



ACE-CSE NEWSLETTER

Q1 2025

WELCOME

Welcome to the second edition of the QUB ACE-CSE newsletter! We're thrilled to bring you the latest news, insights, and events from our Academic Centre of Excellence in Cyber Security Education (ACE-CSE) initiatives. Together, we're advancing Queen's University's cyber security strategy by fostering a culture of cyber awareness and enhancing cyber security knowledge across educational pathways, institutional operations, and the broader community!

CYBER FIRST SCHOOLS VISITS

We hosted **4 visits** with almost **100 Year 12 and 13 pupils** with their teachers from Mercy College, Belfast Boys Model School, Shimna Integrated College, and St. Malachy's College.

As part of NI Cyber Week at the beginning of March, Prof. Máire O'Neill gave a talk on working in cyber security to **20 pupils** from the Electronics Society at Banbridge Academy.

HOSTED 2 CYBER SUPER WINNING SCHOOLS VISITS

In March, Big Ideas ran a DSIT-funded Schools cyber security programme and competition.

We hosted the Cyber Super winning primary school, McClintock Primary School, Omagh – **32 pupils** with their teachers on March 24th and the winning post-primary school, Edmund Rice College, Glengormley – **19 pupils** with their teachers on March 25th.

EXCITE IMMERSIVE CYBER SECURITY EXPERIENCES

Since the roll-out of the web-browser version of the EXCITE immersive cyber security experiences student training in Autumn 2024, **over 1000 students** have tried the experiences with over **480 students** completing the training.

Best performing School in Spring 2025: School of Nursing and Midwifery.



If you're interested in getting involved in the ACE-CSE team, we'd love to hear from you.
Please contact s.scott-hayward@qub.ac.uk



GOLD AWARD

The ACE-CSE Gold Award was presented on 4th March 2025.

Sandra Scott-Hayward, James Vincent and Oluwafemi Olukoya travelled to Leeds for the National Cyber Security Centre Education Conference on 4th and 5th March. Chris Ensor, Deputy Director, Cyber Growth presented the QUB ACE-CSE Gold Award at the evening ceremony.



QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST

CSIT CAPTURE THE FLAG COMMITTEE



CSIT's CTF Committee has been actively engaging in competitions and community outreach. In December, the team competed in their first global Jeopardy-style hacking event, HTB Binary Badlands, **placing in the top 20% out of over 1,100 teams**. January saw the successful hosting of the first on-site CTF, Hacky New Year, in collaboration with Nvidia, featuring custom-built vulnerable machines. In February, the committee led a public workshop during the NI Science Festival to introduce cybersecurity fundamentals and live hacking demos. March brought another international challenge with the HTB Cyber Apocalypse, where the team tackled advanced challenges across multiple domains. Committee members also represented in other events including the C2C Competition, Instil/Vertical Structure CTF (2nd place finish), and Intigriti ZeroDays in Dublin.

CYBER SECURITY EDUCATION BOOK CHAPTER



Sandra Scott-Hayward, Michelle Butler, and Carole Parsons had a **book chapter published** in Springer Advances in Teaching and Learning for Cyber Security Education. The chapter title is EXCITE (Exploring the Enhancement of Cybersecurity Training Through Immersive Technology).

AHSS VR ROADSHOWS



The AHSS student skills assistants ran **two pop-ups** in One Elmwood to offer their peers the opportunity to try out the full virtual reality experience of the EXCITE cyber security training.



PODCAST LAUNCH

CSIT launched a new podcast: Trustworthy AI Chronicles. You can watch or listen to the first two episodes with Bartley Richardson, NVIDIA, and Lara Sunday, Rapid7 on Spotify and YouTube now. We'd love to hear your feedback!



FERYAL CLARK MP VISITED CSIT

Researchers presented the cutting-edge technologies within the the Cyber-AI Hub and highlighted their important work in tackling cybersecurity vulnerabilities of personal safety devices to Feryal Clark MP during Cyber NI Week (3rd - 9th March 2025).



WOMEN IN TECH CONFERENCE 2025

Early Career Researcher, Adrienne Thompson, took part in a panel session exploring 'AI for Good' and delivered demos of her research on the safety of IoT devices at the Women in Tech Conference hosted by Women in Business at Titanic Belfast in February.



NICYBER2025 MSC STUDENTS GRADUATE

The first cohort of students funded by the NICYBER2025 programme graduated in December 2024, marking a significant milestone in advancing diversity and innovation within the cyber security industry.