Hey CompTIA! Tell me about…

Cyber Ready

North West

Cyber Ready

Thank you for your interest!

- We really appreciate the time that you're taking to understand Cyber Ready North West and see whether it is a right fit for you.

- Please take your time to read through all the information in this document and we hope to receive your application soon!

- Ensure that you also click on the hyperlinks as they provide additional and useful information.

- If you do have any questions, please contact CyberReady@comptia.org and we will aim to get back to you as soon as possible.

What is Cyber Ready North West?

- Cyber Ready North West is a **managed flipped-classroom** learning programme designed as a **conversion course** for individuals who have some IT job role experience to gain the knowledge, skills, and certifications to work in nascent Cybersecurity Analysts roles.

- The programme runs for **6 months** and will prepare candidates for a job in cyber security.

- Over the six months, candidates will use industry-standard content (on-demand video, virtual labs and adaptive questioning) to build up their knowledge and skills.

- They will be guided on the learning journey by Cyber Security Trainers who will assign the required learning to complete and ensure that candidates keep on track.

- Candidates will also **physically meet for one Saturday on a monthly-basis** which may allow them to apply their skills to complete challenges. These workshops will take place in Manchester and Preston, depending on your location.

- At the end of the programme, candidates will be assisted to gain employment within a cyber security job role.

Benefits of this programme

- Candidates completing this programme will gain the following benefits:
    - A structured programme to upskill from IT Technician level to Cybersecurity Analyst
    - CompTIA Security+ and Cybersecurity Analyst (CySA+) certifications
    - Assistance to gain a cyber security job-role
    - Access to continuing education post-course to further your knowledge/skills in other areas e.g. (ISC)^2, AWS, EC-Council, Cisco, ISACA, Microsoft etc.
    - Complimentary training and coaching worth up to £5000

How will I learn? (1/2)

- You will be provided a learning plan by the Cyber Security Trainers to complete online learning via the ITPro.TV and CertMaster Practice platforms

- This will include watching videos, completing virtual labs, and answering practice questions

- You will be expected to dedicate a **minimum of 8 hours per week** for your own learning

- With the exception of the online labs, you will be able to access learning on your mobile device (iOS, Android).

How will I learn? (2/2)

- You will be expected to complete the CompTIA certifications by a target date.

- On a monthly basis, you will be expected to travel to your closest hub (Manchester or Preston) on a Saturday to take part in workshops.

- These workshops could include a masterclass session on key topics, talks from representatives from cyber security organisations, a hands-on activity, and career readiness guidance.

- The final workshop will focus on Wargames where you will have to use your skills against other teams.

Learning Programme Overview

September 2020

Pre-Course Expectations Session (Online)

September 2020

Induction (Face-to-Face) Manchester / Preston

September 2020 onwards

CompTIA Security+ Online Learning guided by Mentor

ITPRO.TV · Practice Labs · CompTIA CERTMASTER

October 2020

Workshop 1 (Face-to-Face) Manchester / Preston

November 2020

Workshop 2 (Face-to-Face) Manchester / Preston

December 2020

Security+ Exam

CompTIA Security+

December 2020 onwards

CompTIA CySA+ Online Learning guided by Mentor

ITPRO.TV · Practice Labs · CompTIA CERTMASTER

December 2020

Workshop 3 (Face-to-Face) Manchester / Preston

January 2021

Workshop 4 (Face-to-Face) Manchester / Preston

January 2021

CySA+ Exam

CompTIA CySA+

February 2021

Wargames & Graduation (Face-to-Face) Manchester / Preston

February 2021 onwards

Cyber Job Placement Assistance

Manchester face-to-face session dates

You must be available to attend all of these sessions:

- Induction: 12 September 2020

- Workshop 1: 10 October 2020

- Workshop 2: 7 November 2020

- Workshop 3: 5 December 2020

- Workshop 4: 9 January 2021

- Wargames & graduation: 6 February 2021

You will also need to attend an online
pre-course session on Wednesday 2nd September 2020 at 6pm.
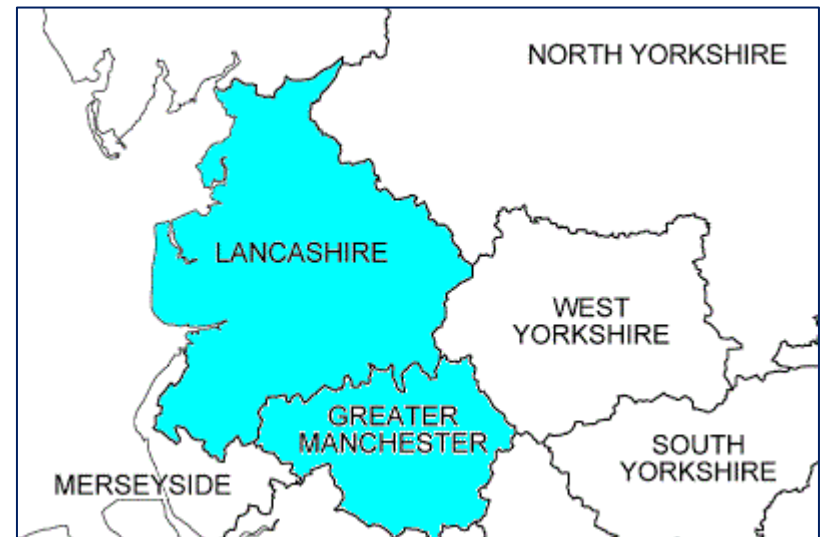
The duration of this session will be 1 hour.

