Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Trustworthy Information Systems
DATE POSTED: August 29, 2024
CLOSING DATE: September 30, 2024

The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) at the University of British Columbia (UBC), Vancouver campus, invites applications from existing UBC faculty members for an NSERC Tier 2 Canada Research Chair (CRC) in Trustworthy Information Systems. This is an internal search and applicants must currently hold a full-time, tenure-stream faculty appointment at the rank of Assistant or Associate Professor in the UBC ECE department.

Tier 2 CRCs are five-year positions, renewable once, and are intended for exceptional scholars who (a) are excellent emerging world-class researchers who have demonstrated particular research creativity, (b) have the potential to achieve international recognition in their fields in the next five to ten years and (c) have the potential to attract, develop and retain excellent trainees, students and future researchers. Applicants must meet the eligibility requirements for a Tier 2 CRC position. Normally, applicants for Tier 2 CRCs should be no more than 10 years from their highest degree at the time of chair nomination. Applicants who are more than 10 years from earning their highest degree (and where career breaks such as maternity and parental leaves, extended sick leave and clinical training exist) may have their eligibility for a Tier 2 CRC assessed through the CRC Program's Tier 2 justification process. Effective March 1, 2020, research interruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic are recognized and may be counted as an eligible delay. The successful candidate is expected to submit a nomination application to the CRC Program in the April 2025 CRC national competition. All CRC nominations are subject to review and final approval by the CRC Secretariat, and appointment as a CRC is conditional upon their approval. Please consult the Canada Research Chairs website [www.chairs.gc.ca] for full program information, including further details on eligibility.

The chairholder must demonstrate an original, innovative, high-quality research program in trustworthy information systems. The successful candidate will therefore be a leader in information theory and data science, with a focus on the information-theoretic approach to the privacy and security issues in information systems, including the study of fundamental limits, efficient algorithms, and the information-computation gap in various data science applications. The candidate must have a PhD in a relevant field. Their program of research will align with the departmental/institutional strategic goal to establish a vibrant research ecosystem in information theory and data science. They will be expected to collaborate with departmental colleagues in communication, networking, machine learning, security/privacy, software and systems, and bring new information-theoretic perspectives to information system designs. Relatedly, the candidate must demonstrate a strong track record in initiating academic and industrial partnerships and translating knowledge to partners and stakeholders. Further, the candidate will contribute to addressing the growing demand from students wanting to pursue research training in the fields of information theory, data science, privacy and security.

UBC recognizes the legitimate impact that leaves of absence can have on a candidate's record of research achievement. These leaves will be taken into careful consideration during the assessment process.

In accordance with UBC's CRC Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Action Plan [https://research.ubc.ca/federal-research-chair-programs/canada-research-chairs/ubcs-commitment-equity-diversity-and], and pursuant to Section 42 of the BC Human Rights code, the selection will be restricted to members of the following federally designated groups: people with disabilities, Indigenous people, racialized people, women, and people from minoritized gender identity groups.

Applicants to CRC positions are asked to complete this equity survey [https://ubc.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6WJHol7SfPxRMu9] as part of the application, and candidates from these groups must self-identify as belonging to one or more of the designated equity groups to be considered for the position. As the search is limited to those self-identifying as members of designated equity groups, candidates must also provide their name to be considered.

Personal information is collected under the authority of sections 26(a), 26(c) and 26(e) of the BC Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. The information you provide will only be used to determine whether you qualify for participation in this restricted process, and to advance accessibility, equity and fair adjudication in this process. Data will be collected by the UBC Equity and Inclusion Office and only the names of those eligible for the search process will be shared confidentially with the search committee. All responses will be stored in a secure database.

The University is committed to creating and maintaining an inclusive and equitable work environment for all members of its workforce. An inclusive work environment presumes an environment where differences are accepted, recognized and integrated into current structures, planning and decision-making modes. Within this hiring process, UBC will make efforts to create an inclusive and equitable process for all candidates (including but not limited to people with disabilities). Accommodations are available on request for all candidates taking part in the selection process. To confidentially request accommodations, please contact Professor Steve Wilton, Department Head [head@ece.ubc.ca].

If you have any questions regarding accommodations or accessibility during the recruitment and hiring process or for more information and support, please visit UBC's Center for Workplace Accessibility website [https://hr.ubc.ca/health-and-wellbeing/working-injury-illness-or-disability/centre-workplace-accessibility] or contact the Centre [workplace.accessibility@ubc.ca]. To learn more about how the University is working to create a more inclusive working and learning environment, please see the UBC Inclusion Action Plan's goals related to recruitment and retention [https://equity.ubc.ca/about/inclusion-action-plan/recruitment- retention-and-success].

Equity and diversity are essential to academic excellence. An open and diverse community fosters the inclusion of voices that have been underrepresented or discouraged. We encourage applications from members of groups that have been marginalized on any grounds enumerated under the BC Human Rights Code, including sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, racialization, disability, political belief, religion, marital or family status, age, and/or status as a First Nation, Métis, Inuit or Indigenous person. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply.

Application Process

All applicants are required to self-identify as a member of one or more of the four designated groups using the equity survey [https://ubc.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6WJHol7SfPxRMu9]. Self-identification is necessary for the University to achieve equity targets set by the CRC program. This information will be stored in a secure database and made available only to members of the adjudication committee.

A complete application package should include:

1. a cover letter addressing the applicant's research and leadership excellence (~1 page),
2. a description of the proposed research program and its alignment with ECE/UBC strategic priorities (~2 pages including figures, plus up to 1 page of references),
3. a statement (~0.5 page) of the applicant's current or planned contributions to advancing equity, diversity and inclusion in academic, professional or community contexts,
4. a complete, up-to-date UBC curriculum vitae (no page limit), and
5. the names and contact information of three potential referees, who can speak to the applicant's research, teaching, administrative abilities, and service activities (at least one must be arm's length).

Please send all applications to recruiting@ece.ubc.ca. The closing date for applications is 11:59 pm on September 30, 2024. Only complete applications will be considered by the committee.

Inquiries may be sent to Professor Steve Wilton, Department Head [head@ece.ubc.ca].

The University of British Columbia, Vancouver campus is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam) People. UBC is a global centre for research and teaching that is ranked among the top 40 universities in the world. The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering is one of the largest academic units at UBC, with over 400 graduate students and 1,100 undergraduate students. Our department is anticipating significant renewal over the next few years as we strengthen key areas in high demand. Our research and teaching activities benefit from strong links to the Institute for Computing, Information and Cognitive Systems (ICICS), the Advanced Materials and Process

Engineering Laboratory (AMPEL) and the Stewart Blusson Quantum Matter Institute (QMI), as well as strong collaborations with the Department of Computer Science and other units within the Faculty of Applied Science. The department is situated on UBC's Point Grey campus in Vancouver, British Columbia. Vancouver is consistently rated one of the world's most livable cities. For more information about the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, please visit our website [https://ece.ubc.ca].