of international travel.

Membership of the Fellows Group will be reviewed annually.

Application process

The application form can be downloaded [here](#). Please return completed application forms to admin@spritehub.org. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. We will let you know the outcome as soon as possible, but please allow up to 6 weeks for a decision.

Applications will be reviewed against the following criteria:

Essential Criteria

- An active research track record in a relevant discipline and held in esteem by their peers (for instance, demonstrated through high quality publications and/or academic esteem indicators), commensurate with career stage.
- Demonstrates enthusiasm and potential to engage in interdisciplinary conversations and contribute to our understanding of future of digital TIPS.
- Demonstrates enthusiasm and potential to engage constructively with non-academic stakeholders, including from industry, government.

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Desirable Criteria

- Member of a UK Higher Education Institution or UKRI-recognised Institute or Independent Research Organisation.
- Involvement in relevant activities on a national or international level, for example, in cognate networks and organisations.
- Experience of collaborative working (within or beyond the academic sector).

Note: When selecting new Fellows, we will also consider the overall diversity of the group to ensure the group reflects a wide range of backgrounds, disciplines, and institutions.

Privacy notice

SPRITE+ is fully compliant with GDPR. We will treat applications as confidential and share only with the Management Team. For details of how SPRITE+ handle Members' data more generally, see our [Privacy Policy](#).

Further information

Please direct any queries to Catherine Rhodes (SPRITE+ Project Manager) at admin@spritehub.org.

Useful links

- [SPRITE+ website](#)
- [UKRI recognised Institutes and Research Organisations](#)

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