UK career guide · Getting started

Cyber security graduate schemes in the UK: 2027 tracker

We've checked 13 UK cyber security graduate schemes for 2027 starts against each employer's own careers site. 4 are open right now, 1 opens soon, and most others have closed for this year. Many cyber schemes recruit in September and October for the following September, so final-year students should look early.

By the Cyberend team · Published and updated 26 November 2026

THE SHORT ANSWER

- **Open now:** Lloyds Banking Group, Tesco Insurance and Money Services, Leonardo UK, CGI UK. Opening soon: MI5 (with MI6).
- **Most recruit a year ahead:** the Civil Service Cyber Security Fast Stream ran from 8 October to 5 November 2026 for 2027 starts Civil Service Careers.
- **Published starting pay:** from £30,000 Nuclear Graduates to £48,500 Lloyds Banking Group, on the schemes that publish it.
- **Not every scheme needs a cyber degree:** the Fast Stream accepts any subject Civil Service Careers, and Tesco says you don't need a tech background Tesco.

Cyber security graduate schemes at a glance

Open schemes are listed first, soonest deadline first. Checked 26 November 2026. Use the links to see each scheme on the employer's site.

EMPLOYER AND SCHEME	STATUS	WHERE	STARTS	STARTING PAY
Lloyds Banking Group Cyber Security Engineer Graduate Scheme Lloyds Banking Group	Open. Closes 13 December 2026, and may close early if it gets a lot of applications	Edinburgh, Leeds or Manchester (hybrid)	Not published	£48,500
Tesco Insurance and Money Services IMS Technology: Cyber Security Graduate Scheme Tesco	Open. Apply by 22 December 2026	Edinburgh (office 2 days a week)	6 September 2027	£34,000
Leonardo UK Graduate Product Security Engineer Leonardo UK	Open. No closing date published. Leonardo closes roles when they're filled	Luton, with roles also in Basildon, Bristol, Lincoln and Southampton	Summer 2027	£34,000, plus a £1,000 welcome bonus and £1,000 on completion
CGI UK Technical Graduate: Cyber Security 2027 CGI UK	Open. No closing date published	Chippenham, London, Manchester or Reading	2027 (month not published)	Not published (advert says competitive, plus a £1,000 joining bonus)
MI5 (with MI6) Technology Graduate Development Programme: Information and Cyber Security stream MI5	Opening soon. Opens 3 December 2026. You can register your interest now	London or Manchester	Not published	£42,155 in London, £39,849 in Manchester
Vodafone Cyber Security Graduate Programme Vodafone	Check the employer. 2027 dates not published yet. You can register your interest	London Paddington or Newbury	Not published	Not published for 2027 (the 2026 intake paid £35,000)
Deloitte UK Early careers consulting: cyber teams Deloitte UK	Check the employer. Not published	Not published	Not published	Not published

EMPLOYER AND SCHEME	STATUS	WHERE	STARTS	STARTING PAY
Civil Service Cyber Security Fast Stream Civil Service Careers	Closed for 2027 The 2027 round ran from 8 October to 5 November 2026	Depends on your posting across government	September or October 2027	£31,554
Babcock International Security Graduate Programme Babcock	Closed for 2027 Closed 12 October 2026. The 2028 round is expected to open in September 2027	Rosyth, Fife	September 2027	At least £35,000
Nuclear Graduates Cyber security discipline Nuclear Graduates	Closed for 2027 Closed 6 November 2026	Varies by sponsor, with travel and relocation	September 2027	£30,000
PwC UK Graduate Technology and AI programme (Cyber Security business area) PwC UK	Closed for 2027 PwC says applications are now closed	Belfast, Birmingham, Leeds, London or Manchester	September 2027	Not published
Barclays Technology Cyber and Security Graduate Programme Barclays	Closed for 2027 The 2027 advert has been taken down	Knutsford	Not published	Not published
HSBC Cyber Graduate Programme HSBC	Closed for 2027 No UK cyber programme was open on HSBC's programme finder	Sheffield	Not published	Not published

Pay is the starting salary the employer publishes. "Check the employer" means the status isn't published.

