

HNC in Computing (Cyber Security)



Subject Area	Digital
Course Type	Higher Education
Study Level	Level 4
Delivery Mode	Full-time
Duration	1 Academic Year
Start Date	September 2026
Course Code	PFHN016

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Course Summary

Cyber security is the practice of protecting critical systems and sensitive information from cyber attacks.

This course will help to develop your knowledge in the computing and cyber security sector in order to secure a successful career. Learn about the importance of networking and protecting from valuable and sensitive data from hackers, understanding prevention and how to deal with cyber attacks as well as developing programming and coding skills.

You will benefit from partnerships with key industry professionals including CISCO, AWS Academy and CompTIA as well as the opportunity to visit specialist events such as the IPEXpo in Manchester, Tech Huddle and Leeds Digital Job Fair.

What You Will Learn

This course will equip students with computing skills, knowledge and understanding in order to achieve high performance in the global computing environment and education

and training for a range of careers in computing, including network engineering, software engineering, data analytics, security, intelligent systems, applications development and testing.

The course also provides an opportunity for students to achieve vendor accredited certifications.

Modules

Year 1

- Programming
- Networking
- Professional Practice
- Database design and development
- Security
- Planning a computing project
- Cyber Security
- Website design and development

Year 2

- Professional practice
- Database design and development
- Planning a computing project
- Website design and development

Entry Requirements

48 UCAS tariff points with a minimum of three GCSEs at Grade C/4 or above and including Mathematics and English. Applicants who do not meet the criteria for Mathematics and English will be considered and will be invited for interview where they will sit a numeracy and literacy skills assessment.

The School of Computing welcomes applications from candidates who do not meet the above criteria. Where this is the case, applicants will be invited for interview at which they will be expected to provide a portfolio (either physical or digital) that:

- Demonstrates professional industry experience in a Computing discipline;

OR

- Provides examples of computer skills appropriate to Level 4/5 study. Examples could include:
- Digital media
- Website development
- Database design
- App development and programming skills
- Data analysis

Candidates will also be required to undertake literacy and numeracy skills assessment along with a computing aptitude test.

Work Experience

Although this course does not directly offer work experience, there are opportunities for you to undertake a work placement or work experience during your time studying on this course.

Additionally, practical hands-on skills have been built into the design of this course meaning that you will have the opportunity to use relevant contexts, scenarios and materials to enable you to develop a portfolio of evidence demonstrating the breadth of their skills and knowledge in a way that equips you for employment.

Progression

Career progression can include further study or careers in:

- Software Engineering
- Data Analytics
- Network Engineering
- Applications Development and Testing

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