



CIU | Columbia
International
University

Kepha Institute
Columbia International University

Online Master's Program

MA IN CYBERSECURITY

CIU | Columbia International University

Columbia International University, established in 1923, has a history spanning 101 years. It is a prestigious private comprehensive university in the United States, located in the capital city of Columbia, South Carolina.

CIU comprises a variety of schools and colleges, including the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Intercultural Studies, the Business School, the College of Education, and more. All of the majors offered by CIU are accredited by SACSCOC (The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges), CHEA (Council of Higher Education Accreditation), and other authoritative institutions. Thus, CIU is qualified to confer bachelor's (BA/BS), master's (MA), and doctoral (PhD) degrees.

*SACSCOC is one of the six regional university accreditations in the United States, representing the highest level of accreditation with the most stringent academic and management requirements for colleges and universities.

*CHEA is the U.S. Department of Education's national organization for higher education accreditation and quality assurance, authorized by the Department of Education to recognize other similar institutions and organizations.



School Certification

Accredited by authoritative bodies such as SACSCOC, CHEA, ATS, and ABHE, recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.



Kepha Institute

Columbia International University

In 2022, CIU established The Kepha Institute. The term "Kepha" is the Aramaic form of "Cephas," which translates to "rock" in English. We chose this name with the intention of producing graduates who can serve as solid foundations for community transformation.

The primary purpose of this institute is to integrate existing international programs within our university, streamline administrative processes, and further enhance collaborative operations for optimal development.

The Kepha Institute is committed to organizing and delivering high-quality educational resources to qualified recipients via online platforms at an affordable cost. The Kepha Institute focuses on delivering excellent education, providing professional training, as well as moral and spiritual cultivation. We encourage our graduates to live in, serve, and transform the communities to which they belong.

With these goals in mind, the Kepha Institute offers practical majors, such as MA in Clinical Counseling, MBA, MA in Cybersecurity, and MA in Education. The Kepha Institute is preparing to offer undergraduate majors in the future, including Psychology, Business, Computer Science, Education, Biology, and more.





VERITAS EDUCATION

Focus on worldview, values, and beliefs, forming the foundation of a noble character.



VIRTUE EDUCATION

Cultivate students' moral aesthetics and common sense, aiming to develop well-rounded personalities.



PROFESSIONALISM EDUCATION

Pursue excellence in professional knowledge and skills, training students to be competitive industry leaders.



Program Features

The Master of Arts in Cybersecurity (MACS) program inherits the century-old educational tradition of CIU, emphasizing the integration of professional skills with foundational truths. It upholds a distinctive holistic education philosophy, aiming to cultivate cybersecurity professionals who possess both "truth-based perspectives" and comprehensive technical capabilities.

The program not only offers professional training and equipment but also serves as a career development bridge to high-paying and high-demand positions. Emphasizing practicality and application, we are committed to helping students apply their learning in real-world scenarios, training them to master exceptional professional skills for problem-solving in practical settings.

Instruction combines pre-recorded video courses with real-time interactive sessions, facilitating students' adaptation and proficiency in cybersecurity operations within an English-speaking environment. For students without a solid IT background, foundational courses are specially designed to bridge interdisciplinary abilities.

Our faculty members are highly qualified, all holding doctoral degrees and rooted in cutting-edge industry technological advancements. They uphold values of truth and are committed to guiding students in advancing both their professional capabilities and personal character growth.



Affordable Tuition: Committed to high quality with tuition rates affordable to commoners.



Fully Accredited Degrees: Degrees earned online carry the same value as those earned on-campus.



Online Delivery Model with Flexible Schedule: Accommodates work and study.