How graduate schemes work

A graduate scheme is a paid, full-time job with structured training, usually lasting one to three years. On the schemes above, most last two years. Many move you between teams in rotations, so you might spend time in security operations, threat intelligence and engineering before you specialise. Barclays, for example, describes three rotations across its security office Barclays.

Some consultancies don't run a separate cyber scheme. PwC hires into a wider technology programme and matches graduates to a business area, such as cyber security, after the assessment centre PwC UK.

Most schemes recruit in the autumn of your final year for a start the following September. Babcock's 2027 round closed on 12 October 2026 Babcock, and the Nuclear Graduates scheme closed on 6 November Nuclear Graduates. If you've missed this year's rounds, look at **entry-level and junior roles**, which are advertised all year, or **degree apprenticeships**.

Eligibility and security checks

Entry requirements vary more than you might expect. Some schemes accept any degree subject; others want a computing or security degree. Many government and defence schemes need security clearance, which usually depends on how long you've lived in the UK.

EMPLOYER	ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	SECURITY VETTING	LENGTH
Lloyds Banking Group	No minimum degree result. A strong foundation in Python is required. Cannot sponsor visas.	None stated	2 years
Tesco Insurance and Money Services	The advert says you don't need a tech background.	None stated	2 years
Leonardo UK	2:2 or above in cyber security, information security, computer science or ethical hacking.	Must be eligible for security clearance, normally SC	12 months
CGI UK	2:2 or above (some roles 2:1) in cyber security, computer science, IT or another relevant STEM subject.	BPSS, and many roles need higher national security vetting	Not published
MI5 (with MI6)	2:2 or above (or expected) by September 2027 in a STEM subject.	Developed Vetting (the highest level), which can take several months	2 years
Vodafone	2027 criteria not published. The 2026 intake asked for a 2:2 or above in a technology-related degree.	None stated	2 years
Deloitte UK	Deloitte says its cyber roles need no prior experience or technical knowledge, just an interest in cyber.	None stated	Not published
Civil Service	2:2 or above, a degree apprenticeship or a postgraduate degree, in any subject.	SC clearance before you start	3 years
Babcock International	A degree (or on track for one) in a security-related subject such as cyber security or computer science.	BPSS and SC clearance	2 years

EMPLOYER	ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	SECURITY VETTING	LENGTH
Nuclear Graduates	2:2 or above in cyber security, computer science or digital forensics.	Must pass security clearance checks	2 years
PwC UK	A degree in any subject, though some cyber roles may need a STEM degree.	None stated	Not published
Barclays	Not published	None stated	2 years
HSBC	Not published	None stated	Not published

The levels you'll see most are BPSS (basic identity and right-to-work checks), SC (security check) and DV (developed vetting, the highest). MI5 asks for developed vetting and warns it can take several months MI5. If you haven't lived in the UK for the last five years or more, check a scheme's clearance rules before you spend time on an application.

How to apply

- **Apply early.** Lloyds says its scheme may close early if it gets a lot of applications Lloyds Banking Group, and Leonardo closes roles when they're filled Leonardo UK.
- **Expect several stages.**MI5's process, for example, runs from an online application through a situational judgement test, an aptitude test and a full application to an assessment centre MI5.
- **Show evidence of interest.** A home lab, a capture-the-flag write-up or a small project gives you something concrete to talk about. Our **portfolio projects guide** has ideas.
- **Tailor your CV to each scheme.** Match your skills to what the scheme says it teaches, using our **cyber security CV guide** and free template.
- **Prepare for technical questions.** See our **interview preparation guide**.

Missed the deadline?

Closed schemes usually open again around the same time next year, so note the dates in the table. In the meantime, junior SOC and IT support roles are a common way in. Our **entry-level jobs guide** explains how to spot a genuine beginner role.