Preston face-to-face session dates

You must be available to attend all of these sessions:

- Induction: 19 September 2020

- Workshop 1: 24 October 2020

- Workshop 2: 14 November 2020

- Workshop 3: 12 December 2020

- Workshop 4: 16 January 2021

- Wargames & graduation: 13 February 2021

You will also need to attend an online
pre-course session on Wednesday 2nd September 2020 at 6pm.

The duration of this session will be 1 hour.

About You

- As there are <u>only 30 places</u> for this programme, we are looking for candidates who have the desire and motivation to succeed. We are looking to ensure that we have a diverse group, so you could be…

  - Looking to return to a Tech Career and have prior IT job role experience
    - *You may be a parent/carer*
    - *Unemployed or facing* redundancy due to the Covid-19 pandemic
  - IT Technicians looking to progress their careers
    - *You may have a range of reasons why you've not been able to upskill*
  - Graduates who have undertaken a tech degree but unable to find employment
  - Former IT Apprentices looking to gain new skills

We encourage applications from Women, disabled, and Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) candidates, as these groups are underrepresented throughout the Tech industry.

To be eligible, you must be a resident of Greater Manchester or Lancashire

- Please check that you live within the following areas:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_places_in_Greater_Manchester

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_places_in_Lancashire

What will I need to study and be successful? (1/2)

- The platform we will use for the video training is called ITPro.TV, you should sign up for a free account and watch some of the videos and be 100% comfortable with the American presenters' accent and delivery style.

- Although most of the learning can be done using a smartphone, you will need access to a good laptop to carry out the virtual labs and complete the online exams.
    - [System requirements for virtual labs](#)
    - [System requirements for online testing](#)
    - NOTE: Due to the pandemic, we may ask you to bring your own laptop to the workshop.

- You will be part of our Slack community and you should aim to check it weekly to ensure that you don't miss any announcements.
    - The community has a number of Cyber Ready Alumni who can act as your mentors and help you navigate to the success that you desire so reach out and learn from them.

What will I need to study and be successful? (2/2)

- Please read the weekly reminder emails about online learning as they will include announcements and any programmatic changes.

- As part of the programme, you will be given an opportunity to take the certification exams. However, these will need to be "unlocked" through a combination of:
  - Completing all of the learning (videos, labs, questions)
  - Attending the workshops and "being present"
  - Undertaking a mock assessment

- Start writing your CV and applying for jobs early. Do not wait until the end of the programme.

- A "can do" attitude – this programme is tough and will take over your life for 6 months, so you need to be fully committed for the challenge ahead. Remember it is a minimum of 8 hours a week but pilot programme candidates reported better success with 10-12 hours.

Cyber Ready

Great! How do I apply?

Step 1:	Step 2:	Step 3:	Step 4:	Step 5:
Complete the Online Application form using this link: https://bit.ly/CyberReadyNorthWest	Complete the Network+ ITIQ evaluation as soon as you have submitted the application form. (see next page)	If your application is successful, you will be invited to a Zoom interview where we will discuss your application.	If your interview is successful, you will be issued with a Learning Agreement. You must check and notify us that you agree to adhere to it.	On receipt of you agreeing to the Learning Agreement, your place will be confirmed. You will be invited to the pre-course online session and induction.

ITIQ Skills Evaluation

- Once you have submitted your application form, you must complete the ITIQ Skills Evaluation as soon as possible. You will **not** be invited to a Zoom Interview, if we don't receive this.

- The evaluation will gauge your IT networking knowledge. Although there is no timer, it is strongly suggested that you spend no more than 60 minutes completing it.

- You can access the evaluation here:

    - https://bit.ly/CyberReadynetplus

Tips for your application

- The online form **will not save** your responses once you start it, so please set aside at least 1-2 hours to complete your application fully.

- You may want to write your responses in Word first and then copy and paste your answers into the online form.

- Answer all the questions fully – taking note of the specific information that we have asked from you.

- If you feel that your IT networking knowledge needs to be refreshed, you may want to spend time reviewing the [Professor Messer Network+ course](#) before doing the ITIQ assessment.

Spotlight on Success: Sean from our Cyber Ready pilot

Prior to the programme, Sean was working 12 hour shifts in a call centre. He wanted to move into a cyber career but didn't know how to. He applied for the Cyber Ready pilot and undertook the 6-month programme.

He successfully passed the Security+ and CySA+ certifications.

He now works as an Information Security Analyst at a Debt Advice Charity. He has increased his salary by £23K in the 12 months since completing Cyber Ready.

He now has a richer lifestyle with a better work-life balance and recently bought a new house.

For more information contact:

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Fast Track Fund and Cyber Ready North West

- Cyber Ready North West has been made possible with the support provided the Fast Track Fund.

- The Fast Track Fund is supported by Greater Manchester Combined Authority, in partnership with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and the Lancashire Digital Skills Partnership to address the digital skills gaps across Greater Manchester and Lancashire.

- CompTIA has also contributed to the funding of Cyber Ready North West.