

SECREV SHORTS COMPETITION

1 About the Competition

This Short Film (Shorts) Competition invites graduate students to showcase their cybersecurity research through the art of storytelling in a 3-minute video. We encourage participants to think beyond traditional presentations, making use of characters, locations, props, costumes, and cutting-edge video tools (e.g., digital avatars, special effects, AI-generated video) to convey their message in a creative, compelling way.

2 Why the Competition?

Misinformation—often powered by persuasive visuals and narratives—continues to undermine science and cybersecurity awareness. By harnessing advanced film-making techniques, we aim to empower researchers to deliver accurate, engaging, and persuasive content that combats pseudoscience. All accepted videos will be shared as part of the Cybersecurity Revolution program to highlight the power of authentic science communication.

3 Who Can Enter the Competition?

- › **Eligible Entrants:** Graduate students (Master's or PhD) enrolled in an accredited university or college recognized by the government of Canada.
- › **Research Scope:** Any cybersecurity-related research is welcome, whether it's a literature review, experimental work, policy analysis, or theoretical study.

4 Key Details

- › **Video Length:** Up to **3 minutes** (including titles and credits).
- › **Prizes:** The winner will receive a scholarship of **\$1,000** and each of the two runners-up will receive scholarships of **\$500**.
- › **Deadline:** 1 May 2025
- › **Judging Criteria:** Clarity, creativity, narrative impact, scientific accuracy, and relevance to cybersecurity.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. Organizer

1.1 These Terms & Conditions govern the Short Film Competition (“SecRev Shorts”) organized by The Cybersecurity Revolution and HC2P.

1.2 The Competition is hosted on the Organizer’s website, secrev.org.

2. Eligibility

2.1 Entrants must be graduate students (Master’s or PhD) currently registered at an accredited university or college recognized by the government of Canada.

2.2 Entrants must be at least 18 years of age or the age of majority in their jurisdiction of residence, whichever is older.

2.3 Proof of student status may be required, such as an official enrollment letter or valid student ID.

2.4 The Organizer may request verification of eligibility at any time.

3. Submission Guidelines

3.1 **Original Work:** Each submitted film must be the Entrant’s original creation. Entrants must own or have secured all necessary rights (copyright, licenses, permissions) for any images, music, footage, or other third-party materials used.

3.2 **Length & Format:** The film must be no longer than 3 minutes total.

3.3 **Language:** Films may be in any language; however if it is not in English, French or Spanish, subtitles in one of these languages are required.

3.4 **Research Scope:** The content should relate to cybersecurity research, including literature reviews, experimental findings, policy analyses, theoretical explorations, or any other research-based approach.

3.5 **Creative Storytelling:** Entrants are strongly encouraged to use characters, scenes, props, costumes, and advanced digital tools (e.g., special effects, digital avatars, AI video) to enhance their storytelling.

3.6 **Number of Submissions:** Each Entrant may submit only one film.

3.3 **Maximum File Size:** 500 MB

3.4 **Accepted Resolutions:**

Horizontal (16:9): 1920 x 1080 (Full HD)

Vertical (9:16): 1080 x 1920

3.5 File Format & Encoding

Accepted Container Formats: .mp4 or .mov

Video Codec: H.264 (MPEG-4 Part 10)

3.6 Subtitles

Language: If the video not in English, French or Spanish, subtitles in one of these languages must be included.

Subtitles Format: Either embedded in the video or provided as a separate .srt file.

Readability: Ensure subtitle text is clearly visible against the video background.

3.7 Audio Levels

Mix: Keep the overall loudness balanced (around -23 LUFS or equivalent broadcast standard) to avoid extreme volume variations..

3.8 File Naming & Metadata

Naming

Convention: [LastName_FirstName_FilmTitle].[ext] (e.g., Smith_Jane_CyberStories.mp4).

3.9 Testing & Compatibility

Playback Verification: Entrants must confirm that their file plays correctly on standard media players (e.g., VLC, QuickTime) before submission.

Organizer Liability: The Organizer is not responsible for files that are corrupted, improperly encoded, or otherwise unplayable.

3.10 Compliance & Disqualification

Strict Adherence: All submissions must meet these specifications.

Resubmission: If a file fails to meet requirements, the Entrant may be asked to resubmit—if time permits before the deadline.

Disqualification: Submissions that cannot be brought into compliance may be disqualified at the Organizer's discretion.

