

Working in Information Security

Careers in this area involve understanding risks to the security of information and data. Work could include hacking websites on behalf of an organisation, tackling cyber-crime and working as an information security specialist.

Potential types of employers

Anywhere that holds data although some sectors are more aware and engaged so employ specific staff in these roles.

- Charities
- Telecommunications
- Banking & Finance
- NHS
- Oil, Gas and Nuclear
- Government: local and national
- Law
- Accountancy
- Retail
- Universities

Technical roles

Underlying knowledge of data transfer and research is important. A Computing degree is highly relevant, and an information security specialism may be a requirement. The roles demand the ability to explain technical concepts to the general population and businesses. Interpersonal skills to build rapport and working relationships are essential. Examples of job roles include:

- Information Security Manager / Engineer / Analyst
- Information Security Consultant / Security Analyst / Security Architect
- Java Software Engineer
- Certified Information Systems Auditor
- Vulnerability researcher
- Penetration Tester and Ethical Hacker
- Computer forensics analysts or investigators

Non-technical roles:

For these roles it's not absolutely necessary to have a computing degree. Psychology and Business degrees can be useful because of the wider skill set graduates can offer.

Examples include:

- Behaviour Management / Behaviour Change
- Innovation and Business Development
- Information Assurance
- Policy Compliance and Audit
- Security Awareness Trainer / Compliance / Analyst / Auditor
- Sales and Recruitment

Contracting

This way of working offers professionals the chance to work on a contract by contract basis by offering specialist skills and knowledge to an organisation.

This can be a lucrative way of working, especially where specialist skills and knowledge are in demand.

Due to scarcity of skills and lack of specialist knowledge, earnings can rise to £450 to £650 per day. This is not typically a career entry route for new graduates but could be something to aspire to after gaining a number of years' experience and developing a high level of expertise.

Key things to consider

- Employers use different job titles for similar roles so it's important to read the job description thoroughly.
- Due to this career area being specialist, many employers may not advertise vacancies. Researching companies and using a speculative approach by sending a tailored CV and cover letter to HR departments could be a useful way to try to find work experience or job opportunities.
- CVs should be 1 – 2 pages. Use key words, include your key skills and those technical skills developed within modules.
- Innovative ideas and new ways of working are typically expected within this career area, with ongoing opportunities to develop and change. Following an initial 2-3 years, it is expected that job change will occur for progression to take place.

Further resources

- <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/information-security-specialist>
- <https://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/job-descriptions/454165-cyber-security-specialist-job-description>

If you would like to book a careers appointment to discuss your options, please visit: <https://worchester.targetconnect.net>

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