Job Description

Position / Job Title:	**Research Assistant - AINGEL (RED ID: 15329) (Fixed Term, 0.8 FTE)**
Ref:	**881**
Faculty/Professional Service:	**Faculty of Media, Science and Technology**
Grade:	**4**
Location including building:	**Poole House – BU Cyber Competence Centre**
Normal hours per week:	**29.6 hours (0.8 FTE, Part-Time)**
Duration (Dates form and to):	**January – June 2027 (Fixed-Term, 6 months)**
Accountable to:	**Prof. Vasilis Katos**

Job Purpose

- To act as the primary participant-facing and evaluation resource on a nine-month UKRI-funded Proof of Concept project (award APP113160) validating the Cyber Self Defence (CSD) Toolkit, a human-layer cyber resilience platform developed by Cyber Innovations Group (CIG) Ltd, including AiNGEiL, its embedded AI-assisted capability.
- To support Workstream 2 (user journey and usability validation) and Workstream 3 (commercial pilot validation) by coordinating research ethics governance, recruiting and managing research participants, and running structured user-testing sessions.
- To analyse the resulting qualitative and quantitative data and produce the evidence base required at each of the project's five milestone reviews, working under the direction of the Principal Investigator.

Main Responsibilities

thics governance: prepare and maintain the ethics documentation needed to extend the Faculty of Media, Science and Technology Research Ethics Panel approval (building on the framework used for the Cyber Local: Dorset study, BU ethics ref 66784) to the project's user testing and commercial pilot activities, including participant information sheets, consent forms and data handling procedures compliant with UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018.

Participant recruitment: recruit and schedule a minimum of 30 participants across two rounds of structured user testing, drawn from SME, charity and regulated-sector target organisations, using CIG Ltd's partner network and BU's own contacts.

User testing co-ordination: co-ordinate and, where required, facilitate structured user testing sessions (Round 1, targeting a minimum of 20 participants; Round 2, bringing the cumulative total to at least 30) assessing usability, workflow comprehension, trust across the Toolkit's functional areas — including but not limited to AiNGEiL — and practical utility during simulated incident scenarios.

Validated instruments: administer and manage data from validated psychological measures used in the project's evaluation methodology (e.g. Brief Resilience Scale, Perceived Stress Scale, SeBIS), consistent with the approach established through the Cyber Local: Dorset programme.

Commercial pilot support: support recruitment and co-ordination logistics for the project's three to five commercial pilot organisations, acting as the operational link between BU, CIG Ltd and pilot participants.
Data management: collect, anonymise and securely store user testing and pilot data on BU-approved systems, ensuring that raw, identifiable participant data is never shared with CIG Ltd — only aggregated, anonymised findings.

Evaluation analysis: analyse qualitative and quantitative user testing and pilot data to produce the evidence underpinning the Milestone 2 UX validation (covering all five Toolkit functional areas) and the Milestone 5 commercial validation report.

Design collaboration: work directly with CIG Ltd's Graduate UX Engineer between and during testing rounds, translating usability, comprehension and trust findings into concrete interface and content changes across the Toolkit, not AiNGEiL's interface alone.

Academic dissemination support: assist the Principal Investigator in drafting the methodology, participant-data and findings sections of the project's peer-reviewed paper and conference materials.

Project administration: maintain accurate records to support UKRI reporting and the project's five milestone reviews, and liaise with the BU Research Office and the Knowledge Exchange and Commercialisation (KEC) team as required.

Undertake personal and professional development activities in line with agreed appraisal and development programme to enhance personal knowledge and contribution to relevant activities.

Outline Person Specification

- A degree in a relevant discipline (e.g. cyber psychology, human factors, cyber security), or equivalent experience.
- Experience of, or demonstrable training in, participant recruitment and running user research, structured interviews or usability testing.
- Understanding of research ethics governance and GDPR-compliant handling of participant data.
- Strong organisational skills, able to co-ordinate multiple stakeholders — academic, commercial and participant — concurrently and to a fixed project timeline.
- Competence in quantitative data analysis.
- Excellent written communication, for both operational reporting and contribution to academic and dissemination outputs.
- Familiarity with cybersecurity, human factors in security or social engineering research (desirable).
- Experience with validated psychometric instruments (e.g. SeBIS, Brief Resilience Scale, Perceived Stress Scale) or comparable measures (desirable).
- Experience of working across an academic/commercial partnership or knowledge-exchange context (desirable).
- Prior involvement in an Innovate UK or UKRI-funded project (desirable).

Contacts

Internal: Prof. Vasilis Katos (vkatos@bournemouth.ac.uk).

External: Emily Rosenorn-Lanng (emily@cyberinnovations.co.uk CIG Ltd)

Safeguarding and Regulated Activity

If the role involves engaging in regulated activity relevant to vulnerable groups including children and disabled adults, it is an offence to apply for and perform the role, if a person is barred from engaging in regulated activity. Further information is available in BU's Safeguarding Policy and Suitability Statement on the Recruitment and Employment of Ex-offenders.

Information Governance Responsibilities

Data User

i. Comply with the associated data protection, information security, information management and information

technology regulations, policies, processes and procedures.

Additional Information

The purpose of the job description is to indicate the general level of responsibility and location of the position. The duties may vary from time to time without changing their general character or level of responsibility.

BU is an equal opportunities employer which values a diverse workforce. The post holder must at all times carry out their responsibilities with due regard to the University's Dignity, Diversity and Equality Policy Statement.

Our highly skilled and creative workforce is comprised of individuals drawn from a broad cross section of the globe, and who reflect a variety of backgrounds, talents, perspectives and experiences to build our global learning community. Through fused activity, the post holder must have an understanding of and commitment to promoting a global outlook.

All employees have an obligation to be aware of and comply with the Universities Sustainability Policy, Carbon Management Plan and associated documents, and to ensure that whilst at work that they demonstrate the adoption of sustainable habits or practices and carry out their day-to-day activities in an environmentally responsible manner.

November 2026

Person Specification

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SELECTION CRITERIA	**E**ssential / **D**esirable
Knowledge (including experience & qualifications)	
A degree in a relevant discipline (e.g. cyber psychology, human factors, cyber security, criminology or another social science), or equivalent experience	E
Masters-level study in a relevant discipline	D
Experience of, or demonstrable training in, participant recruitment and running user research, structured interviews or usability testing	E
Understanding of research ethics governance and GDPR-compliant handling of participant data	E
Experience with validated psychometric instruments (e.g. SeBIS, Brief Resilience Scale, Perceived Stress Scale) or comparable measures	D
Familiarity with cybersecurity, human factors in security or social engineering research	D
Skills	
Competence in qualitative and/or quantitative data analysis	E
Strong organisational skills — able to co-ordinate academic, commercial and participant stakeholders concurrently and to a fixed project timeline	E
Excellent written communication, for both operational reporting and academic/dissemination outputs	E
Research and writing skills to a publishable standard	D
Attributes	
Highly motivated to work in human-layer cyber resilience and applied security research	E
Flexible and adaptable, able to work on own initiative and as part of a cross-organisational team	E
Experience of working across an academic/commercial partnership or knowledge-exchange context, or prior involvement in an Innovate UK or UKRI-funded project	D