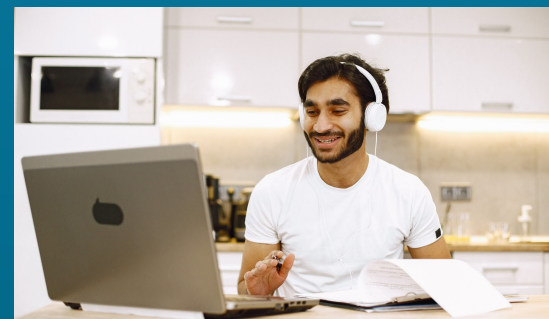
Combination of Pre-recorded Lectures and Live Classroom Experience: Provided via a teaching platform.



Integration of Theoretical Knowledge and Practical Skills: Applicable in real job settings.



Highly Qualified Faculty Members: With doctoral degrees and/or tenured professors.



Learning Methods



Zoom Meeting Rooms: Serve as a platform for real-time online classes, fostering effective interactions between professors and students.



Recorded Video Courses: Explain fundamental concepts, theories, methods, and models.



A Wealth of Reading Materials: Expose students to cutting-edge cases, new theories, and emerging technologies.



A Wide Variety of Assignments: Help students effectively integrate theory with practice.



An Online Platform: Facilitates real-time communication between students and teachers.

Project Objective

Upon completion of this program, graduates will be equipped to:



Interpret and forensically investigate cybersecurity incidents.



Develop policies and procedures to manage enterprise cybersecurity risks.



Analyze and resolve security issues in networks and computer systems to secure an IT infrastructure.



Perform the duties of a cybersecurity professional. After obtaining relevant network security certification, graduates will have access to job opportunities around the world.



Evaluate and communicate the human role in cybersecurity systems with an emphasis on ethics, social engineering vulnerabilities, and training.



Assess the security needs of computer and network systems, recommend safeguard solutions, and manage the implementation and maintenance of cybersecurity devices, systems, and procedures.



Program Curriculum

Master's Bridge Course in MACS (9 credits in total)

The proposed cybersecurity master's program requires students to have an undergraduate degree in a technical discipline such as Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Information Systems, Electrical Engineering, or related fields.

The program committee will guide students with non-technical undergraduate degrees through bridge courses to make up for missing fundamentals. The duration of each bridge course is 16 weeks per term. (The program welcomes applicants from other professional backgrounds as long as they are comfortable with operating computers. Bridge courses can be learned concurrently with professional courses.)

Master's Bridge Course in MACS (9 credits in total)

Fundamentals of Computer Science	3
Applied Operating Systems	3
Applied Computer Network	3

Projected Schedule of Course Offerings (30 credits in total)

The program requires 30 credit hours from 10 professional courses. All courses are in a 16-week format. The program also requires students to pass security-related certification exams before graduation.

