

## Best Cybersecurity Certifications

Certifications can give you a leg up in cybersecurity and enable you to progress faster so here are some of the most popular and in demand certifications with certification costs.

Certification	Cost	Prerequisites	Best For
Beginner level			
MTA: Microsoft Technology Associate Security Fundamentals	\$127	Aimed at students (school and college), as well as those in the workforce who are looking to change careers. Gaining this certification shows an understanding of core security principles as well as the basics of operating system, network and software security.	Cybersecurity beginners.
ISACA CSX Cybersecurity Fundamentals Certificate	\$150	Suits graduates and those seeking career changes. It covers five cybersecurity-related domains: concepts; architecture principles; network, system, application, and data security; incident response; and security of evolving technology.	Cybersecurity beginners.

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CompTIA Security+	\$381	None, although 2-years of cybersecurity experience is recommended. Most people start with this certification.	Cybersecurity beginners.
GSEC: GIAC Security Essentials	\$2,499	None, although basic computer science is recommended.	Cybersecurity beginners.
Entry level (less than 3-years' experience)			
GIAC Certified Incident Handler (CIH)	\$2,499	None, although basic understanding and experience with security principles and networking protocols is recommended.	Cybersecurity beginners who want to specialise in incident response.
SSCP: Systems Security Certified Practitioner	\$249	1- year of cumulative, paid work experience in one or more of the seven domains of the (ISC) <sup>2</sup> SSCP Common Body of Knowledge (CBK) - (1) Access Controls, (2) Security Operations and Administration, (3) Risk Identification, Monitoring, and Analysis, (4) Incident Response and Recovery, (5)	Cybersecurity beginners.

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		Cryptography, (6) Network and Communications Security, and (7) Systems and Application Security.	
ECSCA: EC-Council Certified Security Analyst	\$250	2-years of experience recommended or completion of an EC-council training course.	Cybersecurity beginners interested in penetration testing.
CEH: Certified Ethical Hacker	\$950-\$1,199	2-years of experience in information security recommended or completion of an EC-council training course.	Cybersecurity beginners interested in penetration testing.
Microsoft Azure Fundamentals	\$99	None, and it's ideal if you don't have a technical background as it will offer you an understanding of the cloud computing services that could help in your daily business schedule and job responsibilities, including sales, marketing, and procurement using Microsoft's Azure Cloud Service.	Cybersecurity beginner interested in cloud security

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Google Cloud Foundations	free	None needed. With this exam you can validate your broad knowledge of cloud concepts and the products, services, tools, features, benefits, and use cases of Google Cloud.	Cybersecurity beginner interested in cloud security.
AWS Security Fundamentals	free	IT business-level professionals interested in cloud security practices and cybersecurity professionals with minimal working knowledge of AWS.	Cybersecurity professionals who want to specialise in the cloud.
AWS CCP: Cloud Practitioner	\$100	Requires no technical experience as a prerequisite and is a cloud beginner-friendly certification that covers the basics of AWS and the cloud.	Cybersecurity professionals with experience who want to specialise in the cloud.
AWS Associate level	\$150	6- months to 2-years of hands-on experience using AWS. Not an easy exam as it's very scenario focused.	Cybersecurity professionals with experience who want to specialise in the cloud.
Microsoft Certified: Azure Security	\$165	A minimum of 1-years' practical experience	Cybersecurity professionals with experience who

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Engineer Associate		securing Azure workloads. Requirements include practical experience in administration of Azure and hybrid environments.	want to specialise in the cloud.
ACE: Google Associate Cloud Engineer		6+ months building on Google Cloud. With this certification you'll gain the fundamental skills to deploy and maintain cloud projects with a path to professional certification.	Cybersecurity professionals with experience who want to specialise in the cloud.
Experienced level (3+ years' experience)			
OSCP: Offensive Security Certified Professional	\$1499	Advance level penetration testing certificate and one of the most difficult exams to crack. You'll need Knowledge of Linux, TCP/IP, and BASH scripting with Python or PERL.	Experienced cybersecurity professionals interested in penetration testing.
CASP: CompTIA Advanced Security Practitioner	\$480	10-years' experience recommended.	Experienced cybersecurity professionals, especially security engineers and architects seeking

