

# UNDERGRADUATE PERSONAL STATEMENT EXAMPLE

## CYBER SECURITY

This is a real-life undergraduate personal statement example for **Cyber Security**.  
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### **Personal Statement Example: Cyber Security**

"I find the development and application of responsive and dynamic secure systems fascinating. I have become intrigued by their potential in penetration testing, which is a specialism I intend to explore during my undergraduate studies. In recent years I have balanced my academic commitments with the independent study of the software used to combat insecure design in web applications. Studying the OWASP Top 10 has shown me how important the software development stage is when applying solutions that mitigate security risks. Recent cyber security breaches, such as those involving CryptoLocker software, have also illustrated the need for ethical hacking and systems testing.

My professional goal is to work at GCHQ's National Cyber Security Centre; I aim to achieve this by gaining a detailed understanding of the development of secure systems in this degree course. My A-level curriculum underpins and complements this interest. I am also preparing for the demands of university study by undertaking a Cyber EPQ in year 13.

Studying Computer Science has introduced me to the building blocks of data storage and communication, information security, application development and database programming. A growing understanding of the functions of proxy servers and packet filtering firewalls has inspired me to learn about preventing unauthorised access to data centres and implementing secure networking topologies and redundancies across multiple sites.

Studying Politics has given me a global perspective on issues such as information risk management and how state-level actors can increase the threat of cyber warfare, most obviously seen in the current conflict in Ukraine. My Psychology study has illustrated a range of approaches to determined behaviour, which will help me identify common vulnerabilities in thought processes and exploit these as a penetration tester. I look forward to deepening my understanding of ethics and user psychology and how this relates to reinforcement in machine learning.

Beyond the classroom, I have completed several NCSC Cyberfirst courses up to Defenders, Futures and Advanced levels. This has given me a greater understanding of software such as Nmap, the implementation of digital forensics and the application of encryption technologies. I also recognise the value of using open-source intelligence techniques in the field of penetration testing.

I have learned about virtual machines and cyber systems from Network Chuck and David Bombal on YouTube and read articles on Sky and BBC news sites examining the 2017 NHS 'WannaCry' security breach. I also subscribe to CyberSecurity, an industry podcast. Reading 'Linux Basics for Hackers' by OccupytheWeb has helped my understanding of real-world applications of different distributions of Linux, such as Kali Linux, an ethical hacking OS.

This summer, I completed a week's internship in the Cyber Security department of FlyMAX airlines. This introduced me to a multicultural working environment and gave me access to day-to-day operations in a real-world cyber security department. I observed how specialists dealt with threat detection and management, and I became familiar with software tools such as Burp Suite and ANY.RUN, an interactive online malware sandbox. Shadowing managers and learning about organisational structures and career pathways helped confirm that this is an industry that I find inspiring, which matches my skill set, and in which I am motivated to succeed.

I am a regular gym-goer and balance my studies with an active social life. I have completed my DofE Bronze Award, volunteered at my local health centre, and working as a kitchen porter at a local farm shop, showed consistency, stamina, teamwork and reliability. These are qualities I believe will actively support my degree studies. I am confident that I have the profile to flourish as an undergraduate and ultimately achieve my personal and professional ambitions in this industry."

