Tell us about

- your expectations for the SECCLO programme
- career aspirations
- relevant experience
- achievements

In the SECCLO program, I hope to develop my research skills under the supervision of highly regarded faculty and to get a deep understanding of distributed systems and their security. I got interested in distributed systems while doing an internship at a blockchain company. I was curious about what makes distributed systems secure from malicious agents and what guarantees that the system will not fail unexpectedly. In the summer of 2022, I took part in a Summer Research program at the University of Toronto that gave me a chance to learn more about the theoretical aspects of distributed systems. I worked with Prof. Faith Ellen on the topic of consensus in distributed systems. Specifically, we focused on Byzantine Agreement, a version of consensus where processors might act maliciously. I've been working on this project in the fall term as well by studying the foundations of distributed computing and considering consensus algorithms in different models of computation. The project inspired me to audit a graduate course called "Introduction to Distributed Computing" to gain even more knowledge about the field. While working on this research project, I've realized that I'd like to focus my career on distributed systems as I enjoy the challenge that comes with the difficulty of making the system correct and secure.

Although the focus of SECCLO's curriculum certainly aligns with what I would like to study in graduate school, this is not the only reason why I think SECCLO is a great program. As a second-year undergraduate student, I completed the "Full Stack Open" online course, which is a part of the SECCLO first-year curriculum. In my opinion, the course quality was amazing, and I can prove it first-hand as I got a job offer as a software developer after completing the course. I expect the rest of the program to hold the high standard that this course has set for me. I also expect the program to be an amazing multicultural experience where I get to meet people from all around the world that share my interest in distributed systems.

To conclude, I really hope to get a chance to become a part of the SECCLO program. Given everything that I've stated above, I think that this graduate program presents an amazing opportunity for me to kickstart my career as an R&D software engineer.