

Opportunities for ICANN Research Fellow

About ICANN

Founded in 1998 as a not-for-profit organization, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)'s mission is to ensure the stable and secure operation of the Internet's unique identifier systems. Specifically, ICANN coordinates the allocation and assignment of names in the root zone of the DNS and coordinates the development and implementation of policies concerning the registration of second-level domain names in generic top-level domains ("gTLDs"); facilitates the coordination of the operation and evolution of the DNS root name server system; coordinates the allocation and assignment at the top-most level of Internet Protocol numbers and Autonomous System numbers; and collaborates with other bodies to provide registries needed for the functioning of the Internet as specified by Internet protocol standards development organizations.

About the ICANN Research Fellow Program

The ICANN Research Fellow Program is a pilot effort designed to engage security and technical researchers to work on emerging security and technology policy issues related to the DNS. The research fellow will support projects in the ICANN Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC), and the ICANN Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC).

About SSAC & RSSAC

The Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC), comprised of select global independent technical experts, provides objective technical advice to the ICANN Board and community on issues related to the security and integrity of the Internet's naming and address allocation systems. For information about SSAC and its publications, please visit: <http://ssac.icann.org/>

The Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC) consists of representatives from the organizations responsible for the operating global root name service. It advises the ICANN Board and community on matters relating to the operation, administration, security, and integrity of the root server system. For information about RSSAC and its publications, please visit: <http://www.icann.org/en/groups/rssac>.

Key Responsibilities of the ICANN Research Fellow

As appropriate to the research/study topics identified, the ICANN Research Fellow will:

- Perform information gathering in support of RSSAC or SSAC study areas, including detailed information on sophisticated technical and policy questions, in particular issues related to the Domain Name System (DNS).
- Perform proof of concept or preliminary research as requested by the RSSAC or SSAC, with approval from, and in coordination with, relevant ICANN Staff.
- Conduct research on other key research projects directly relevant to ICANN's mission, as required and directed.
- Prepare informational documents and presentations for RSSAC, SSAC, and/or

ICANN Senior Staff on technical and policy matters.

Qualifications

- Masters, or Ph.D students (or recent graduates) in one of the following areas: computer security, computer science, information science, public policy.¹
- Working knowledge of or research with the Domain Name System (DNS).
- Proven ability to conduct empirical research related to computer security and DNS related areas.
- Proven ability to prepare detailed reports, presentations and speeches to internal and external audiences on technical issues related to DNS, including the ability to present complex concepts clearly to a diverse audience.
- Strong English writing skills

Compensation:

- Fellowship Date: 1 March 2019– June 30, 2019, renewable for one additional year. Roughly 10 hours per week.
- Compensation competitive with similar technical research/internship programs.

How to Apply:

- Please submit 1-2 page cover letter which clearly identifies 1) why you are interested in the fellowship, 2) your areas of experience (or coursework) and their applicability to the fellowship work.
- In addition, submit 1) your latest resume, 2) two writing samples either as sole author or first author, 3) two letters of recommendation
- Application deadline: 30 January 2019

Please send application materials and/or inquiries to researchfellow@icann.org.

¹ Note, public policy applicants must have a prior technical degree focusing on technical areas of research that informs public policy.