

Multiple PhD Student Positions at Northeastern University

The [CyberspACe securiTy and forensIcs lab \(CactiLab\)](#) at Northeastern University is seeking PhD students with a strong interest in systems security, software security, and machine learning security to join in Fall 2025. Students from disciplines such as Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Software Engineering, or other related fields are encouraged to apply. Northeastern University (NEU) is a private research university in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. NEU's computer science research is highly ranked at [12th](#) in the country and [17th](#) in the world by CSRankings, with its computer security research ranked among the [top 6](#) in the country and [top 8](#) in the world.

[Prof. Ziming Zhao](#), an Associate Professor at the Khoury College of Computer Sciences, leads the CactiLab. CactiLab's research has been supported by the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF), the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. Air Force Office of Scientific Research, and the U.S. National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity (part of the National Security Agency). CactiLab's research outcomes have appeared in IEEE S&P, USENIX Security, ACM CCS, NDSS, ACM MobiSys, ACM/IEEE DAC, IEEE RTAS, ACM TISSEC/TOPS, IEEE TDSC, IEEE TIFS, etc. Ziming is a recipient of an NSF CAREER award and an NSF CRII award. He is a recipient of the Test-of-Time paper award at ACM SACMAT 2024. Additionally, he has received best/distinguished paper awards from several prestigious conferences, including USENIX Security 2019, ACM AsiaCCS 2022, ACM CODASPY 2014, and ITU Kaleidoscope 2016.

PhD students at the Khoury College of Computer Sciences receive a stipend of \$51,000 for a 12-month appointment. Self-motivated students with strong programming skills, e.g., C/C++ and Rust, and a solid background in any of the following areas are an excellent fit for the CactiLab:

- Confidential computing and trusted execution, e.g., ARM CCA, TrustZone
- Operating systems and hypervisors, e.g., Linux kernel
- Computer architecture, e.g., GPU, TPU
- Program analysis and compiler, e.g., LLVM
- Machine learning and deep learning security

Please feel free to send your application package (CV, transcript, papers, open source projects, or/and anything else you feel may increase your chances) to Ziming at z.zhao@northeastern.edu.