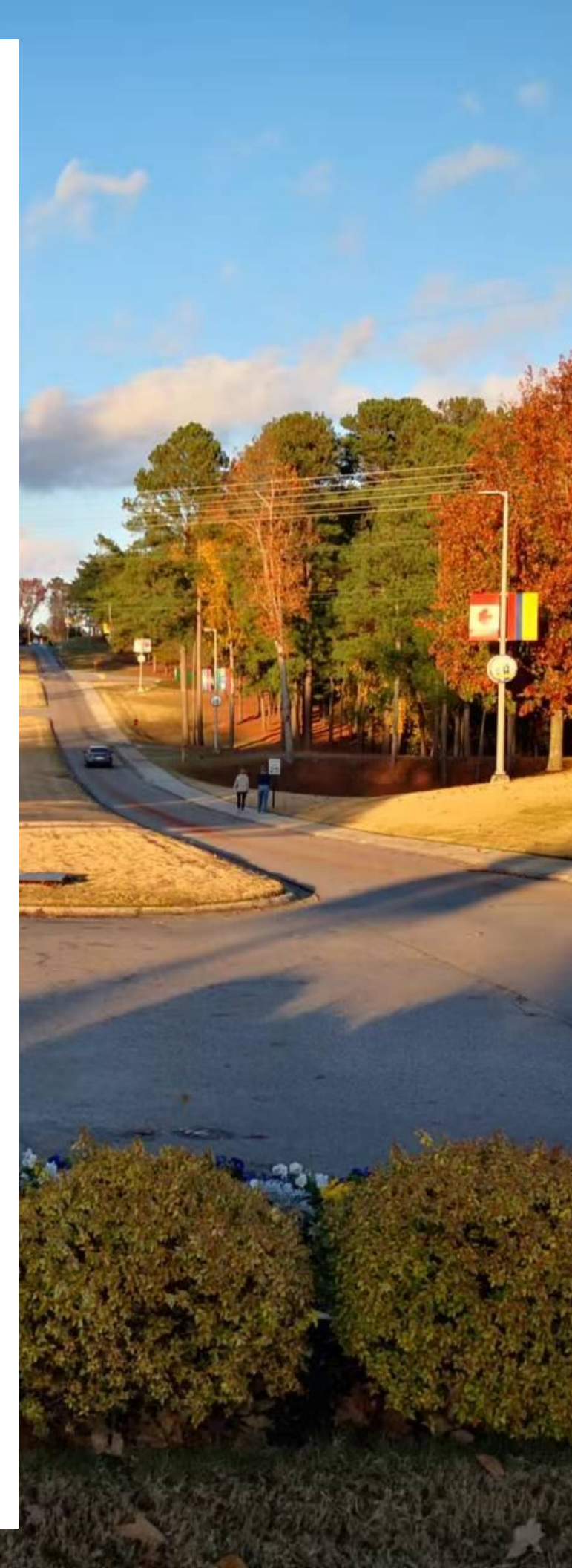
Projected Schedule of Course Offerings (30 credits in total)

Computer Networks	3
Scripting Languages	3
Cybersecurity Law and Ethics	3
Foundations of Cryptography	3
Computer and Network Security	3
Operating Systems	3
Database Management Concepts and Systems	3
Network Penetrating, Testing and Ethical Hacking	3
Digital Forensics	3
Computer Architecture	3

Three 0-credit Courses in Worldview and Ethics (Possible to waive)

The Kepha Institute requires students to take three 0-credit courses in worldview and ethics. Students may take these courses prior to starting the program or concurrently while enrolled. Each course is 16 weeks per term.

Note: The course setting may be slightly adjusted; please refer to the course selection notice after admission.





**AUTHORITY
OF SCRIPTURE**

Study Time:

16 week each
Professional Courses
and Bridge Courses

16 week each
Worldview and Ethics
Courses
(Possible to waive)

Semester Commencement Dates

Trimesters (spring, summer, and fall) start in early January, May, and late August.

The program is designed to be completed within a minimum of 2.5 years and a maximum of 7 years.



Admission Criteria

- Individuals with an undergraduate degree in technical fields such as computer science, computer engineering, information systems, electrical engineering, or related disciplines can apply directly.
- A limited number of slots are available for those with non-technical undergraduate degrees. Applicants in this category will undergo an interview process and are required to participate in a bridge course.

Other Specific Requirements:

1. Other relevant supporting documents include academic credentials (official transcripts), personal statements, educational and work backgrounds, and at least one recommendation letter.
2. An optional interview with the MACS admission committee to evaluate applicants' academic readiness, personal maturity, and career goals upon request. Applicants with deficiencies in any area may need to resolve the issues before being admitted into the program.
3. Since this is an online program, students are expected to have stable online network support and computer devices. Personal computers must be installed with Windows, Linux, or Mac (non M-series) operating systems with multi-core processors (at least 4 cores 8 threads). We recommend up-to-date processors. All computers should have at least 16GB of memory and 512GB of storage space, preferably 32GB memory and 1TB SSD.



Graduation Requirements

1. Successful completion of all coursework.
2. A GPA of 3.0 or above.
3. Payment of all tuition and fees.
4. Successfully passing a regionally recognized cybersecurity certification exam. The institute recommends passing the US Security+ certification exam for global job opportunities. If you have difficulty with English, you may choose to take a relevant certification exam

Tuition, Fees, and Scholarships

Estimated Total Tuition Fee: \$8000

Professional courses: \$630 each

Bridge courses: \$630 each

Worldview and Ethics courses: \$200 each (possible to waive)

Online course platform charge: \$30 per person per semester

*Professional courses have a regular tuition fee of \$1800 per subject (3 credits), with a discounted rate of \$630 per subject (3 credits) for students from developing countries and regions.

