

Dear Admissions Committee,

I am pleased to apply once again to the Ph.D. program in Cybersecurity at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST). With a solid academic foundation in Electrical Engineering and a Master's degree in Cybersecurity, I am deeply committed to contributing to the cutting-edge research initiatives at KAUST and advancing knowledge in this vital field.

My academic journey has consistently reflected my passion and dedication. During my undergraduate studies in Electrical Engineering at Taif University, I distinguished myself as the top student in my class, which led to an appointment as a faculty member shortly thereafter. My academic performance also secured a prestigious full scholarship to pursue further studies in the United States, reflecting my dedication to excellence.

My initial exposure to cybersecurity sparked a profound interest in the complexities and importance of safeguarding critical infrastructure and digital assets. Driven by this passion, I immersed myself in an intensive six-month cybersecurity bootcamp at Rice University, engaging hands-on with topics such as penetration testing, network security, cryptography, and incident response. This practical training culminated in my successful completion of the Security+ certification, equipping me with industry-recognized skills.

Building upon this momentum, I completed my Master's degree in Cybersecurity at the University of Houston, where I had the privilege of studying advanced courses, including Security Operation Center Operations and Machine Learning for Cybersecurity. These experiences deepened my knowledge and practical skills, preparing me for advanced research in cybersecurity.

Last year, I had the opportunity to join the Ph.D. program at KAUST. Although I performed well academically in coursework, I faced significant challenges adjusting to the research component of the program. At the time, I struggled to engage meaningfully with my research topic, which did not align closely with my interests or strengths. Additionally, my wife and I were experiencing the stresses of welcoming our first child, a life-changing event that understandably diverted much of my focus and energy. Consequently, I was unable to meet the expectations set by my advisor and was dismissed due to insufficient research progress.

Reflecting on this experience, I have learned tremendously about myself and my research aspirations. The dismissal, though difficult, provided me with clarity, resilience, and a renewed sense of purpose. Over the past year, I have grown considerably—both personally and academically—and I now feel more prepared, focused, and motivated than ever before. I understand the demands and rigor of doctoral research and have carefully reconsidered my research interests to ensure alignment with KAUST's current projects and faculty expertise.

KAUST's outstanding reputation for groundbreaking research and innovation continues to attract me strongly. The multidisciplinary environment at KAUST, characterized by collaborations among globally recognized researchers, offers an unparalleled opportunity for me to contribute meaningfully to cybersecurity research. I am particularly excited about engaging in research aimed at creating secure and resilient computing systems and developing solutions to critical cybersecurity challenges faced today.

Moreover, my wife and I deeply value the supportive and vibrant community environment offered by KAUST, which we know firsthand will support both our academic and family aspirations. We look forward to once again becoming active members of this unique community and embracing the diverse and enriching opportunities it provides.

In summary, returning to KAUST represents much more than resuming my doctoral studies; it symbolizes personal growth, renewed academic vigor, and a clearer sense of purpose. With a deeper understanding of my research interests, strengthened resilience, and unwavering motivation, I am confident in my ability to

contribute positively to the KAUST research community and ultimately use this experience to benefit academic and research development within Saudi Arabia.

Thank you very much for considering my renewed application. I sincerely hope to once again become a member of your esteemed university and contribute meaningfully to the field of cybersecurity.

Respectfully,