Bradford College

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Higher National Level 4 Flex – IT Security

Subject Area	Digital
Course Type	Higher Education
Study Level	Level 4
Delivery Mode	Part-time
Location	David Hockney Building
Duration	12 Weeks
Start Date	September 2025
Course Code	HA000003

View on **bradfordcollege.ac.uk**

Course Summary

Curious about how software gets built—and how to make sure it's secure from the start? This short course is a great introduction to the real-world decisions developers and security professionals face throughout the software development process. Delivered through a mix of in-person and online sessions, it's designed to fit around your schedule while giving you practical, hands-on experience.

You'll dive into different software development lifecycle (SDLC) models—like Agile, Waterfall, and DevOps—and learn how to choose the right one depending on the project. More importantly, you'll see how security can (and should) be built into each stage of development.

Through a practical project, you'll apply what you've learned by planning and managing your own software development process using the tools and techniques that are standard in the industry. Along the way, you'll build up key transferable skills like critical thinking, analysis, and effective communication—all of which are vital whether you're heading into a cybersecurity role or continuing your studies.

By the end of the course, you'll understand how development and security go hand-in-hand, and you'll feel confident working with modern methodologies in a real-world IT environment.

What You Will Learn

This programme is a short course, delivered as part of a longer programme of a longer HNC or can be completed as a standalone module. It is delivered through blended learning which means a combination of face to face and online delivery sessions. Here's what you'll cover:

Fundamentals of Cybersecurity

Get to know the core principles of cybersecurity—what it is, why it matters, and how it impacts individuals, businesses, and governments. You'll explore key concepts like confidentiality, integrity, and availability (the CIA triad), as well as basic legal and ethical issues.

Threats and Vulnerabilities

Learn how to identify and assess common cyber threats such as malware, phishing, ransomware, and insider threats. You'll also explore system vulnerabilities—how they're exploited, and how to reduce the risks they pose.

Security Measures and Protocols

Discover how to defend networks and systems using industry-standard tools and practices. You'll explore topics like firewalls, encryption, access control, and secure communication protocols. Plus, you'll gain an understanding of how these measures fit into a wider security strategy.

By the end of the course, you'll be able to recognize security risks, understand how attacks happen, and apply practical methods to help protect against them—making you a valuable asset in any IT team.

Modules

- Fundamentals of cybersecurity
- Threats and vulnerabilities
- Security measures and protocols

Progression

Each module is worth 15 credits. If you successfully complete one, two or three modules, you will receive a Certificate of Unit Credit (CoUC) upon completion of the individual units. If you finish 8 units, you will awarded a HNC. **You can progress onto other units, and then onto a HNC or HND.**