



CYBERSECURITY

MENTORING PROGRAMME

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Learn | Connect | Grow

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE CYBERSECURITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME?

The **Lateral Connect Mentoring Scholarship Programme** is a comprehensive, 5-month training programme designed to equip participants with the necessary skills and certifications for a career in cybersecurity. The programme includes preparation for **ISC2 Certified in Cybersecurity (CC)** and **CompTIA Security+** certifications, an annual **ISC2 membership**, and **group mentorship** with up to 5 mentees per group by experienced cybersecurity professionals.

WHAT'S THE TIMELINE AND KEY MILESTONES FOR THE 5-MONTH DURATION?

Timeline & Key Milestones:

- **Month 1:** Selection, orientation and foundational training
- **Month 2-4:** Training, mentoring and exam certification preparation
- **Month 5:** Certification exams, graduation, Mentee & Mentor of The Year Awards.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP?

The programme is open to individuals over 18 (no matter your geographical location) who are interested in building a career in cybersecurity. Applicants should have a high school diploma or equivalent as a minimum educational requirement. Additional preferences might be given to those with a background in IT or related fields, depending on their experience and interest level in cybersecurity.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- 1. Language Skills**
English speaker, but no specific requirement for it to be their first language.
- 2. Educational Background**
Minimum of a high school diploma or equivalent; preference given to candidates with degrees or coursework in IT, computer science, or related fields.
- 3. Experience and Skills**
Demonstrable interest in IT and cybersecurity, evidenced by personal projects, internships, or entry level work.
- 4. Motivation Letter**
Applicants must submit a letter outlining their interest in cybersecurity, career aspirations, and how the scholarship will help achieve their goals.
- 5. References**
At least one professional or academic reference recommending the candidate for the scholarship.
- 6. Technical Assessment**
Completion of an entry level online cybersecurity quiz to assess foundational knowledge.
- 7. Interview**
Shortlisted candidates will undergo an interview to assess their passion, commitment, and potential impact in the cybersecurity field.

IS THE PROGRAMME IN-PERSON OR FULLY ONLINE?

The Lateral Connect Mentoring Scholarship Programme is fully online. This allows participants worldwide to join the sessions, interact with mentors and peers, and complete all activities remotely.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT NATIONALITIES CAN APPLY?

The programme is open to individuals of any nationality. Our goal is to bring together a diverse and inclusive cohort of mentees who are passionate about cybersecurity, irrespective of their location.

WHAT CERTIFICATIONS CAN I GAIN THROUGH THIS PROGRAMME?

Participants in the Scholarship programme will prepare for and have the opportunity to obtain ISC2 Certified in Cybersecurity (CC) and CompTIA Security+ certifications, which are recognised globally and can significantly enhance a cybersecurity professional's credentials and value in the job market.

WHAT OTHER SKILLS WILL I GAIN IN THIS PROGRAMME?

Apart from the official certifications and cybersecurity (technical and non-technical) skills, we also aim to equip participants with a range of soft skills that are essential for success in a professional environment. These include communication, interview skills, and personal branding, etc. Skills like these create a well-rounded professional and can give you the edge in the recruitment processes for competitive roles, as well as help you to navigate advancements in your career effectively.

HOW DOES THE GROUP MENTORING STRUCTURE WORK, AND WHY IS IT EFFECTIVE?

In this programme, we employ a group mentoring approach where mentees work together in small groups of up to 5 mentees under the guidance of a mentor. This structure fosters collaborative learning and accountability, as participants share strategies, learn from one another, and tackle cyber related challenges collectively. Peer teaching and problem-solving in a supportive environment helps mentees stay on track with their goals while benefiting from personalised guidance. This approach allows mentors to effectively support more mentees while maintaining high-quality engagement through interactive discussions, hands-on activities, and practical applications.

HOW WILL THE SELECTION PROCESS OCCUR?

If you are a suitable fit to the requirements of the programme, please submit your interest via our [Mentoring Programme portal](#) and ensure to answer the questions provided. Once we receive your application, you'll receive a confirmation email, asking you to complete a short video interview (up to 10 minutes) via the myInterview platform. Please follow the link and record yourself answering the questions asked on this platform. We will then review all applications and video interviews and provide feedback to all applicants prior to the deadline date. If selected, we will provide details on next steps to get started on your journey with us!

