

HND Computing: Technical Support with Cyber Security *(SCQF Level 8)*

Full-time

Where can I study?

Location	Duration	Course code
Aberdeen City Campus	2 Years	QBDS

Introduction to the course

You will undergo cyber security with the emphasis on protecting and detecting malicious attacks. You will use industry standard forensics tools to find traces of a malicious attack and you will also use ethical hacking tools to simulate and stop malicious attacks that exist in real-time.

As well as learning about hardware, software and ethical hacking you will also learn the basics of networking, including servers and how they are used, and why they are targeted by malicious individuals, this will give you a broader understanding when it comes to technical support or cyber security and prepare you for the future changes in technology.

You will learn about the ethical issues that surround cyber security and also the laws that affect your role as a cyber-security professional.

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 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?

Students will have an opportunity to prepare for Cisco Certification in Networking and Cyber Security, with our Pearson Vue centre located on site, where students will be able to undertake Cisco Certification and other vendor qualifications (Microsoft, CompTIA etc).

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.

There could also be opportunities for guest speakers to visit the College and see our new state of the art cyber security labs.

Students on this course can apply for one our paid intern positions working on the student IT Helpdesk. This is a great opportunity to put into practice what you have learnt while supporting students on courses at the College.

Assessment methods

A variety of types of assessment are used including:

- Short Answer
- Restricted Response
- Extended Response
- Multiple Choice
- Project/Case Study
- Practical Work

Year 1 — The assessment for the Graded Unit 1 is a formal closed–book 3 hour examination.

Year 2 — The assessment for the Graded Unit 2 is an individual network design project.

Dress code

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

Equipment

It would be beneficial for students to have access to a laptop or tablet.

Course progression

Students successfully completing this course can embark on a career in IT Support or may progress towards a number of related degree programmes at one of our associate universities.

University links

North East Scotland College has links with a wide range of universities from across Scotland. Every one of our HND level courses has articulation opportunities where you could progress from your chosen course to a related university degree, subject to conditions. This is an excellent option for those who may want to come to College at an introductory level, and then work their way towards degree level study.

[Find out more about our associate universities](#)

University progression

Robert Gordon University (RGU)

- BSc/BSc (Hons) Computer Network Management and Design year 3. Subject to conditions.

Please note that articulation is subject to satisfactory completion of the course, achieving a 'B' in the Graded Unit 'Stage 2 Project'.

Edinburgh Napier University

- BSc (Hons) Cyber Security & Forensics (year 3). Subject to conditions.

Please note that entry is subject to a B grade (or above) in the Graded Unit and Forensics module.

Abertay University (agreed pathway to year 2 only)

- BSc (Hons) Ethical Hacking year 2. Subject to conditions.

Please note that this pathway is subject to satisfactory completion of the course, achieving an 'A' in Graded Unit 2.

University of the Highlands & Islands (UHI)

- BSc (Hons) Computing year 3 (Argyll College UHI, Inverness College UHI, Lews Castle College UHI, Moray College UHI, North Highland College UHI, Orkney College UHI, Perth College UHI). Subject to conditions.

Please note that you must attend an interview as part of the selection process.

The Open University

An HND can give up to 240 credits towards the 360 credit BA/BSc Open Degree with Honours or 180 credits towards the 300 credit BA/BSc Open Degree.

A reduced amount of credit transfer can be awarded against other qualifications, such as:

- BSc (Hons) Computing & IT
- BSc (Hons) Computing & IT and a second subject (with business, design, mathematics, applied psychology or statistics)

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.

Disclaimer: Please note that the information put forward in this course specification document is subject to change at any time, and without prior notice. We have taken every care to ensure that the information provided is as accurate and up-to-date as possible, but we are not liable for the content of or any omissions on this document. This includes any inaccuracies, errors or misstatements in the information/data presented.