

Government Launch £20m Cyber Security Schools Programme

UK Government is encouraging students and teachers to register their interest in a new interactive, learning programme that will help them learn cyber security skills as part of plans to address the risk of a future skills shortage and to ensure the UK is ready to tackle the growing threat posed by cyber criminals.

The £20 million HMG Cyber Schools Programme is an extracurricular, cyber security skills programme for 14 to 18 year olds. The programme will see students take a comprehensive cyber curriculum mixing expert, instructor-led classroom and online teaching with real-world challenges, online games and hands-on work experience, providing them with clear pathways into the cyber security industry via direct contact with industry experts. It will be delivered in modules and students up 18 years old can join at any time providing they meet the right criteria.

The four-year programme is being delivered by SANS, BT, FutureLearn and Cyber Security Challenge UK and expects to train almost 6,000 by 2021.

Students, teachers, industry members and volunteers can now register their interest on the [new website](#), ahead of the launch of the programme.

Minister of State for Digital Matt Hancock said:

"Our Cyber Schools Programme aims to inspire the talent of tomorrow and give thousands of the brightest young minds the chance to learn cutting-edge cyber security skills alongside their secondary school studies.

"I encourage all those with the aptitude, enthusiasm and passion for a cyber security career to register for what will be a challenging and rewarding scheme."

This announcement comes as DCMS also confirms funding of £500,000 to continue GCHQ-accredited cyber security master's bursaries which enable adults to retrain for a job in cyber security, and adds to the numerous initiatives under the Government's National Cyber Security Programme, which includes the:

- Cyber Security Apprenticeships for Critical Sectors Scheme which is supporting leading employers in critical sectors including telecoms, broadcasting, energy and transport to develop the next generation of cyber security professionals through higher apprenticeships.
- CyberFirst bursary funding scheme offers grants of up to £4,000 for up to 1,000 students by 2020 to study a relevant degree, do a placement or attend a summer school, and, depending on meeting requirements, the chance to work in national security on graduation.
- There are also 1,250 free places on CyberFirst in 2017 and an additional CyberFirst Girls Competition, where teams of 12-to-14-year-old young women can pit their wits against one another to crack a series of online puzzles.

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