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# Cyber Security

## Industry-recognised certifications

CompTIA, EC-Council and BCS certifications in cyber security, networking and IT support for career switchers and IT pros.

### AT A GLANCE

Certifications	CompTIA, EC-Council
Roles	SOC, Pen Test, NetAdmin
Duration	3 to 9 months
Study mode	100% online
Salary uplift	Up to £15k typical

TRUSTED BY 4.5 MILLION+ LEARNERS

CompTIA partner

NCSC recognised

BCS aligned

## Speak to a course advisor

Free advice, no obligation. Monday to Friday, 8:30am – 6:00pm.

CALL US ON

**01202 006 464**

## In plain English

### Q. How do I start a career in cyber security?

Start with CompTIA Security+ and progress through specialist certifications. The standard UK entry route into cyber security is CompTIA Security+, the vendor-neutral foundation certification recognised by employers, the NCSC, and government departments. From there, learners specialise into roles: CySA+ for SOC analyst, PenTest+ or CEH for offensive security, Network+ for infrastructure, or Cloud+ for cloud security. learndirect delivers the official syllabus, mock exams, and exam vouchers.

### Inside this guide

A 32-page guide to switching into cyber security in 6 to 12 months, with certification ladders and UK salary data.

- Step-by-step roadmap: zero IT to SOC analyst in 12 months
- CompTIA, EC-Council, BCS certifications compared
- UK cyber salary data by role and region (2026)
- How to land your first SOC interview

Your route into cyber security: Three stages from foundation to specialist role.

STEP 1   STEP 2   STEP 3

**Foundation** – CompTIA Security+ and Senior roles typically. The industry-standard entry threat hunting. PenTest+ or combine certifications with certification. Covers threats, CEH for ethical hacking and experience. Most UK cyber attacks, vulnerabilities, offensive security. CASP+ for roles look for two to three identity management, senior security architecture. certifications plus relevant cryptography, and risk. Cloud+ and Network+ for SOC, IT, or DevOps Required or preferred by infrastructure security. experience for £45k to £80k most UK SOC entry-level salary bands. roles.

## Why study Cyber Security with learndirect

100% online, fully flexible. Study from anywhere, anytime. No commute, no classroom hours. Designed to fit around full-time work, parenting, and shift patterns.

### Tutor support throughout

Dedicated subject specialists mark your assignments, answer your questions, and guide you from enrolment to certificate.

Pay monthly with 0% interest. Spread your fees across 9, 12 or 24 months with no credit checks and no hidden charges. Start your course today, settle the rest later.

Trusted by 25,000+ Trustpilot reviewers, learndirect is one of the UK's largest and most established online learning providers, with a five-star rating across thousands of independent reviews.

### Recognised qualifications

Every course leads to a regulated certificate from a UK awarding body, ready to share with employers, universities, or professional bodies.

## Courses in Cyber Security

This faculty currently offers 1 regulated qualifications. Prices below are full one-off fees. All courses also offer 0% monthly payment plans spread across 9, 12 or 24 months.

Course Awarding body From

Cyber Security Course UNKNOWN £1,999

See the full live list at [pathways.learndirect.com/faculties/cyber-security-computing](https://pathways.learndirect.com/faculties/cyber-security-computing).

## How payment works

Option How it works Best for

Pay in full Single one-off payment when you enrol. Learners who want the simplest option.

9-month plan Equal monthly instalments over 9 months. 0% interest. Most popular. Lines up with course duration.

12-month plan Equal monthly instalments over 12 months. 0% interest. Lower monthly outlay.

24-month plan Equal monthly instalments over 24 months. 0% interest. Longest, smallest monthly cost.

No interest, no credit checks, no hidden fees. If you ever want to pay off your balance early, you can settle the remainder at any time at no extra cost.

## Frequently asked questions

### Q. Do UK employers recognise CompTIA certifications?

Yes. CompTIA certifications, especially Security+, A+, and Network+, are recognised by UK employers, including government departments, defence contractors, and major financial institutions. Security+ specifically meets US DoD 8570 and is on UK NCSC-aligned career pathways.

### Q. How long does it take to pass Security+?

Most learners pass CompTIA Security+ within 8 to 12 weeks of focused study. Quicker passes are possible for those with prior IT experience. The exam is 90 minutes, multiple-choice plus performance-based questions, with a passing score of 750/900.

### Q. Can I get into cyber without an IT background?

Yes, and many career switchers do. The standard route is to start with CompTIA A+ for IT fundamentals, then Network+, then Security+. This three-cert ladder takes 9 to 12 months total and prepares you for help-desk into SOC progression.

### Q. What salary can I expect as a SOC analyst?

UK SOC Analyst Level 1 salaries typically range from £28,000 to £40,000. Level 2 SOC analysts earn £40,000 to £55,000. Senior SOC analysts and incident responders earn £55,000 to £80,000 depending on London weighting and sector.

### **Q. Is the exam included in the course fee?**

Most learndirect cyber courses include the exam voucher in the course fee. Some advanced certifications (like CASP+ and CEH) require a separate exam booking. Check the course page for exam inclusion.

### **Q. Are these courses Ofqual-regulated?**

CompTIA, EC-Council, and Cisco certifications are vendor certifications, not Ofqual-regulated qualifications. They are nonetheless the standard cyber security credentials recognised by UK employers. BCS qualifications, where offered, are Ofqual-regulated.

### **Q. How do I take the exam?**

Most cyber certification exams (CompTIA, EC-Council) can be taken online with remote proctoring through Pearson VUE or PSI, or at a physical test centre. You book the exam yourself using the voucher provided after course completion.

Start your cyber security career Speak to an adviser about which certification fits your background and where you want to specialise.

Speak to an advisor: 0800 101 901 | [pathways.learndirect.com](https://pathways.learndirect.com)

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