Funding opportunities for Honours & Masters students

The Australian Signals Directorate (ASD) is a vital member of Australia's national security community, working across the full spectrum of operations required of contemporary signals intelligence and security agencies: intelligence, cyber security and offensive operations, in support of the Australian Government and Australian Defence Forces (ADF).

ASD has entered a partnership with the Australian National University (ANU) and officially opened a new facility on the ANU campus in 2019. Goals of this partnership include research collaboration on topics related to ASD's mission and building national capability in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), including training future generations of signals intelligence and cyber security professionals.

An expected outcome of this partnership is to further develop ASD's capability to:

- Inform (through foreign signals intelligence);
- Protect (against cyber security risks); and
- Disrupt (through cyber operations to support military operations, law enforcement and response to cyber incidents).

As part of this partnership, ASD and ANU are pleased to offer funding for research projects at the Honours/Masters level. These research projects may come from anywhere in the university (computer science, mathematics, physics, statistics and linguistics are all represented in ASD's business), however they will typically align with one of these broad areas:

- Vulnerability research
- Data science
- Cryptography
- Secure systems
- Number theory
- Statistics

To date, research projects in computer science, mathematics, statistics and linguistics have been funded.

For example: Algorithms and their applications, Logic and Computation, Mathematics behind the Cryptography and Computational Linguistics.

Benefits of undertaking such a project include:

- Working on a topic of national importance.
- Learning from the best of academia and industry through your ANU supervisor and government through an ASD mentor.
- Opportunities to network with other students and ASD employees themselves – both about your project and your future personal career development.

Some restrictions apply to these opportunities:
- All applicants must be Australian Citizens
- All applicants will be required to obtain an Australian Government Baseline Security Clearance.
- If you are interested in advancing Australia's national interests and working on research that provides actionable outcomes and a real-world impact, apply today at Co-Lab@anu.edu.au