NCSC ACEs-CSE recognition and degree certification

Information and dates for the certification of postgraduate and undergraduate degrees in cyber security and ACE-CSE recognition

Information and dates for the certification of postgraduate and undergraduate degrees in cyber security and ACE-CSE recognition can be found on the individual pages below.

- Postgraduate Master's degree call
- Undergraduate degree call
- Academic Centres of Excellence in Cyber Security Education (ACE-CSE)

The list of Higher Educational Institutes holding ACE-CSE recognition, or with certified degree apprenticeships, Bachelor's, Integrated Master's and Master's degrees can be found on the website.

The Cyber Security Body of Knowledge (CyBOK) plays a key underpinning role in NCSC's ACE-CSE and degree certification programmes. Find out more about CyBOK in this video from the CyBOK team at the University of Bristol, and watch Chris Ensor, NCSC Deputy Director for Cyber Growth, talk about its importance.

The CyBOK project is led by the University of Bristol and draws on the expertise of world leading experts to document the foundational knowledge upon which the field of cyber security is built.

Why does the NCSC certify degrees in cyber security?

Through its programme to certify undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in cyber security, the NCSC is helping to set the standard for good cyber security higher education in the UK.

The Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy has a priority action to strengthen the UK's cyber ecosystem. This will include investing in an integrated education and training system and supporting the UK research base.

Working in partnership over the past several years, the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT), Cabinet Office (CO), UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) have initiated a number of programmes across academia that are aligned with the priority action above including:

- Academic Centres of Excellence in Cyber Security Education (ACEs-CSE)
- Academic Centres of Excellence in Cyber Security Research (ACEs-CSR)
- Academic Research Institutes in Cyber Security
- Centres for Doctoral Training in Cyber Security
- The Cyber Security Body of Knowledge (CyBOK)

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What benefit does NCSC certification bring to a university? + Show

NCSC certification should help universities to attract additional numbers and higher quality students, both from the UK and from abroad.

What degrees are eligible for certification? + Show

The NCSC assesses 9 different types of degrees:

Master's

- General Cyber Security (including Scottish Graduate Apprenticeships in Cyber Security)

- Degrees Incorporating Cyber Security

Bachelor's

- Computing and Cyber Security
- Computing for Cyber Security
- Computing incorporating Cyber Security

Integrated Master's

- Computing and Cyber Security
- Computing for Cyber Security
- Computing incorporating Cyber Security

Degree apprenticeships

- Cyber Security

There is a separate set of call documents for each degree, please see the relevant call page when open for applications.

What is the difference between provisional and full certification?

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For full certification, an eligible degree programme must have been running in both the previous and current academic year.

For provisional certification, a degree programme does not need to have started yet, but may be running in the current academic year.

Full certification is typically valid for 5 years, while provisional certification is typically valid for around 3 years, or until the first cohort of students have completed the degree.

Why have you added certification for degree apprenticeships?

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We have introduced a certification for degree apprenticeships following the launch of the Cyber Security Technical Professional Degree Apprenticeship standard.

Degree apprenticeships offer a flexible option for both students and employers, as we have seen from our own degree apprenticeship programme. They will be a valuable addition to our certified undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes.

I'm a student. What does NCSC certification mean for me?

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It can be difficult to navigate the range of cyber security degree programmes on offer in the UK. If you are a student at school or university, NCSC certification can help you choose a cyber security course which has been rigorously assessed by the NCSC as providing well-defined and appropriate content delivered to an appropriate standard.

If you are a student currently studying on a NCSC fully certified degree programme, you will be provided with an additional form of recognition (i.e. a certificate that you have successfully completed a NCSC-certified degree), which will help employers distinguish between applicants' qualifications.

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WRITTEN FOR

Cyber security professionals Large organisations Small & medium sized organisations You & your family