“America’s economic prosperity in the 21st century will depend on cybersecurity... We count on computer networks to deliver our oil and gas, our power and our water. We rely on them for public transportation and air traffic control. Yet we know that cyber intruders have probed our electrical grid and that in other countries cyber attacks have plunged entire cities into darkness.”

—President Barack Obama
ASPIRE Cybersecurity Scholarship

NYU is offering a scholarship for students entering the vital field of cybersecurity. An interdisciplinary cross section of one of the world's foremost universities will provide qualified students with skills in the technological (NYU-Poly), business (NYU-Stern), cultural (NYU-Steinhardt), public policy and management (NYU-Wagner), and scientific (NYU-Courant Institute) aspects of real-world security and privacy problems.

The ASPIRE (A Scholarship for Service (SFS) Partnership for Interdisciplinary Research and Education) award from the National Science Foundation will prepare its recipients with strong technical training and a security mindset that looks beyond just technology while approaching problems. It will nurture leadership, community service and good citizenship in its scholars, producing a cadre of Scholarship for Service graduates ready for some of the most crucial challenges of our time.

We welcome applications from students interested in information security who have backgrounds in non-technical fields such as law, business, policy, or media studies.

Selection Criteria for this Scholarship

- Incoming Fall 2013 semester students must have applied to, been admitted to, or been enrolled at NYU-Poly, NYU-Stern, NYU-Steinhardt, NYU-Wagner, or NYU-Courant Institute.
- Current BS, Master’s, and PhD students are eligible, provided they are two years from graduation: undergraduates in their junior year, first-year graduate students, and PhD students two years prior to graduation.
- Must show a passion for information security and a commitment to national and public service.
- Must be a U.S. citizen.
- Maintain a GPA of 3.0 for BS students and 3.5 for Master’s students while in the program.
- Successful applicants MUST work for two years at a federal agency upon graduation, and meet selection criteria for federal employment. Final job placement may require security clearances.
- Demonstrate a solid foundation in one discipline, such as technical, legal, public policy, economics, business, or risk management.
- Have a well-rounded background, including non-technical study, preferably in more than one discipline.
- Applicants with non-technical backgrounds are encouraged to apply. However, you will have to take a few cybersecurity courses to complete your ASPIRE program.

Overall Scholarship Recipient Benefits & Requirements

- ASPIRE covers tuition for up to two years of undergraduate or Master's level study. In addition, there is an annual stipend of $20,000 for undergraduates and $25,000 for masters students and $30,000 for doctoral students. (Please note that SFS funding may vary from program to program.)
- Customized mentoring and advising from ASPIRE faculty advisors and ASPIRE alumni.
- Dedicated career planning support from ASPIRE staff.
- Each ASPIRE fellow will be required to take a set of ASPIRE interdisciplinary gateway courses developed for this program. These courses are jointly developed and team-taught by a faculty member specializing in security technology and a faculty member specializing in a non-technology discipline with a focus on security and privacy.

Scholarship Application Instructions

- Please submit a 2-page double-spaced, 1-inch margin essay indicating past and current professional and academic experiences that demonstrate your passion for information security through a multi-disciplinary approach and why you think ASPIRE's curriculum will help you achieve your professional goals for working in the security field.
- An up-to-date resume that highlights technical, legal, public policy, economics, business, or risk management experience.
- An unofficial copy of transcripts.
- Three recommendation letters.
- A signed statement saying you have applied to, been admitted to, or are already a student at NYU-Poly, NYU-Stern, NYU-Steinhardt, NYU-Wagner, or NYU-Courant Institute.
- A signed statement of understanding of program requirements: the two year degree requirement and two year post-graduation federal service commitment. Please download the statement at: http://crissp.poly.edu/sfs.pdf
- For more information and deadlines please visit crissp.poly.edu.

Learn More

Please send your questions to sfs@sis.poly.edu. For more information about ASPIRE please see crissp.poly.edu.