WHAT IS MYINTERVIEW?

myInterview is the platform we will use for you to answer a few brief questions about your motivations and aspirations, your interest in this programme and your potential fit to Lateral Connect values and culture. This will be a video interview, so you will be asked to record yourself providing these answers, but you have the freedom to be creative in the way you do so. We just want to get to know you better and learn more about you. Please rest assured that your profile video will only be used for the purpose of the interview process only and will not be shared on to a third party or used for any other purpose. You can reach out to us if you have further questions.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WILL THERE BE AN EXTENSION OF THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION?

No, there will be no extensions on the application deadline. You should submit your application on or before the confirmed deadline.

HOW WILL I KNOW IF MY APPLICATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED?

You will receive a confirmation email after the application is submitted.

CAN I SUBMIT MY APPLICATION IN A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH?

Please submit the application form and video interview in English - we will not be able to consider applications in other languages at this time.

WHAT LANGUAGES IS THE PROGRAMME AVAILABLE IN?

At the moment the Scholarship programme is only available in English.

IS THERE A COST TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME?

No, there is no cost to participate. The Lateral Connect Mentoring Scholarship Programme covers all necessary fees associated with the training, certification exams, and membership.

HOW CAN I APPLY TO BE A MENTOR IN THIS PROGRAM?

Experienced cybersecurity professionals interested in mentoring can apply through our Mentoring Programme web page. Ideal candidates should have at least five years of experience in the field and hold recognised cybersecurity certifications. Mentors are chosen based on their expertise, commitment to the field, and willingness to foster the development of emerging talents.

MENTOR SELECTION CRITERIA:

1. Professional Credentials: Holds at least one recognized certification in cybersecurity (e.g., CISSP, CISM, ISO27001, CompTIA Security+).
2. Experience: A minimum of five years in the cybersecurity industry with a solid track record of professional achievements and contributions.
3. Volunteerism: A history of mentoring, teaching, or volunteer work, indicating a genuine interest in giving back to the community.
4. Communication Skills: Good verbal and written communication skills, crucial for mentoring and teaching.
5. Interview: An interview to understand their motivation for joining the program as pro bono mentors and their approach to mentorship.

WHAT BENEFITS DO MENTORS RECEIVE?

While the mentoring role is a volunteer role, mentors gain professional recognition, networking opportunities with peers and industry leaders, and the satisfaction of contributing significantly to the development of the next generation of cybersecurity professionals. Mentors also receive certificates of appreciation and may be eligible for continuing professional development (CPD) credits needed for maintaining their certification.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE DURATION OF THE PROGRAMME?

The total duration of the Scholarship programme is five months, which includes training sessions, mentorship, and time allocated for certification exams.

WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT REQUIRED? CAN I PARTICIPATE ALONGSIDE MY EMPLOYMENT?

Yes, you can participate alongside your employment, the time commitment needed is around 3 hours per week.

HOW CAN I APPLY FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP?

Applications can be submitted online through the official Lateral Connect **Mentoring Programme portal**. The application process typically includes submitting your LinkedIn profile, a cover letter, and completing an initial assessment to demonstrate your entry level cybersecurity knowledge.

IS THERE AN OPTION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAMME EVEN IF I DON'T GET SELECTED FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP?

Yes, if you are not selected for the Scholarship programme, you can still participate in the Lateral Connect Mentoring Programme by paying the full fee of £7,000 (GBP).

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER COMPLETING THE PROGRAMME?

Upon successful completion of the programme, participants receive their certifications and are recognised on the Lateral Connect website. Mentees become part of our alumni network, which provides ongoing access to resources and networking opportunities. Additionally, the programme aims to support mentees in finding employment within the cybersecurity field through our network of industry contacts.

WILL LATERAL CONNECT HELP ME FIND EMPLOYMENT AFTER THE PROGRAMME?

Yes, whilst we do not guarantee employment, we have a network of industry contacts within the cybersecurity field that we can leverage to assist our Mentees in finding the right role for them, as well as a Job Board on our website (coming soon) where organisations can advertise available positions.



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IF YOU DIDN'T FIND THE ANSWER YOU NEED ON THE SCHOLARSHIP PAGE OR IN THESE FAQs

REACH OUT TO US [HERE](#) 