

ACE-CSE NEWSLETTER

Q4 2025



WORK EXPERIENCE AT CSIT

CSIT hosted Year 12 work experience students in June and October. In June, pupils from 5 NI Schools joined the NICyber Cyber Bytes pilot with QUB/CSIT, BT, NICSC/PSNI, and NIHON Cyber Defence offering talks, tours, demos, and activities. In October, the pupils tried out the EXCITE immersive cyber security training and learned about CSIT research through AI and Hardware security demos.

WELCOME

Welcome to the third edition of the Queen's ACE-CSE Newsletter!

We're delighted to share the latest news, achievements, and events from across our cyber security community at Queen's University Belfast.

Together, we're driving forward Queen's cyber strategy - building skills, awareness, and innovation through education, research, and collaboration. From school outreach and student engagement to staff development and industry partnerships, we're strengthening cyber resilience across Queen's and beyond!



STAFF CYBER SECURITY TRAINING

In August 2025, the Cyber Security Team launched a new course to guide staff through the essential topics of security awareness, including: social engineering – spotting and avoiding manipulation tactics, phishing – recognizing suspicious emails, messages, and links, mobile security – keeping your devices safe, and physical security – protecting workspaces and equipment. Through October, 2365 staff have completed the training.

CYBER FIRST EMPOWER GIRLS

EEECS and CSIT supported the fantastic CyberFirst Empower Girls event in Belfast, held in the Waterfront ICC on 29 April. Over 600 Year 8 girls (ages 11-12) participated on the day from 22 different schools across Northern Ireland, alongside 50 companies and many volunteers. Our fantastic volunteers were kept busy with keen pupils trying out VR headsets, playing AR games with Dr Matthew Collins. Adrienne Thompson, an EEECS PhD student, hosted an inspiring demo session to the pupils on device privacy, supported by Helen Lappin in CSIT, encouraging the girls to be aware of what information devices consume.

CSIT CAPTURE THE FLAG COMMITTEE

CSIT CTFers continue to actively engage in competitions and community outreach. Back in May, the team achieved 3rd place out of 20 universities at ENUSEC (Edinburgh Napier University Security Society) Le Tour Du Hack 2025! In September, a team of 5 competed in the first European in-orbit CTF, CTRL+Space CTF, organised by the European Space Agency and D-Orbit. They scored within the first 100 (of 550 registered) teams in the 24-hour online qualifier.

— QSEC SPEED NETWORKING —

Queen's Cyber Security Society recently hosted a Speed Networking event that brought together 25 students and 14 employers in a fun, fast-paced setting, rotating every five minutes to make sure everyone had the chance to connect and chat comfortably about cyber security careers. The employers provided students with an inside look into the industry, sharing advice on how to get started in cybersecurity, what skills are most in demand, and ways to enhance technical and professional development.

CYBER SECURITY - RISK AND ASSURANCE

More than 50 risk and insurance professionals attended the annual AIRMIC (Association of Risk and Insurance Professionals) UK and ROI regional event at Riddel Hall supported by Queen's Business School. Sandra Scott-Hayward joined Marsh Ltd. for a talk on cyber security research and education at Queen's and considerations for cyber insurance for businesses.



EXCITE IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES

Since the roll-out of the web-browser version of the EXCITE immersive cyber security experiences student training in Autumn 2024, over 1500 students have tried the experiences with over 700 students completing the training.



🏆 Best performing School (Autumn 2025): School of Pharmacy.

DFE CAREERS BULLETIN LAUNCHED

Queen's students and graduates contributed profiles to the latest edition of the Department for the Economy's Cyber Security Careers Bulletin.



CYBER FIRST ADVANCED COURSES

In August and October, QUB joined the Cyber First Advanced Courses hosted at Belfast Met to discuss Queen's and CSIT study and career opportunities with A-Level students from across NI.



BSIDES BELFAST

2 Cyber Security PhD students presented their work at BSides Belfast. CSIT sponsored the event and were available to chat to attendees about the various cyber security courses available at QUB.



OCTOBER - CYBER SECURITY MONTH

Did you spot the Golden Phish? For October cyber security month, the cyber security team ran a phishing simulation challenge with a prize of a ChromeBook! This complemented a host of awareness-raising activities including weekly RoundUp messages, training via the KnowBe4 security awareness platform, and weekly blogs.



CSIT PODCAST

With 9 episodes released so far and new episodes coming soon, tune in to hear from industry, government and academic experts about trustworthy and secure AI systems.

🎧 Listen now on Spotify and YouTube.