4. Entry Process

4.1 Online Submission: All entries must be submitted by email to info@hc2p.ca. To ensure that the files are received, please make use of a file transfer service such as wetransfer, dropbox, maildrop etc. In addition to the submission by email you may also upload the video to social media with the #SECREV2025 and provide us the link.

4.2 Deadline: Entries must be received by 0:00 UTC, May 1 2025. Late submissions will not be considered.

4.3 Confirmation: Entrants will receive an email confirming receipt of their submission.

4.4 Technical Issues: The Organizer is not responsible for technical difficulties that prevent or delay submissions.

5. Content Guidelines

5.1 Appropriateness: Submissions must not contain any illegal, defamatory, obscene, or hateful content, or any material that violates the rights of others.

5.2 Scientific Accuracy: Films should present cybersecurity information accurately, with proper citations if using external data or sources. If these are unable to be provided in the content itself, they should be provided in the accompanying email.

5.3 Ethical Compliance: Any portrayal of sensitive data or human subjects must comply with relevant ethical guidelines and institutional policies.

5.4 Purpose: The film should focus on disseminating cybersecurity research in a creative, engaging manner.

6. Judging & Awards

6.1 Judging Panel: A panel of experts in cybersecurity and science communication will evaluate eligible submissions.

6.2 Criteria:

Clarity: How well does the film explain the research and its significance?

Creativity & Storytelling: Use of narrative, characters, visuals, and advanced tools.

Accuracy: Veracity of the research content.

Impact & Engagement: Overall persuasiveness and ability to captivate an audience.

6.3 Selection:

Winner: One (1) film will be awarded the grand prize of a scholarship of \$1,000.

Runners-up: Two (2) films will each receive a scholarship of \$500.

6.4 Announcement of Results: The Organizer will announce the winners via secrev.org on the 9th of May 2025. Winners will also be notified by email.

6.5 Decision: The judges' decisions are final and binding.

7. Prize Distribution

7.1 Payment: Scholarships will be distributed within 90 days of the winner announcement.

7.2 Non-Transferable: Scholarships are non-transferable and no substitution will be made except at the Organizer's

discretion.

7.3 Tax Implications: Any and all taxes or fees on the prizes are the sole responsibility of the winners.

8. Intellectual Property & Usage Rights

8.1 Ownership: Entrants retain full ownership of the copyright in their works.

8.2 License to Organizer: By entering, Entrants grant the Organizer a worldwide, non-exclusive, royalty-free license to display, reproduce, distribute, and promote the film for non-commercial purposes related to the Competition and its mission (e.g., posting on secrev.org, social media, or public events).

8.3 Third-Party Rights: Entrants warrant that their work does not infringe the copyright, trademark, or intellectual property rights of any third party.

9. Publication & Cybersecurity Revolution Program

9.1 Accepted Videos: All accepted videos will be featured online as part of the Cybersecurity Revolution program.

9.2 Attribution: The Organizer will credit the Entrant as the film's creator in any promotional use.

9.3 Duration: The Organizer may keep accepted films on its website and relevant channels for an indefinite period, unless otherwise requested in writing by the Entrant.

10. Privacy & Personal Data

10.1 Data Protection: Any personal information collected will be used solely for administering the Competition (e.g., verifying eligibility, contacting winners).

10.2 Consent: By submitting, Entrants consent to the use of their name, institution, and submission for promotional purposes.

10.3 Privacy Policy: Any and all personal information received will only be used for the purposes of this competition. We will not transfer this information to any third parties. The data will be retained for as long as is necessary for these purposes.

11. Disqualification

11.1 The Organizer may disqualify any Entrant who breaches these Terms & Conditions or provides false information.

11.2 Any suspected misuse of footage or plagiarism, as determined by the Organizer or judges, will result in disqualification.

12. Limitation of Liability

12.1 The Organizer is not liable for any technical malfunctions, lost or inaccessible submissions, or events beyond their control.

12.2 Entrants agree to release the Organizer from any damages, liabilities, or claims arising from participation in the Competition.

13. Miscellaneous

13.1 Changes & Cancellations: The Organizer reserves the right to modify, suspend, or cancel the Competition due to unforeseen circumstances.

13.2 Governing Law: These Terms & Conditions are governed by the laws of [Applicable Province/Territory/Country].

13.3 Severability: If any provision of these Terms & Conditions is deemed unenforceable, all other provisions remain in effect.

13.4 Acceptance: By submitting an entry, Entrants confirm they have read, understood, and agree to these Terms & Conditions.