Dr Junade Ali Named Youngest Ever IET Fellow

Monday 26 June, 2023

- Dr Junade Ali CEng has become the youngest Fellow of the IET, aged 27 years old.
- Dr Ali is believed to be the youngest Fellow of any UK professional engineering institution.
- Despite being a secondary school drop-out, Dr Ali studied for a Master's degree aged 17 and was awarded Chartered Engineer status at 23.

Edinburgh & London; Monday 26th June 2023 - Dr Junade Ali CEng has today announced he has successfully become the youngest ever Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) and is believed to be the youngest ever Fellow of a professional engineering institution.

With the average age of a newly-elected IET Fellow normally above 45, in order to secure Fellowship, Dr Ali demonstrated personal responsibility for significant technological innovation and independent contributions to original research that have resulted in international recognition.

These contributions have included developing cybersecurity techniques adopted in products built by Apple and Google, developing software to help de-escalate cyberwarfare situations (including in relation to North Korea) and conducting research to reduce burnout amongst software engineers.

Despite dropping out from secondary school and not having an undergraduate degree, whilst working as a software engineer, Dr Ali began studying for a Master's degree aged 17, graduating with a distinction grade and winning his university's "Best Overall Masters" award. At 23 years old, Dr Ali achieved the unprecedented achievement of becoming a Chartered Engineer, the terminal regulatory status for engineers in the UK. He later was awarded a PhD having focused his studies on cryptography.

Reacting to the news, Junade said: "I am truly honoured and humbled to receive this distinction. I never thought I would be able to reach the high bar of Fellowship, let alone be the IET's youngest Fellow. I am truly grateful to the IET and the wider engineering community for supporting my professional development over my career."

Junade continued: "The engineering profession offers an unprecedented opportunity to shape the world for the better across a diverse range of different competencies. I am truly grateful for the opportunities the profession has given me to make an impact on the world and I wouldn't hesitate to recommend a career in engineering to anyone interested."

Colin Sellers, responsible for Fellowship at the IET, added: "As the highest category of IET membership for which you can apply, awarded to high achievers and respected professionals at the forefront of engineering and technology, it is exceptional that Junade has achieved this accolade so young – he is now our youngest IET Fellow on record. This is a fantastic achievement and shows the impact and commitment Junade has made in engineering and especially cyber security so early on in his career.

"He is a fantastic role model for young people who are undertaking engineering studies and shows that nothing is out of reach with hard work and determination. On behalf of the whole of the IET, and especially the great Fellowship community he is joining, I'd like to congratulate Junade on this prestigious achievement."

Ends

Note to Editors

For further information or to request interview please contact Junade Ali's private press office at press@junade.com.

About Dr Junade Ali

Dr Junade Ali MSc PhD CEng FIET is a software engineer and computer scientist originally from Warwickshire who lives in Scotland. Dr Ali is known for his work in cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence and Operations Research.

About the IET

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- Interview opportunities are available with our spokespeople from a range of engineering and technology disciplines including cyber-security, energy, engineering skills, innovation, manufacturing, technology, transport and diversity in engineering.
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