Get ready for BSc(Hons) Cyber Security and Digital Forensics

Hello! We are thrilled to welcome you to the BSc (Hons) Cyber Security and Digital Forensics programme at UWE Bristol!

As programme leaders, we are excited to have you join our community and look forward to getting to know you over the course of your studies.

Our UWEcyber team of academics strive to provide all our students with a supportive academic environment that fosters intellectual curiosity, creative thinking, and problem-solving aptitude.

Through a combination of classroom learning, hands-on experience in labs, and extra-curricular activities outside of the classroom, you'll gain deep technical knowledge and develop skills necessary to pursue a career in the field of cybersecurity and digital forensics.

You will be taught by an exceptional team of academics who are dedicated to helping you succeed. As a student with us, you will have access to impressive laboratories, supportive career services, and vibrant student community.

We highly encourage you to take advantage of all that our programme and university have to offer, including guest seminars and conferences, participating in our student-led activities, and engaging in abundant opportunities.

Once again, welcome to BSc Cyber Security and Digital Forensics, we are excited to see all that you will achieve in the years to come and look forward to seeing you in September.

Dr Aida Abzhaparova and Dr Andrew McCarthy
Programme Leaders

Before you start

We are looking forward to welcoming you in the week commencing 15 September for Starting Block and the beginning of your programme.

Starting Block will help you settle into university and to help you get to know your teaching team and course mates. We will help you find your way around, get used to our systems, and practise the skills you need to make a strong start. Look out for further emails and explore the Starting Block website with more details.

Your timetable will be available to you via MYUWE (login required) once you have started the registration process. Please visit the 'Understanding your teaching timetable' website to find out when your timetable will be published.

Preparing and arrival

You can find everything you need to know about registration, Starting Block and the start of teaching, on our Preparing and Arrival webpage. Take a look at our website to familiarise yourself with our facilities and services such as the library, study skills, academic support, health and wellbeing support and much more.

Our study skills workbook introduces you to essential services as well as key skills.

You can also explore our support for careers and enterprise**.** UWE Careers & Enterprise provide a range of workshops, appointments and a huge range of online resources to support students in realising their future ambitions. The Careers Toolkit is our online portal to finding vacancies, booking onto events and accessing a range of resources.

Registration

Once you have satisfied all admissions requirements, we'll send you your login details for our IT systems to enable you to activate your university email account. Once your account has been activated, you'll gain access to the MYUWE platform where you can register. Note that your login details for MYUWE are different to those used for the UWE Welcome website. Registration for September programmes will only be open from August onwards. You can find guidance and further information on our Registration website.

ID card - upload your photo now

We can only print your ID card if you have added your photo to MYUWE. To avoid delays, upload your photo as soon as you receive login details. For help, go to our student card guidance.

Engage with your programme

Start your learning

It is important to understand from the start that Cyber Security and Digital Forensics are highly technical and challenging subjects. The key to success is filling your spare time with fun, but meaningful activities that will help cultivate your passion for these fascinating subjects.

Have a go at these activities to start preparing for your programme, preparation will be your key to success in your first year with us:

- Sign up to "TryHackMe" (THM) here (it's free). It is recommended that all students complete the "Linux Fundamentals" pathway, this will put you in good stead for your first few weeks with us. Don't stop there though! Feel free to complete as much of the free content that is available as this will give you an advantage in all things Cyber and Forensics!
- To lay a sturdy foundation for the Forensics element in your first year be sure to complete the free "Introduction to Digital Forensics" course. Again, don't stop here, there are many excellent introduction pathways to Cyber Security available when you sign up, complete as much as you can, your future self will thank you!

- Get familiar with programming in the C programming language. Do this by starting to work through the free online course on C and Computer Science. There are numerous other online materials on C (and C++) if you prefer, however the more practice you have the better.
- If you are completely new to programming, we recommend online resources like learn-c or the C programming course on programiz. These provide hands on, interactive tutorials to get you started with the basics of syntax, simple operations and functions. There are also textbooks available if you wish, such as 'C Programming Absolute Beginner's Guide (Que), 2013' by Greg Berry and Dean Miller.
- You will be using Virtual Machines (VMs) throughout your studies, so it will be good to get to grips with how to deploy and run these. We recommend downloading Ubuntu and running it as a VM, if your computer is capable ('Oracle Virtualbox' is a free virtualisation software you could use). This will also help you practice your Linux skills as well.

Read around your subject

To succeed within your chosen programme you will need to think critically about key issues and practices. Here are some books and resources to help you to understand the scope of your programme:

- Schneier, Bruce. Schneier on Security.
- Cooking with CyberChef. The series of videos from the 13Cubed YouTube channel isvery informative.
- The world of cyber security is fast paced and ever changing – Sites like TheHackerNews are great for keeping up to date with what is occurring in the world of cyber security. Remember you can't mitigate a threat you don't know about!

Connect with others

You are welcome to connect with us via LinkedIn. Please do ensure to introduce yourself when sending a connection request.

Dr Aida Abzhaparova - Aida Abzhaparova | LinkedIn

Dr Andrew McCarthy - Andrew McCarthy | LinkedIn

Join our UWE CTF Falcons, student-led Capture The Flag (CTF) and Cyber Security Society. The society offers our students the opportunity to partake in CTF challenges and develop real world skills in a fun inclusive environment.

Join our student-led CyberWomen@UWE branch via LinkedIn – CyberWomen@UWE: Overview | LinkedIn.

Be prepared

Access support

Check the information on our Disability web pages so you know what you need to do. If you need any urgent additional mobility or other support to fully access all activities during your studies, contact us as your programme leaders.

Get equipped

The University has computers on all our campuses for you to use during your studies. These provide access to our core digital learning tools and any specialist software required for your course. You may have scheduled sessions in computer labs or other specialist facilities, and you will be able to use open-access PCs for self-study.

UWE Bristol licenses many specialist software packages for use on personal laptops for the duration of your course. If you're struggling to meet the financial demands of your course, please contact the Student Money Service team for advice and guidance.

See the UWE website for detailed information on choosing your IT equipment including recommended specifications.

The core software used in your course includes:

- EnCase 7
- VMWare
- Magnet AXIOM

We recommend that you have access to a device with the following minimum specifications:

Windows 10, Quad core i7/i9 (or equivalent), 16+GB RAM, 512GB SSD

MacBook Pro, Quad core i7/i9 (or equivalent), 16GB RAM, 512 SSD

Please note that the new ARM MacBooks are not yet fully recommended, although they do look great, as we don't know what issues their use would bring with systems like "AppsAnywhere"; additionally, running Windows 10 on them might be tricky, so with this being said MacOS devices are NOT recommended.

International students

The Global Student Support Team offer information and advice to ensure you receive all the support you need to get the best from your time at UWE Bristol. They are here to help you to settle in when you first arrive at UWE Bristol and organise social events to help you to adapt to your new environment.

Who to contact if you have questions

For any questions about the programme, please contact:

Aida Abzhaparova via email at aida2.abzhaparova@uwe.ac.uk OR **Andrew McCarthy** via email at andrew6.mccarthy@uwe.ac.uk

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Please note: this information has been provided on the assumption that you will meet the conditions of your offer and be eligible to take up your place.

Entry: September 2025 Last updated: Spring 2025