



CAREERS



National Cyber
Security Centre
a part of GCHQ



THIS IS A CYBERFIRST WORLD

LET'S OPEN IT UP

University bursary and
degree apprenticeship

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS



“WITH ALL THE OPPORTUNITIES AT THE NCSC AND GCHQ, THERE’S LOADS OF WORK YOU CAN DO, AND WITH A WHOLE LOT OF INDUSTRY MEMBERS AS WELL.”

WHO RUNS CYBERFIRST?

CyberFirst was set up by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), part of GCHQ, with one goal in mind: to open up the world of cyber security. We want to find diverse young minds from up and down the UK – not just coders but entrepreneurs, public speakers, analysts and more – who’ll become the next generation of cyber security specialists.

You might have heard of the NCSC and GCHQ before, but if you haven’t, here’s a run down:

GCHQ is the UK’s world-leading intelligence and cyber security agency with a mission to help keep the UK safe. The agency uses cutting-edge technology and technical ingenuity to identify, analyse, and disrupt threats in an increasingly digital world. They work closely with MI5, MI6, law enforcement, the military, and international partners to counter real-world and online threats from both large groups and individuals.

As part of GCHQ, the NCSC is the UK’s lead technical authority on cyber security, helping to make the UK the safest place to live and do business online. Set up in October 2016, the NCSC offers unrivalled real-time threat analysis, defence against national cyber attacks, and tailored advice to victims of cyber intrusions. The NCSC has access to some of the most sophisticated capabilities available to government, and its ground-breaking approach to cyber security is improving the UK’s resilience to cyber threats.

WHO CAN JOIN OUR PROGRAMMES?

Our bursary and degree apprenticeship programmes are designed for a new generation of future cyber security professionals. But that doesn't mean they have to be coders. If you know a young person with a passion for any kind of technology – from gaming to their phone – then this could well be the path for them.

We aren't looking for genius programming skills right now either. On our bursary programme, there are a wide variety of roles, some highly technical and others less so. And on our degree apprenticeship, our apprentices are trained in how to code on the job, so they don't need prior knowledge. What we really need is curiosity and ability, from young people who believe their tech is important and who want to learn to protect it.

So if you know a young person with that attitude and the aptitude to learn, these programmes are open to them. We're looking for future cyber security specialists of all genders, all cultures, all experiences – all keen to explore and defend the digital world.



**“I KNOW LOTS OF PEOPLE
ON THE SCHEME WHO
STUDIED SUBJECTS LIKE
HISTORY, POLITICS, AND
PSYCHOLOGY, LIKE ME,
AND IT'S NOT HELD THEM
BACK AT ALL.”**



“NOW MORE THAN EVER, CYBER SECURITY IS CRUCIAL. WE’VE GONE ONLINE FOR EVERYTHING AND IT MEANS WE’RE LEAVING MORE DATA OUT FOR PEOPLE TO GET.”

WHY IS CYBER SECURITY A GREAT CAREER PATH FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?

THE PROSPECTS

In a word, it's vital. Our modern world is increasingly reliant on technology, and that means the need for cyber security specialists is only ever going to go up. Every business needs technology – from the biggest names to the oldest institutions, so the job prospects for their future are enormous, offering stability, swift progression and strong salaries.

THE IMPACT

As well as providing for their success, it's also a calling with purpose. These young people will be learning to defend the digital world – and that means they'll also be protecting the real world. Whether it's keeping flight paths safe, keeping hospitals protected from ransomware, or protecting online shoppers from fraud, they're giving back to their community in a very real and valuable way.

THE CHOICE

With both our university bursary and our degree apprenticeship on offer, this is a path that can flex to meet young people's specific needs. If they'd rather go to university first, we'll give them a £4k-a-year bursary and paid summer training. Or if they're keen to get started right away, they can go straight into a government role and study for their degree while they earn a salary and learn to code. It's completely up to them – and you can guide them to the choice that's best for them.

DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP

1. THE WORK

Based in Cheltenham, Scarborough or Manchester, they'll have a real role at GCHQ, learning and working amid some of the world's most cutting-edge security technologies. All with a starting salary of £20k.



2. THE STUDY

Alongside their work, they'll spend three years at GCHQ studying towards a recognised degree in cyber security, cementing the work they're doing from day-to-day.

3. AFTER GRADUATION

If they successfully complete their degree apprenticeship then, depending on our business needs, there's a good chance we'll offer them full-time employment with GCHQ or the NCSC.

WHICH ROUTE WOULD BE BEST?

We want to help as many young people as possible to find the tech career of a lifetime – which is why we've designed two different routes that suit different people.

To help you help the young people in your life, here are all the details you need to know:

1. THE STUDY

If they're planning to start university or they have at least two years of full-time study remaining in September 2021, we'll pay them a £4k bursary per year, tax-free, to support their course.



2. THE WORK

Each summer, they'll complete either training at a CyberFirst Academy or an eight-week training placement with the NCSC, a government body, or one of over 100 industry partners. They'll receive a summer placement payment of £2k plus a contribution to accommodation costs.



3. AFTER GRADUATION

Earn their degree and we'll look to place them in a graduate-level cyber security role within UK national security, government or industry.

UNIVERSITY BURSARY



NEXT STEPS AS A PARENT OR TEACHER

1. TALK TO YOUR YOUNG PERSON

If your young adult or student is interested in tech – whether their obsession is Instagram or Fortnite – then talk to them about this opportunity. Show them the student guide to our programmes, then visit cyberfirstcareers.co.uk

2. TALK THEM THROUGH WHICH PATH MIGHT BE BEST

Would they be better at university on our bursary or working on our degree apprenticeship? Keep an open mind about which is best for your young person, and remember that either route has brilliant prospects in cyber security. If they are unsure, they can always apply for both.

3. REVIEW THEIR APPLICATION AND OFFER YOUR ADVICE

While we want to hear from them in their own words, you could support them with advice and a fresh pair of eyes. Offer your help to review their application once they've written it, or give them tips on how to bring out their interest in tech.



**“
I DIDN'T ACTUALLY KNOW
ABOUT THE BURSARY
BEFORE I WENT TO
UNIVERSITY: MY MUM
TOLD ME ABOUT IT, AND
THEN I STARTED DOING
MY OWN RESEARCH.”**



Find out more about our programmes, learn about the key concepts of cyber security, and even listen to our podcast, at:

#cyberfirst