*Each course is 16 weeks per term

*The above tuition fees are estimated based on current conditions. The Institute reserves the right to adjust tuition fees due to administrative decisions or uncontrollable factors. For the final amount of tuition fees, please refer to the registration notice of each semester.

Scholarships

This program offers tuition assistance to students in need, with pertinent policies listed as follows:

1. No tuition assistance is available for the first semester.
2. From the second semester onward, students who meet the following requirements may apply:
 - A student with a grade of B+ or higher, pursuing a regular course of study and facing financial difficulties, can apply for a \$100 scholarship reduction for one course.
 - A student with a grade of B+ or higher, engaged in full-time service at a faith-based nonprofit organization and facing financial difficulties, can apply for a \$200 scholarship reduction for one course.
3. Courses in worldview and ethics are not eligible for tuition discounts.
4. Tuition discounts are available for bridge courses and professional courses.
5. Due to limited resources, not all applicants may be eligible for tuition discounts.

Application Process

- 1 Submit pre-application form through <https://ciulink.com/macs>



- 2 Complete the application by submitting all requested information and supporting documents.
- 3 All documents and information will be reviewed by the Admission Committee.
- 4 Enroll in classes after being admitted.

Contact Email: admin.kepha@ciu.edu

Applicants will receive an application guide via email. Qualified applicants will be guided to submit a complete application package.



WhatsApp



Wechat



Official website



CIU Kepha



Faculty Team

Note: The faculty team represents only a selection of members, listed in no particular order.



Dr. Jieen Chen

MACS Adjunct Professor

- Ph.D. in Natural Sciences (Computational Photography), University of Tübingen, Germany
- Master of Science, Jena University, Germany
- Bachelor of Science, Shandong University
- Currently employed as a software engineer and technical consultant.
- Research interests focus on artificial intelligence.
- Research interests focus on artificial intelligence.



Dr. Joseph Lin

MACS Adjunct Professor

- Ph.D. Degree, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Florida.
- Established the MACS at Keph Institute.
- Director of the MSCS (Master of Science in Computer Science) program at Charleston Southern University, where he developed the curriculum for cybersecurity-related courses within the university's Computer Science department. Expertise in computer network communication, encryption technology, and network security.
- Possesses 20 years of experience in both in-person and online teaching.

Faculty Team

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Dr. Jer-Min Tsai

MACS Adjunct Professor

- Ph.D. from National Chiao Tung University, Taiwan.
- Formerly served as Chair of the Department of Information and Communication at Kunsan University of Technology and Director of the Information Technology Research and Development Center.
- Expertise includes network-based information systems, database systems, image processing technologies, UNIX system administration, digital integrated circuit design, computer architecture, and hardware.



Dr. Eddy Zhang

MACS Adjunct Professor

- Ph.D. in Computer Science and Software Engineering, Chongqing University.
- Research focus on belief networks and uncertain reasoning.
- Senior Software Systems Analyst.
- Experienced English Translator.



Professor's Greeting



Joseph Lin

MACS Adjunct Professor

While numerous universities worldwide offer cybersecurity programs, focusing heavily on cutting-edge research and technical skills, there is a growing recognition of the need for a more holistic approach to education. CIU Kepha Institute addresses this need by providing a comprehensive education that not only equips students with the latest cybersecurity knowledge but also cultivates a strong sense of ethics and values grounded in truth. We believe that cybersecurity professionals must possess both technical expertise and a sound moral compass to effectively protect our digital world.



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Kepha Institute
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Higher Education for the Everyone

The information provided in this brochure is subject to change and is not legally binding. Please refer to the official registration notice for the most up-to-date and accurate information regarding tuition, fees, and course arrangements.