# Contents Page for FAQs

Below is a list of Frequently Asked Questions. The answers provided cover important information about who the course is for, what the course covers, and what you can expect during the process.

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SKILLS FOR LIFE

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# Frequently Asked Questions

## About Upskill In Cyber

### What is Upskill in Cyber?

The Upskill in Cyber Programme aims to meet the widening demand for skilled cyber security practitioners. Through intensive training, the Upskill in Cyber Programme creates GIAC certified professionals, ready to be deployed into junior cyber security roles in just 14 weeks.

### Why should you apply for Upskill in Cyber?

If you have an interest in IT or IT security, or are looking for something rewarding and challenging, Upskill in Cyber could be for you.

Due to a significant lack of skilled and trained practitioners, cyber security is currently a very in-demand profession, offering vital work, excellent earning potential and stable career paths with flexible opportunities across multiple industries.

Upskill in Cyber is fully funded by HM Government and is delivered at no cost to candidates. The programme is aimed at encouraging new talent into the cyber security sector, by providing the necessary experience and training to embark on a successful security career.

### Benefits of Upskill in Cyber:

- Free training programme
- Professionals in high demand
- Stable career paths
- Looking for a career change
- Interest in IT or IT security
- Rewarding and challenging industry
- Undertaking vital and essential work
- Flexible opportunities across multiple industries
- No skill-related barriers*

Please read the application criteria under the Eligibility Criteria section on the website.

**Who is Upskill in Cyber aimed at?**

Upskill in Cyber is designed for people new to cyber security, including career changers, those with an interest in IT or IT security and the unemployed. It prepares students for security roles by introducing them to basic cyber security principles. Our students are taught using material from SANS' training courses, through real-life, practical simulations and team exercises. The programme culminates in two industry-recognised certifications: Global Information Assurance Certification (GIAC); regarded as highly valuable for any practitioner entering the field of cyber security.

**Where is Upskill in Cyber delivered?**

Upskill in Cyber is an online programme. The first course is delivered via an e-learning platform, meaning you can study at your own pace over a six-week period. Successful applicants have the choice to study the second course via OnDemand, which means you can study at your own pace over an eight-week period, or you can join a live class with set hours over 6 days, 9am – 7pm, Monday 2nd – Saturday 7th October 2023.

Please note that participants will be expected to attend additional sessions designed to improve soft skills and employability prospects, some of which may be delivered during weekday evenings.

**When is Upskill in Cyber being delivered?**

Upskill in Cyber commences on Monday 31st July and concludes on Friday 3rd November 2023.

**How much does the programme cost?**

Upskill in Cyber is funded by HM Government and delivered at no cost to the candidate.

**Is this programme available to be studied on weekends and evenings?**

It is possible to participate in the programme during evenings and weekends but please note that each course can take approximately 60 hours to complete.

**In case I miss a lecture, is it recorded?**

The first course is delivered via an e-learning platform, meaning you can study at your own pace over a six-week period. For the second course, you can join a live class with set hours over 6 days, 9am – 7pm, Monday 2nd – Saturday 7th October 2023. You would need to be able to attend every day, if you are unable to do so, we recommend taking the OnDemand option, meaning you can study at your own pace over an eight-week period.

# About the Upskill in Cyber Courses, Exams, and Certifications

### Which courses will I study in Upskill in Cyber?

The Upskill in Cyber programme consists of two SANS cybersecurity training courses, **SEC275: Foundations - Computers, Technology, and Security** (https://www.sans.org/cyber-security-courses/foundations/) and **SEC401: Security Essentials: Network, Endpoint, and Cloud** (https://www.sans.org/cyber-security-courses/security-essentials-network-endpoint-cloud/).

### Which exams will I sit in Upskill in Cyber?

Participants will sit the GIAC Foundational Cybersecurity Technologies (GFACT) certification. Full certification information can be found here https://www.giac.org/certifications/foundational-cybersecurity-technologies-gfact/. Participants will also sit the GIAC Security Essentials (GSEC) certification. Full certification information can be found here: https://www.giac.org/certifications/security-essentials-gsec.

### Where can I take the GIAC exams?

The associated exams can either be taken at Pearson Vue Test Centres across the UK or remotely using an online proctor service, ProctorU.

### Do I have to pay to undertake the GIAC exams?

Participants will receive one examination attempt, plus one resit attempt if needed, per course.

### When will the GIAC exams be delivered?

Participants will be responsible for scheduling their own exams, but should be taken no later than 8th September for the GFACT exam, and 3rd November for the GSEC exam.

# About the Upskill in Cyber Eligibility Criteria

### I currently receive Employment and Support allowance. Will this be affected by participating in Upskill in Cyber?

Participants of Upskill in Cyber will not be paid for completing the programme, so participation should not affect your right to claim ESA. The purpose of the programme is to provide you with the necessary knowledge and skills to enable you to secure cyber security employment upon completion.

### What are the entry requirements for Upskill in Cyber?

There are no skill-related barriers

to entry (no prior cyber security experience, knowledge or skills are required to participate).

### I turn 18 after 31st July 2023, am I eligible to apply?

To be considered eligible, candidates must be ages 18 or over as of 31st July.

### What if I don't have access to a computer?

SANS will discuss training equipment needs with successful applicants on an individual basis.

assessment allow us to determine a baseline of your existing skills.

### When do applications close?

Online applications must be completed by 5am BST, Monday 26th June 2023 and CTE Assessments must be completed by 11:59pm on Tuesday 27th June 2023 to be considered.

### When will applicants find out if their application has been successful?

Please expect to receive a response regarding your application no later 24th July 2023.

## About the Upskill in Cyber Application Process

## About employment following Upskill in Cyber

### What does the application process involve?

Candidates are invited to complete an online application form. Upon completion, candidates are invited to complete the CyberTalent Enhanced Aptitude Assessment. Pre-reading or training is not necessary prior to taking the CTE Assessment. The assessment consists of 50 questions and helps to predict success in GIAC exams, which are included in the programme. The CTE helps to determine if an individual has the aptitude to succeed in an information security retraining programme. The skills-based questions covered in the

### Will I be expected to pursue cybersecurity employment following Upskill in Cyber?

The Upskill in Cyber Programme aims to meet the widening demand for skilled cyber security practitioners. Through intensive training, the Upskill in Cyber Programme creates GIAC certified professionals, ready to be deployed into junior cyber security roles in just 14 weeks. Throughout the programme, participants will be introduced to potential employers regarding employment opportunities.

**How will Upskill in Cyber support me into cybersecurity employment?**

SANS dedicated Recruitment Specialist will provide advice and guidance to support your career pursuits. This will include guidance in preparing CVs and preparing for interviews, as well as facilitating introductions with employers and shortlisting for suitable roles.

**What types of roles will I be suitable for following Upskill in Cyber?**

Previous participants in Upskill in Cyber have secured the following roles:

- Security Operations Centre Analyst
- Cyber Security Analyst
- Head of Security
- Junior Security Operations Analyst
- IT Security Analyst
- Software Engineer

# Next Steps

If you have any queries regarding the programme, the application process, or any potential barriers that may prevent you from fully participating in the CyberTalent Enhanced Assessment, please email **cyberacademy@sans.org**.