Balkans 2021   
**International Cybersecurity Fellowship**

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| The Balkans 2021 International Cybersecurity Fellowship is 4-month program supporting early- to mid-career cybersecurity professionals to promote best practices in government, academia, and private sector in cyber policy, strategy, readiness, event response, and recovery; and to establish a regional network for sustainable collaboration and information sharing.  Each fellowship will include:   * Five virtual weekly engagements with Purdue University on a variety of cybersecurity related topics * Academic and Professional programming for one month in the United States * Participation in the 22nd annual CERIAS Symposium * Five virtual weekly engagements with US mentors upon return to home country * Capstone presentation in Balkans region | |
| **Application Deadline** | 31 May 2021 |
| **Who Should Apply** | Early- to mid-career cybersecurity professionals working in government, state-owned enterprises, commercial enterprises, critical infrastructure, or academia and living in the following countries:   * Albania * Bosnia and Herzegovina * Kosovo * Moldova * Montenegro * North Macedonia * Serbia |
| **Fellowship Focus Areas** | The 2021 fellowship will focus on the following themes:   * 5G and telecommunications * Industrial control and sensing * Authentication and biometrics * Cyber-forensics and law enforcement * Data protection and privacy * Other areas of cyber/cyber-physical security |
| **Citizenship Requirements** | Applicants must be citizens and live in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, or Serbia. |
| **Education Requirements** | Applicants must hold at least an undergraduate degree in computing or information systems discipline, or equivalent training and professional experience. |
| **Language Requirements** | * Good communication skills in native language and willingness to present in public * English language proficiency, in verbal and written communication, sufficient for routine work |
| **Application Checklist** | * Completed Application Form (attached to this announcement) * Letter of Support[[1]](#endnote-1) * Scanned color copy of current passport * Current resume or CV |
| **How to Apply** | Individuals seeking acceptance into the program must:   * Submit a completed application and required supporting documents * Demonstrate adequate proficiency in English (speaking, writing and reading) to communicate with peers in the host institutions * Prove eligibility for a J-1 visa as determined by the host country   Submit completed application materials to: [ICFellowship@crdfglobal.org](mailto:ICFellowship@crdfglobal.org) |

The Balkans 2021 International Cybersecurity Fellowship will award up to fifteen fellowships to early- to mid-career cybersecurity professionals working in government, state-owned enterprises, critical infrastructure, or academia to promote best practices in their field and establish a regional network for sustainable collaboration in cybersecurity.

The fellowship is composed of:

* Five virtual weekly engagements with Purdue University on a variety of cybersecurity related topics
* Academic and Professional programming for one month in the United States
* Participation in the 22nd annual CERIAS Symposium
* Five virtual weekly engagements with US mentors upon return to home country
* Capstone presentation in Balkans region

The fellowship includes:

* Ten weeks of virtual programming and mentorship with US-based experts in cybersecurity
* Travel and lodging for US-based portion of fellowship
* Travel and lodging to capstone presentation event

CRDF Global will work with chosen fellows to make all necessary travel and lodging arrangements.

**Application Timeline: 2021**

* **31 May**: Application Deadline
* **June**: Fellow Selection

**Fellowship Timeline: 2021**

* **30 August**: Weekly engagements with Purdue University
* **15 October**: International Arrival at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana
* **18 October**: Orientation and at Purdue University
* **19 -** **20 October:** 22nd Annual Center for Education and Research in Information Assurance and Security (CERIAS) Symposium at Purdue University
* **21 - 22 October:** Academic Fellowship at Purdue University
* **25 - 29 April**: Professional Fellowship and Networking Events
* **1 - 3 November:** Academic Fellowship at Purdue University
* **4 - 5 November**: Travel to Washington, DC for Capstone Presentation and Alumni Network Discussion
* **6 November**: International Departure

**8 November - 3 December**: Weekly check-ins with US mentor

* **9 - 13 December**: Capstone presentation in Balkans region and program close

CRDF Global and Purdue University look forward to application submissions. Please circulate this announcement within your professional networks. For inquiries, contact [ICFellowship@crdfglobal.org](mailto:ICFellowship@crdfglobal.org).

Applications should be submitted to [ICFellowship@crdfglobal.org](mailto:ICFellowship@crdfglobal.org) no later than:

**31/05/2021**

**23:59:59 U.S. Eastern Time (EST)**

Thank you for your interest in the International Cybersecurity Fellowship!

1. Applicants must submit a letter of support on official letterhead signed and dated by their supervisor confirming their approval of the applicant’s participation in the program. The letter of support should clearly state the applicant’s full name, position title, institution name, intended fellowship focus area, and the supervisor’s consent to fellowship. The letter should clearly state the expectations and activities for the applicant to share knowledge gained with others upon return from the program. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)