Live graduate and entry-level cyber roles

The newest entry-level roles on Cyberend's UK jobs board, checked every few hours:

Live roles change every few hours, so they aren't included in this PDF. See today's at cyberend.io/jobs/categories/graduate-and-entry-level.

Common questions

When do cyber security graduate schemes open?

Most open in September or October for a start the following September, and many close by November or December. Some, like MI5's technology programme, open later: its next round opens on 3 December 2026 **MI5**.

Do I need a cyber security degree?

Not always. The Civil Service Fast Stream accepts any degree subject **Civil Service Careers** and Lloyds sets no minimum degree result, though it does want Python skills **Lloyds Banking Group**. Defence employers such as Leonardo and Babcock usually ask for a computing or security-related degree.

What do cyber security graduate schemes pay?

Published starting salaries on the schemes above run from £30,000 to £48,500. Several employers don't publish pay. For wider pay data, see our **UK cyber security salary guide**.

Can international students apply?

It depends on the scheme. Lloyds says it can't sponsor visas **Lloyds Banking Group**, and schemes that need security clearance usually require several years' UK residence. Check each employer's eligibility rules before applying.

What if I don't get onto a scheme?

Plenty of people start in junior roles instead. Browse **entry-level jobs**, **SOC analyst jobs** or read our **guide to getting your first cyber job**.

Sources and method

Every scheme here was checked on 26 November 2026against the employer's own careers page, listed in the sources. Where an employer doesn't publish a detail, such as pay or a start

date, we say "Not published" rather than use a job board or a guess. When a published closing date passes, the scheme is shown as closed automatically.

We only list programmes with a cyber security scheme, stream or business area. Some large employers hire cyber graduates through general technology programmes instead, so they aren't listed here. Schemes often close early when they get enough applications, so always check the employer's page before you apply.

Lloyds Banking Group: Cyber Security Engineer Graduate Scheme

Published by the employer

Length, salary, locations, requirements and closing date for Lloyds' cyber security engineer graduate scheme.

Tesco Careers: IMS Technology: Cyber Security Graduate Scheme

Published by the employer

Tesco Insurance and Money Services' cyber graduate scheme in Edinburgh: salary, start date, length and closing date.

Leonardo UK: Graduate Product Security Engineer

Published by the employer

Leonardo UK's 2027 graduate product security role: locations, salary, degree and clearance requirements.

CGI UK: Technical Graduate: Cyber Security 2027

Published by the employer

CGI UK's technical graduate programme, including its 2027 cyber security vacancy: locations, degree and vetting requirements.

MI5: Technology Graduate Development Programme (TGDP)

Published by the employer

MI5's technology graduate programme, including its Information and Cyber Security stream: opening date, salary, entry requirements and vetting.

Vodafone: Cyber Security Graduate Programme

Published by the employer

Vodafone's cyber security graduate programme: locations, length, teams and the most recent published intake details.

Deloitte UK: Early careers in consulting

Published by the employer

Deloitte UK's early careers consulting roles, including its cyber teams.

Civil Service Careers: Cyber Security Fast Stream

Published by the employer

Entry requirements, duration and pay for the Civil Service Cyber Security Fast Stream, 2027 entry.

Babcock International: Security Graduate Programme

Published by the employer

Babcock's security graduate programme in Rosyth: start date, salary, length, entry and clearance requirements, and closing date.

Nuclear Graduates: Cyber security discipline

Published by the employer

The Nuclear Graduates cyber security discipline: start date, salary, length, entry requirements and closing date.

PwC UK: Graduate Technology and AI programme

Published by the employer

PwC UK's technology graduate programme, which includes a cyber security business area: locations, start date and entry requirements.

Barclays: Operations and Technology graduate programmes

Published by the employer

Barclays' technology graduate programmes, including the cyber and security programme and its rotations.

HSBC: Cyber graduate programme

Published by the employer

HSBC's cyber graduate programme and its UK location.

Every figure and link in this guide was checked against its source on 26 November 2026. Live job listings update every few hours.

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