DCMS Bursary for MSc Applied Cyber Security

Three bursaries are available for students enrolling on Queen's University Belfast's GCHQ certified MSc Applied Cyber Security. Bursaries are funded by The Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) as part of a pilot initiative funded by the National Cyber Security Programme 2 (NCSP2). The bursaries will cover full tuition fees.

The aim is to retrain individuals in cyber security by encouraging career transitioners to undertake a GCHQ certified master's course in cyber security, to address the significant mismatch in the supply and demand of adequately skilled cyber security professionals in the UK in a short timeframe, and to test the effectiveness of this model as a means of retraining adults.

Conditions

Students must be enrolling for one of the following options in September 2017:

- 1-year full-time MSc Applied Cyber Security (completing September 2018)
- 2-year part-time MSc Applied Cyber Security (completing September 2019)
- 2-year full-time MSc Applied Cyber Security with Professional Internship (completing September 2019)

Eligible students must meet the following criteria:

- Must be a UK national or EU/EEA/Swiss national who is ordinarily resident in the UK other than for the principal purpose of education.
- Be undertaking the course specified above and not undertaking any other forms of formal education.
- Not applying for this course straight from an undergraduate degree.
- Not previously held employment as a cyber security professional (cyber security was not a significant part of any previous job function – i.e. less than 50% of a previous job role).
- Is applying with a clear and demonstrable intention to retrain to become a cyber security professional in the UK.

In order to achieve the objectives of this DCMS initiative, the following demographics are particularly encouraged to apply for bursaries:

- General IT practitioners looking to specialise in cyber security.
- There is evidence of underrepresentation of women in the cyber security profession. A diverse range of demographics are encouraged to participate.

Applicants with unspent convictions relating to cyber security or fraud related offences will not be eligible for the bursary. An up to date basic check (a criminal conviction certificate) must be provided by bursary recipients prior to a bursary award. These are currently available from AccessNI, and receipted costs will be refunded by QUB. This will only be necessary once you have been offered a bursary – you do not need to complete the AccessNI check at the application stage.

As a requirement of the bursaries, DCMS requires brief monitoring reports at key progression points regarding: demographics of bursary recipients, the satisfactorily progression of bursary recipients during the degree programme, employment intentions of bursary recipients following graduation, and employment status 6 months after graduation and 1 year after graduation. At no point will DCMS ask for any personal details of individuals.

The DCMS bursary covers full tuition fees (£12,600) and is paid directly to QUB. It does not cover payments outside of the course tuition fees (for example, to cover living expenses or other associated costs). However, students who receive a bursary will still be eligible to apply for the Postgraduate Loan to cover such costs. The DCMS bursary will supersede any similar bursary offered by Queen's University Belfast, i.e. students cannot receive a bursary from both DCMS and the University.

Bursary applications are open to those who have already been offered a place on the MSc programme, and to new MSc applicants.

Note: Due to the limited number of places available on the MSc programme, MSc applicants who are offered a place on the programme are requested to pay a deposit to secure their place. Offer holders who do not provide a deposit by the date specified in their offer letter move to a reserve list of candidates. In the event that the MSc programme is oversubscribed by 31st August, bursaries can only be offered to those who have secured an MSc place, i.e. offer holders who have already paid a deposit, or offer holders who are still within the deadline to pay a deposit.

As the DCMS bursary covers all fees, bursary recipients will be refunded their deposit.

Selection Process & Key Dates

Students wishing to apply for a DCMS bursary must complete the form below and return it by email to the PGT Secretary, Angela Anderson, by 5pm on 31st August.

Application forms will be reviewed by an academic panel at QUB. Bursary recipients will be selected based on those that best match the eligibility criteria and the aims of the DCMS initiative. The decisions of the panel will be final. The panel will aim to inform successful applicants within one week of the deadline.

Email completed forms to: a.e.anderson@qub.ac.uk

Application Form
DCMS Bursary for MSc Applied Cyber Security

Name	
Programme	1-year full-time / 2-year part-time / 2-year with professional internship (delete as appropriate)

REQUIRED CONDITIONS	
UK national or EU/EEA/Swiss national who is ordinarily resident in the UK other than for the principal purpose of education.	Yes / No (delete as appropriate)
Undertaking any other forms of formal education.	Yes / No (delete as appropriate)
Applying for this course straight from an undergraduate degree.	Yes / No (delete as appropriate)
Date of graduation from undergraduate degree (if applicable):	DD-MM-YYYY
Previously held employment as a cyber security professional (more than 50% of a previous role).	Yes / No (delete as appropriate)

PREFERRED CONDITIONS
Describe how this statement may apply to you " General IT practitioner looking to specialise in cyber security" (up to 250 words): Answer:
Describe how this statement may apply to you " Demographic currently underrepresented in the cyber security profession" (up to 250 words): Answer:
Any other information that may support your application, particularly anything that supports a "clear and demonstrable intention to retrain to become a cyber security professional in the UK" (up to 250 words): Answer: