

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Master Cyber Security, Strategy and Risk Management

Admission:

What makes the Cyber Security program different to other ANU Masters programs?

The ANU's Cyber Security program differs from other similar programs in that it offers both a broad-ranging curriculum and an opportunity to develop specialised skills in one particular area. Students enrolling in the Graduate Diploma or Masters are required to complete courses across four different academic disciplines – computer science, law, policy and business. Students cannot complete the program without attaining a certain level of proficiency in all four areas, resulting in graduates with an integrated and well-rounded understanding of cyber security practices and policies. Masters students are also able to specialise in a discipline of their choosing, taking higher-level courses to give them the expertise they need in their professional fields. Our program also focuses on real-world applications of cyber security techniques and toolsets, equipping graduates with the academic background to tackle practical problems outside the classroom.

Is the program open to international students?

The program is not currently available to international students.

In future years, the ANU may apply to the Australian government Department of Education for CRICOS accreditation, which would enable us to enrol international students. However, at present international students should investigate other ANU programs which do permit international enrolment: <http://programsandcourses.anu.edu.au/>

What are the admission requirements for the non-award, Graduate Diploma and Masters programs?

Applicants for the Graduate Diploma must hold either an Honours degree (AQF8) or a Bachelor degree (AQF7) with a GPA of 4.0 / 7.0, plus one year's relevant work experience. Applicants for the Masters must hold a Bachelor degree with a GPA of 5.0 / 7.0, plus three years' relevant work experience.

Further information about the GPA (Grade Point Average) is available [here](#). A GPA calculator tool is available for download at [this website](#), under the heading 'reference documents' on the right-hand side.

Applicants with a completed higher qualification (e.g. Masters, PhD) are admissible to either program. Applicants to the non-award program must meet the entry requirements of the Graduate Diploma. Please note that there is no discipline-specific requirement for this program – applicants are eligible with a Bachelor degree in any field. For information on the Australian Qualifications Framework, see [here](#).

What is the difference between 'award' and 'non-award' programs?

Both the Graduate Diploma and the Masters are 'award' programs – this means that they are programs of study which enable the student to graduate with a formal academic award, once all requirements have been met.

The non-award program enables students to enrol in any course which interests them and for which they meet the academic pre-requisites. The completion of non-award courses does not enable students to graduate with a Graduate Diploma or a Masters, regardless of how many courses they complete. However, students who have completed non-award courses which are part of the Cyber Security program are able to request academic credit for these courses, should they subsequently enrol in the Graduate Diploma or Masters programs.

Am I admissible if I don't have a Bachelor degree?

Applicants who do not have a Bachelor degree may be eligible for admission to the program on the basis of professional equivalency. This means that the applicant has been assessed by the relevant delegated authorities as meeting the academic entry requirements without completing formal university study.

Applicants wishing to discuss whether they are eligible for admission without a degree should consult the program convenor, Dr. Alwen Tiu (Alwen.Tiu@anu.edu.au).

What is the ANU's English language policy, and to whom does it apply?

The ANU's English language policy applies to all students of the ANU, whether domestic or international. The policy is available here: https://policies.anu.edu.au/ppl/document/ANUP_000408

Australian citizens and permanent residents whose university studies were conducted in countries other than those listed under 'Group A' in the above policy will be required to provide evidence of English language competency. This policy applies regardless of whether you have separately had to meet these requirements for the Department of Home Affairs (formerly the Department of Immigration and Border Protection).

Please note that holding Australian citizenship or being employed by an Australian organisation does not constitute grounds for admission under the English language policy – applicants must provide an approved form of evidence, as outlined in the policy above.

How do I apply for the non-award program?

Applications for the non-award program are lodged directly through the ANU, at the following link: <https://apollo.anu.edu.au/apollo/default.asp?pid=9347&script=true>

Applicants must ensure that they submit all required documentation to the email address dataanalytics.cecs@anu.edu.au as soon as they have submitted their application. Required documentation is described below, and on the application form.

How do I apply for the Graduate Diploma or Masters program?

Applications for the Grad. Dip. and Masters programs are lodged through the ANU's StudyLink portal, as described in the above tab labelled 'Application Process'.

Students should locate the relevant webpage for their chosen award from the links below, and click on 'Apply', on the top right-hand side of the page:

- [Master of Cyber Security, Strategy and Risk Management](#)
- [Graduate Diploma of Cyber Security, Strategy and Risk Management](#)
- [Graduate Certificate of Cyber Security, Strategy and Risk Management](#)

What are the application closing dates for each academic session?

There is a different application closing date for each academic session of the year (Winter, Spring etc.). Closing dates for all courses will be listed on the 'Course Schedule' tab on this website, once the 2018 teaching timetable is confirmed.

What documents do I need to include with my application?

You will need to include colour scans of original academic transcripts, as well as an up-to-date copy of your curriculum vitae and of any change-of-name documentation (e.g. marriage certificate). Please note that greyscale scans of academic transcripts are not acceptable, nor are colour photographs of original transcripts.

How do I know if my application has been successful?

You will receive an email from the ANU's Admissions team within four weeks of your application date, to the email address nominated on your application. Depending on the information you provided, you may receive either a full offer for study or a conditional offer for study. Conditional offers for study require you to meet certain conditions before you can accept the offer.

Teaching and assessment:

Why doesn't the Cyber Security program teach in normal university semesters?

Because the Cyber Security program is designed to be taught in online intensive mode for working professionals, normal university semesters aren't suitable for this teaching format. Instead of being constrained by fixed dates for Semesters 1 and 2, the Cyber Security program teaches courses staggered throughout the year in the ANU's non-standard teaching sessions – Autumn, Winter, Spring etc. This model is also used by other areas in the ANU which teach specialised professionally-focussed courses, including the College of Law and the Crawford School of Public Policy.

What is an 'academic session'?

An academic session is the specific period of the academic year to which a course belongs. The Cyber Security program teaches in non-standard academic sessions, which are seasonal:

- Summer – January to March
- Autumn – April to June
- Winter – July to September
- Spring – October to December

These sessions run in parallel with Semesters 1 and 2. Semester 1 runs from January to June, at the same time as the Summer and Autumn sessions; Semester 2 runs from July to December, at the same time as the Winter and Spring sessions.

Students need to know in which academic session their course is being taught, because this is how you make sure you're enrolling in the right course in your ISIS account. Once you've successfully added a course to your enrolment, the course will display on the ISIS home screen under the relevant academic session.

How do online intensive courses work?

As described in the tab above labelled 'Delivery mode', online intensive course in the Cyber Security program are run over nine weeks. The first four weeks comprise online learning and assessment through the ANU's [Wattle](#) portal; the fifth week is spent full-time on campus at the ANU; and the final four weeks are a further period of online teaching and assessment. We call this mode 4+1+4. Therefore, eight weeks of each course can be completed online from anywhere, and one week must be spent on campus in Canberra.

Can I take two online intensive courses which are running simultaneously?

Students cannot take two intensive courses with same start and finish dates. This is because they will have the same on-campus intensive week, and students can only attend one of these at a time. Where courses are offered concurrently, students will be required to choose one or the other.

Please note that this point is currently not relevant for the Cyber Security program in 2018, where only one or two courses will be offered. In subsequent years, however, students will need to be aware that they cannot study more than one online course at a time.

Can students complete the program in full-time mode?

It is not possible for students to undertake the online intensive program in full-time mode. Once the online program is running at full capacity (likely 2019 or after), the maximum number of online intensive courses available will be five per annum – this is slightly more than a 50% study load.

Students who reside in Canberra and who are prepared to enrol in a mixture of online courses and traditional on-campus semester-long courses are able to complete the program in full-time mode. For advice about how to mix on-campus and online courses, please contact the Data Analytics and Cyber Security team: dataanalytics.cecs@anu.edu.au.

Is the on-campus intensive week compulsory?

Yes, the on-campus intensive week is compulsory for all students. Exceptions will be made only in the case of serious and unforeseen circumstances (e.g. sudden illness, accident or bereavement). Otherwise, all students are expected to participate in all aspects of the on-campus intensive week, and students will not be given exemption on the grounds of professional workload. The intensives are a crucial part of learning development and cohort-building for all courses, and students should fully consider this expectation when choosing to undertake the program.

What is the timetable for the 2018 online intensive courses?

The online intensive timetable will be available at the above tab labelled 'course schedule', as soon as the 2018 teaching timetable is confirmed. The 2019 timetable will be published in late 2018.

Students wishing to consult the timetable for courses taught in on-campus semester-long mode should consult the relevant [Programs and Courses](#) entry for their course.

How do I know what the pre-requisites are for any particular course?

Pre-requisites and any assumed knowledge are detailed on the [Programs and Courses](#) entry for each course. Below is a table of the pre-requisites for the courses included in the Cyber Security program.

Please note that these pre-requisites only apply to students enrolled in the Cyber Security program; students enrolled in other programs may be subject to other pre-requisites, as detailed on [Programs and Courses](#).

	Course	Pre-requisites
Stage One (Grad. Cert.)	COMP6301 Computing Foundations for Cyber Security	
	LAWS8077 Cyber Law	
	NSPO8006 National Security Policymaking	
	MGMT7203 Risk Analysis for Business Management	
Stage Two (Grad. Dip.)	COMP6340 Networked Information Systems	COMP6301
	COMP6420 Introduction to Data Management	COMP6301
	COMP7500 Software Security	COMP6301, COMP6340, COMP6420
	NSPO8021 Statecraft and National Security in Cyberspace	NSPO8006
	CRIM8002 Cyber Security and Cyber Crime	
	MGMT8005 Project Risk and Issues Management	
Stage Three (Masters)	COMP8501 Cyber Defensive Operations	COMP7500
	COMP8502 Cyber Offensive Operations	COMP7500
	NSPO8014 Ethics and Technologies of War	
	NSPO8017 Malicious Networks: Transnational Terrorism and Crime	

What is the assessment structure for each course?

The assessment structure varies from course to course, depending on the individual convenor and on the material being taught. However, all ANU courses include multiple forms of assessment, both formative (identifying areas of academic strength and weakness) and summative (finding out how well you've achieved the learning outcomes of the course). You can expect to be assessed in different ways throughout the course, not just at the end. Many courses will include some form of group assessment, reflecting the real-world concerns of the program, because large-scale cyber security initiatives often take place in a team environment.

How do I find out if a particular course is suitable for my skill-set?

You should consult the relevant [Programs and Courses](#) entry for the course in question, which will provide you with a summary of the course material, and of the learning outcomes for the course. You may also consult the convenor for the relevant course, who will be able to answer specific questions and to provide you with a course outline.

Fees:

Is this program eligible for a FEE-Help loan?

Australian citizens enrolled in this program are eligible to defer their tuition fees through a [FEE-Help](#) loan. New Zealand citizens and Australian permanent residents can access FEE-Help in certain specific situations, which are outlined [here](#).

Australian citizens who wish to defer their tuition through FEE-Help **must** complete an electronic Commonwealth Assistance Form (eCAF). This form is available to students through their [ISIS](#) account (the ANU's student enrolment and information portal) once they have accepted their offer for study.

What is the 'census date' for each course?

The census date for a course is the date at which students are regarded as liable for their tuition fees, regardless of whether they complete the academic requirements of the course. Up to census date, students can 'drop' a course online through their ISIS account without incurring any financial penalty. Students dropping a course after census date will remain liable for the tuition. The only exception to this is students who are approved for [late withdrawal](#) from a course. Late withdrawals apply to students who encounter sudden and unexpected circumstances, which prevent them from completing the course (e.g. serious illness, accident or bereavement).

The census date for a course is determined by its starts date – it occurs roughly 1/3 of the way through the course. The census dates for all ANU courses are available at the relevant [Programs and Courses](#) entry, and will also be listed on the online timetable at this website, once the teaching timetable is confirmed.

For courses taught in typical semester-long on-campus mode, census dates remain the same every year: 31 March for Semester 1 courses, and 31 August for Semester 2 courses.

Are there any Commonwealth Supported Places (CSPs) for this program and how do I apply?

As at 2018, the College of Engineering and Computer Science has no Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP) for the Cyber Security program. In general, the number of CSPs available for graduate coursework programs has been diminishing over the last few years; sometimes we have only half a dozen to allocate across all programs and all students in the College.

Students should be aware that CSPs are awarded strictly on the basis of academic merit, and that competition is fierce. A GPA of 6.5 or above is recommended to have a realistic chance of securing a CSP.

The ANU is expecting the situation with CSPs to change in late 2018 or early 2019, following reforms announced by the Australian government in the 2017/2018 federal budget. Although we do not yet know precisely what effect these changes will have on the number and allocation of CSPs, we are expecting that CSPs will be fewer and more difficult to obtain from 2018 onwards, possibly incorporating time-limits for students to complete their programs.

Applications for CSPs are considered once per semester. Applicants must complete and submit the form available at the following link in order to be considered for a CSP:
<https://cecs.anu.edu.au/study/commonwealth-supported-places>

Please note that applicants must have received an unconditional offer for study, or be already enrolled, before they can be considered for a CSP.

What is the difference between the Services and Amenities Fee (SAF) and Domestic Tuition Fees (DTF)?

The [Services and Amenities Fee](#) (SAF) is incurred by every student enrolled at the ANU. This fee is a contribution by students towards the cost of the ANU facilities which are available to students: physical buildings as well as information services and other online study supports. Students are

charged SAF at a rate of AUD \$74.50 per seasonal academic session, up to a maximum of AUD \$149 per annum for part-time students or AUD \$298 per annum for full-time students (2018 rate).

Domestic Tuition Fees (DTF) are the cost of individual academic courses – these are the fees students incur by being enrolled in a particular course. Students will see two different items on their tuition invoices: SAF is the service and administration component, and DTF is the academic tuition component. Neither component is negotiable, although both can be deferred under the [FEE-Help](#) program by Australian citizens and eligible permanent residents and New Zealand citizens.

How can I organise for my employer to pay my tuition fees?

Students whose employers wish to pay their tuition invoices need to set up a [tuition sponsorship](#) through the ANU's Student Finance team. Sponsored students will *not* receive a tuition invoice through their ISIS accounts – the invoice goes straight from ANU Student Finance to the nominated contact at the sponsoring organisation. Students who have a tuition sponsorship will not be charged late fees if their sponsor does not pay by the due date on the invoice – the ANU's Student Finance team negotiates directly with the sponsor for payment.

Students who choose to download their invoices from ISIS and to provide these to their employers for payment should note that the student will be charged late fees if payment does not arrive by the due date. This is because the above arrangement does not constitute a tuition sponsorship, even if the student has provided the invoice to their employer. From the ANU's point of view, students are considered to be self-funded unless they have an official ANU tuition sponsorship in place.

Students who do not wish to set up a tuition sponsorship are recommended to pay their own tuition by BPay or credit card through their ISIS account, and then to seek reimbursement from their employer. This arrangement minimises the chance that students will be left with additional fees if an employer does not pay an invoice on time.

How do I view and pay my tuition fee invoice?

From the home screen in ISIS, students should select 'check your invoice' to see their most recent outstanding invoice. Students wishing to consult previous invoices should click 'invoice history' for a full list.

What are the indicative tuition fees for each course?

Indicative tuition fees for each academic year are available under the relevant course entry on the [Programs and Courses](#) website.

Students should expect that tuition will increase by roughly 5% per annum. For 2018, indicative fees are AUD \$4080 per course.

What does DTF cover?

Domestic Tuition Fees (DTF) are the cost payable for enrolling in the course. DTF does not include the cost of any textbooks (which not all courses will require), or the cost of travelling to and attending the on-campus intensive component.

Am I Centrelink-eligible while studying in the Applied Data Analytics program?

The Cyber Security program is not considered an [approved coursework Masters program](#) for the purposes of student-support payments from Centrelink. However, students who believe they qualify for Austudy or for Youth Allowance (Student) should contact the [Department of Human Services](#) directly for clarification.

General questions:

Do I need a student card?

Students who do not reside in the ACT and who do not intend to use ANU infrastructure during their degree may not need a student card. However, we recommend that all students acquire a student card just in case – these can be obtained in person during one of your on-campus intensive weeks. Student cards are available over the counter with approved photo identification (e.g. passport, driver's licence) from the [ANU Student Central](#) services counter at 121 Marcus Clarke Street.

Please note that students must have accepted their offers for study and be enrolled in a course before they are eligible to hold a student card. Interstate students can request that a student card be mailed to them, subject to certain [restrictions](#).

Students who reside in the ACT and who wish to use ANU library or computer laboratory facilities will need a student card to access the relevant buildings.

What are the arrangements for the on-campus intensive week for each course?

Arrangements for the on-campus intensive week vary from course to course, but students should expect to be on campus every day (Monday to Friday) from 0900 to 1700. Details of the building locations and timetables for the intensive weeks will be emailed to all enrolled students one week in advance, along with maps of the ANU campus and other information to assist those new to Canberra and to the ANU.

Can I get recognition of prior learning (RPL) for some of my previous university study?

You may be eligible for recognition of prior learning (RPL) if you have completed related studies in a previous university degree. At the ANU, RPL is called academic status and takes two forms – credit and exemption.

As described in the above tab labelled 'credit', students who are awarded academic status will have their total program shortened by the number of courses for which they are granted credit. In other words, they are regarded as having completed the courses in question.

Students who are granted exemption do not have to take the course from which they have been exempted, and are permitted to replace the exempted course with another course of their choosing, from an approved list of program enclosures. A student who receives exemption does not have their program shortened.

For more information about the restrictions on the awarding of academic status, please see section 3.1 of the Coursework Awards Rule: <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2016L01980>

Some examples of credit and exemption scenarios:

- *Student A has worked in the Australian Public Service for 15 years, but has no formal qualifications. He has significant experience in information technology management and security. On the basis of his work experience, he is admitted to the Graduate Diploma Cyber Security. He does not receive any credit, and therefore the duration of his program remains the same. Due to his professional expertise, he is granted exemptions from COMP6301 (Computing Foundations for Cyber Security) and for COMP6420 (Introduction to Data Management). He chooses to replace these COMP-coded courses with other computing courses offered by the College of Engineering and Computer Science, in consultation with the program convenor.*
- *Student B has worked in the Australian Public Service for 5 years and has completed a Bachelor of Business Administration within the last 7 years. After submitting a credit application – including his academic transcript and course outlines – he is granted credit for MGMT7203 (Risk Analysis for Business Management). He is not required to replace this course with another, and so his program is shortened by one course.*

- *Student C applies to study three courses included in the Cyber Security program as a non-award student. She has completed a Master of Computing within the last 7 years. She is not able to receive credit, because she is studying as a non-award student. However, she is considering applying for the Master Cyber Security later on, and is advised that she would receive credit for COMP6420 (Introduction to Data Management) and for COMP6340 (Networked Information Systems). When Student C transfers into the Masters program, the duration of her program will be shortened by two courses (COMP6420/6340), plus whatever courses she has undertaken as a non-award student.*

Does the ANU consider MOOCs for admission and/or recognition of prior learning?

If the MOOC for which the student is seeking credit is determined to be equivalent in learning and assessment to a 6-unit ANU course, then the ANU may choose to grant credit, at the discretion of the program convenor. For a MOOC to be credit-eligible, it must be taught by a reputable university, as defined by the Australian government Department of Education and Training's policy on the [recognition of overseas qualifications](#).

Can I appeal a decision about academic credit?

If you are unhappy with the decision of the College regarding your application for academic status, you can appeal to the Associate Dean (Education) for the relevant College. The Cyber Security program teaches across several ANU Colleges – Business and Economics, Engineering and Computer Science, Law and the National Security College. Each College has its own AD(E).

Applications to appeal a credit decision must be submitted in writing to dataanalytics.cecs@anu.edu.au. The Data Analytics and Cyber Security team will identify the correct College for the resolution of your appeal, and ensure that your materials reach the right person.

Information for members of the Australian Public Service:

Do I need departmental support/endorsement to enrol in this program?

You do not need departmental support to enrol in the Cyber Security program – if you meet the admission requirements, then you are eligible.

However, if you wish to access study leave or other flexible arrangements through your employer, then the ANU recommends consulting your professional development or learning support contacts before enrolling in the program.

If my department has encouraged me to apply for this program, and has coordinated my application process, does this mean my tuition is fully funded?

Students should not assume that their tuition is employer-funded unless they have specifically consulted their employer about tuition arrangements, and have received written assurance that the employer has entered into a tuition sponsorship with the ANU. The ANU will not solicit tuition sponsorships on behalf of students. It is the student's responsibility to secure the employer's financial support, at which point the Data Analytics and Cyber Security team (dataanalytics.cecs@anu.edu.au) will assist with the logistics of setting up the sponsorship.

Students should check their ISIS account regularly to see whether they have any invoices owing. Even if you are a sponsored student, it's a good idea to keep an eye out for invoices, because an unexpected account is a sign that something may not be functioning correctly with your sponsorship.

Can APS students access FEE-Help?

APS students can access FEE-Help, provided that they are Australian citizens. Permanent residents and New Zealand citizens are able to access FEE-Help in certain [limited situations](#), as explained above.

Glossary of useful ANU terms:

Award	<p>A qualification conferred by the University and certified by a testamur.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Award names and relevant specialisations appear on a graduate's testamur. • Different plans may lead to different awards though some lead to the same award.
Program	<p>In an academic sense, a program is a structured sequence of study – normally leading to the Award of one or more degrees, diplomas or certificates.</p> <p>In a system sense, a program is a grouping of one or more academic plans around a particular theme, Awards, or set of admission requirements.</p>
Course	<p>A subject of scholarly study taught:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a connected series of lectures or demonstrations. • By means of practical work including the production by students of essays or theses or case studies, or the attendance and participation by students in seminars or workshops. <p>Each course requires a course outline.</p> <p>A four character alphabetic subject area code and a four digit numeric catalogue number identify each course. The first digit denotes the state/year of the program in which the course is normally taken. Each course is normally assigned a unit value that is a measure of the proportion of the academic progress that a course represents within the total credit for the program</p>
Unit	<p>This is an indicator of the value of the course within the total program. Most courses are valued at 6 units. Units are used to track progress towards completing a plan. Full-time students normally undertake 24 units of courses each semester.</p>
Non-award study	<p>Study that does not lead to the award of a degree, diploma, or certificate, but consists of a course or work requirement that may be at undergraduate or graduate coursework level. [Note: non-award study does not include studies undertaken on a non-award basis within the meaning of HES Act.]</p>
Credit	<p>The granting of credit is an evaluation process that assesses the individual's prior formal, non-formal, and informal learning to determine the extent to which the individual has achieved the required learning outcomes, competency outcomes, or standards for entry to, and/or partial or total completion of, a qualification.</p>
Exemption	<p>Some students may be exempt from undertaking a compulsory course for the program on the basis of previous completion of the course, or an equivalent course. However, a course of equivalent unit value must be substituted. An exempted course counts towards program requirements and satisfied pre-requisite requirements for other courses but the unit value of the exempted course does not count towards the units taken towards the program.</p>

Other terms can be found in the [Student policies and procedures glossary](#)
 < https://policies.anu.edu.au/ppl/document/ANUP_002601 >