HNC Cyber Security *(SCQF Level 7)*
Full-time

Where can I study?

Location	Duration	Course code
Aberdeen City Campus	1 Year	QBCY

Introduction to the course

The need for cyber security specialists in the modern workplace is paramount, all organisations have an obligation to ensure that their network, applications and data is secure. This course will provide you with the skills to meet the industry requirements.

We will introduce you to networking and what practices we can put in place to secure a Network from attacks, you will learn about programming and how this can help you become a better Cyber Security specialist, and we will introduce you to the laws that affect Cyber Security specialists and the effects that these laws can have on companies and individuals.

Entry requirements

The entry requirements for this course are two Highers at Grade C or above, we would prefer that one of the Highers were Computing Science, students progressing from Advanced Computing at SCQF Level 6 can also gain entry to this course.

Core Skills (Numeracy and Communications) at Level 5 are also required.

A Foundation Apprenticeship in any subject area will be considered equivalent as one unrelated Higher for entry to this course.

What subjects will I be studying?

You will be given the opportunity to compete against other colleges, in the world skills competitions and there may be an opportunity to visit universities for Cyber Security themed events where you can meet people in the industry.

Assessment methods

Students will be issued with an assessment schedule at the start of each unit. Assessment covers a range of practical skills, as well as theoretical skills in planning and evaluating. A large proportion of the units take a 'project' approach, where the product of the previous assessment is used as the foundations for the next. This means that students can get a true reflection of how the topics studied integrate, and how they can relate to industrial practice. Students will undertake a Graded Unit project as well.

Dress code

Students should dress appropriately for practical, hands-on work, as you will be working in a lab environment.

Course progression

On successful completion of the HND course, successful students can progress onto university cyber security degree programmes with our partner universities.

Useful contacts

Head of Faculty:	**Cameron Walker** Head of Faculty, Computing Technologies and Science, Aberdeen City Campus Email: c.walker@nescol.ac.uk
Curriculum Manager:	**Shane Johnson** Curriculum Manager, Aberdeen City Campus Email: sh.johnson@nescol.ac.uk

Academic Tutor

Once you come to College you will be allocated an academic tutor, who will be your initial point of contact. You will meet your tutor at least once a term during tutor hour — they are also the person to go to for the following:

- **Induction:** You will be invited to come in the week before your course starts for your induction. Your tutor will cover key aspects of life at the College to make sure you are well prepared for your NESCol experience.
- **Initial support:** Your tutor is the first point of contact for academic, personal and social support.
- **Attendance:** Your attendance and progress while you are at college, will be monitored by your tutor.
- **Additional support needs:** If you have indicated that you have additional learning or support needs, speak to your tutor who will refer you to the Student Advice and Support team for needs assessment as soon as practically possible.
- **Transitions:** your tutor will keep you informed of the many activities and events organised by the College to support you with career choices, employability, enterprise and articulation guidance and advice.

Student Advice Centre

The Student Advice Centre is your one stop shop for all information and support during your time at NESCol. Staff based within the centre provide impartial and confidential information and advice on a range of issues including:

- Applications and course advice
- Funding and money management
- Careers, employability and enterprise
- Transitions to college and university
- Key Skills and Study Skills support
- Additional Support for Learning
- Assistive technologies
- Mental health and wellbeing advice
- Care Experienced and Corporate Parenting
- Tier 4 and international admissions

Learning Resources

My NESCol
My NESCol is the College's student web portal that will provide you with on–demand access to all of the links, news and services that you will use once you have enrolled. It's accessible via any computer, and as an Android or Apple app. It's easy to use, and you can even receive important alerts on your device!

Blackboard
Blackboard is the Virtual Learning Environment system used in the College, where you can find a host of useful information and access your courses online. It will be the main platform that your lecturers will use to make resources available to you including

interactive materials, videos, assessments and feedback.

IT HelpZone
The IT HelpZones are run by students, for students, and there are helpdesks located in main social areas at the Aberdeen and Fraserburgh Campuses, and a dedicated helpline at our Altens Campus. You can drop in, email or telephone for assistance.

Library+
Each Library offers thousands of resources for study, including books, journals, e–books, e–journals and magazines — all relevant to the courses on offer at the campus in which they are situated. They also offer quiet, silent, individual, and group study facilities.

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)
NESCol believes that your learning and teaching experience at College can be enhanced significantly by use of a mobile device, such as a tablet or a laptop. For this reason, many students are required to bring a device with them to College. This initiative is known as Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) and its aim is to provide learners with a more bespoke and student-centred learning experience.

Digital Skills Space
Located within each Library Plus facility you will find a dedicated Digital Skills Space, featuring Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) workspaces and dedicated desktop PC work areas. These spaces are also used to deliver core IT teaching, drop–in IT support and scheduled digital skills workshops. You can also use these spaces for flexible access to PCs during Library+ opening hours.

College Calendar

Have a look at our College Calendar for further information on key dates throughout the year.