Entry Requirements and Application

Students are normally expected to have at least a Second Class honours degree. We accept students from diverse backgrounds, including, but not restricted to, computer science, electronics, information systems and mathematics. Mature students without a degree but having relevant work experience (and/or industry certifications) are particularly encouraged to apply. A high level of competence in English will be required from students for whom English is not their first language: typically a minimum IELTS of 6.5, or a TOEFL score of 600. All "non-standard" applications are viewed sympathetically, each case being considered individually on its merits.

Some modules require understanding of computer networks/systems, and of elementary mathematics. However, no sophisticated mathematics or scientific skill is required and extra tutorials during the first few weeks of the term cover the necessary material for those students without degree level experience in these aspects.

Entry to the course. Students can start the degree course in September of every academic year.

For detailed information on all aspects of the MSc, including application links visit, **royalholloway.ac.uk/isg**

Location. Our beautiful campus is conveniently located in Egham just 19 miles from the centre of London, minutes from the M25, M3 and M4. London Heathrow is 7 miles away and trains to London Waterloo take 35 minutes.

Mark Hanvey, Director, PwC

"I completed the Masters at Royal Holloway and found the teaching to be truly inspirational. The skills I learnt have been hugely beneficial to my career development."

@ISGnews

@ISGofficial

Find us on You Tube and LinkedIn

Information Security Group

Masters courses in
Cyber and Information Security

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Egham, Surrey, TW20 0EX
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ROYAL
HOLLOWAY
UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

The Information Security Group (ISG) at Royal Holloway, is a world-leading interdisciplinary research group dedicated to research and education in the area of information and cyber security.

Masters in Information Security at Royal Holloway

There are many reasons why Royal Holloway is the ideal place to study for an MSc in Information Security:

Pioneering. Our MSc was the first of its kind in the world, introduced in 1992. The programme continually builds on the fundamental principles that underpin information security while keeping up to date with the latest developments.

Strength in depth. The strength and breadth of the ISG's expertise and its network of security professionals underpins the programme. There are few MSc courses in the world backed by such a large interdisciplinary group of experts.

Industrially relevant. The MSc syllabus is informed, designed and taught with the assistance of the ISG's extensive network of industrial contacts. The principal objective of the MSc is to prepare graduates for successful careers in the information security profession.

An international community. Over 4,000 of our alumni from more than 100 countries now work in the information security sector. By studying our MSc you will join a proud global network of information security professionals many of whom are in very senior positions.

Flexible study modes. The MSc is available in several study modes (full-time, day release, block mode, distance learning), most of which are designed to support students in full-time employment (see details overleaf).

Valued extra-curricular activities. On campus we run several specialist short courses, industrial seminars, careers seminars, and are regularly visited by organisations recruiting our students.

Nationally and internationally recognised. Our MSc is certified by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), a part of GCHQ. The unique contribution made by the ISG was recognised by a prestigious Queen's Anniversary Prize in 1998, and through the formation of a government funded Centre for Doctoral Training in Cyber Security. In 2021 the ISG received an ACE-CSE gold award recognising its excellence in cyber security education and good practice from the UK National Cyber Security Centre. The ISG is at the forefront of world-leading cyber security research and is proud to be recognised with ACE-CSR status by the UK National Cyber Security Centre.

Structure of the Masters

The MSc has a very rich structure that provides a unique and diversified learning opportunity.

The Core Element. This provides a solid foundation for the Options and Project elements. The Core contains two taught modules covering security management, cryptography, security technologies, and research methods. The research methods material provides students with a sound basis for engaging in the major project.

The Options Element. Four specialist modules are chosen from a diverse list which includes: Secure Business Architectures, Computer and Network Security, Cyber Crime, Legal and Regulatory Aspects of Security, Digital Forensics, Security Testing, Social Foundations of Security and Privacy, Malicious Software and Critical Infrastructure Security. Students are encouraged to attend as many modules as they like at no extra cost.

The Project Element. This major individual piece of work can be of an academic nature or may document the ability to deal with a practical aspect of information security.

Flexible learning for everyone

The delivery modes enable very flexible ways of studying the MSc Information Security. The following options are available for campus based courses:

Full-time on campus. Students attend lectures seminars and tutorials during the Autumn and Spring terms. Exams are in May, after which students focus exclusively on their projects.

Day-release on campus. A 'typical' part-time student will attend on a day-release basis over two years. Over this period students will attend exactly the same lectures and tutorials as full-time students.

Block-mode on campus. This mode is ideal for students in full-time employment who find it easier to take individual weeks away from work rather than day-release. This mode is broadly similar to day-release except that each module is taught in a one-week block. Students are therefore only required to be on campus for the specific weeks that each module is run. Irrespective of the part-time study mode, students can take up to five years to complete the MSc.

Information Security with a Year in Industry. A two year full time masters designed to equip you with the knowledge and skills needed to join the rapidly expanding field of information security. In the first year, you'll complete two core and four optional modules. With an optional second year, you'll have the opportunity to undertake a full-time work placement. This will attract a salary and be assessed towards your final degree. On returning to campus you'll complete a supervised dissertation on a topic of your choice. If you decide not to complete the second year you can revert to the standard MSc Information Security and complete your dissertation a year early to graduate at the end of year one. More course information is available at royalholloway.ac.uk/ISG

Distance Learning. The uniquely designed MSc Cyber Security builds on our highly successful programme offered for over 20 years. Delivered online in partnership with the University of London and Coursera, students take ten taught modules covering a wide range of key cyber security topics, and a major individual project. The course is supported by members of the ISG and approved information security professionals, including distinguished past graduates of the MSc itself. Support is provided through online forums via a web-based virtual learning environment. Students can expect to join an integrated network of information security professionals studying the MSc concurrently from many countries worldwide, which presents exciting opportunities to exchange experiences and perspectives. You can complete the course from the comfort of your home and exams are online, so you are not required to attend at Royal Holloway campus at any stage of the distance learning programme. The degree is awarded directly by the University of London, of which Royal Holloway forms part. More details of online study are at: london.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate/msc-cyber-security