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			more advanced roles in enterprise security.
PCSE: Google Professional Cloud Security Engineer	\$200	3+ years cloud industry experience and at least 1 year working with Google Cloud.	Experienced cybersecurity professionals who specialise in cloud security.
AWS Certified Security — Specialty	\$300	5-years' cybersecurity experience and at least 2-years of hands-on experience working with AWS security. You'll need in-depth knowledge of cybersecurity practices and legal requirements related to data protection in the cloud.	Experienced cybersecurity professionals who specialise in cloud security.
CISA: Certified Information Systems Auditor	\$575 for members; \$760 for non-members	5-years of experience in IT auditing or security assurance, or a degree program and 3-years' experience.	Experienced cybersecurity professionals looking to solidify their experience in auditing.
CISM: Certified Information Security Manager	\$575 for members; \$760 for non-members	5-years of experience in a managerial role related to information security.	Experienced cybersecurity professionals moving into management.

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<p>CISSP (Certified Information Systems Security Professional)</p>	<p>\$749</p>	<p>5-years' cumulative experience in at least 2 of the 8 domains of the (ISC)<sup>2</sup> CISSP Common Body of Knowledge (CBK) – (1) Security and Risk Management, (2) Security Architecture and Engineering, (3) Software Development Security, (4) Communication and Network Security, (5) Identity and Access Management (IAM), (6) Security Assessment and Testing, (7) Security Operations, and (8) Software Development Security</p>	<p>Experienced cybersecurity professionals looking to move into senior roles and management.</p>
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Here are some other useful training and certification resources for you to research...

- (ISC)<sup>2</sup>. The organisation has more than 140,000 members worldwide and offers more than 120 certified cyber security professional credentials. It also has just started a pilot programme and a new

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certification which covers Security Principles, Business Continuity (BC), Disaster Recovery (DR) & Incident Response Concepts, Access Controls Concepts, Network Security and Security Operations, see <https://www.isc2.org/Certifications/entry-level-certification-pilot>

- ISACA has become a pace-setting global organisation for information governance, control, security, and audit professionals. The ISACA IS Auditing and IS Control standards are followed by practitioners worldwide, and its research pinpoints professional issues challenging its members, see [www.isaca.org](http://www.isaca.org)
- Information Systems Security Association (ISSAS) is a not-for-profit, international professional organization of information security professionals and practitioners. It was founded in 1984, after work on its establishment started in 1982, see <https://www.issa.org/>
- CREST is an international not-for-profit accreditation and certification body that represents and supports the technical information security market. It provides internationally recognised certifications for organisations and individuals providing penetration testing, cyber incident response and security architecture services, see <https://www.crest-approved.org/index.html>
- Cloud Guru for cloud security certifications such as [Google](#), [AWS](#) and for [Azure](#)
- Capslock is where you can train online to become a cybersecurity professional and you don't have to pay anything until you get hired, see <https://www.capslock.ac/>



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- Immersive Labs, moves you or your team beyond generic training courses and certifications to interactive skills content that's directly relevant to the risks you face. Their hands-on experiences empower individuals and teams across a business to build the most relevant cybersecurity expertise and expand those skills in the face of new challenges. It's free for students and if you're one, all you need is a college or university email, see <https://www.immersivelabs.com>
- Cybrary is the fastest growing, fastest-moving catalogue of training courses in the industry. It has both free and paid courses, and offers hands-on experiences to gain real-world skills, guided career paths and role-based learning, industry certification courses with practice tests and dedicated mentors and professional networking, see <https://www.cybrary.it>
- Sans' Cyber Aces is an online course that teaches the core concepts needed to assess and protect information security systems. It's available as open courseware so learners can take it anytime and anywhere, plus it's free, see [Cyberaces.org](https://www.cyberaces.org)
- LinkedIn Learning (formerly Lynda.com) provides video courses taught by industry experts in software, creative, and business skills. It is a subsidiary of LinkedIn, see <https://www.linkedin.com/learning> .
- Udemy.com is an online learning and teaching marketplace with over 185000 courses and 49 million students. It has lots of courses to get you started, see <https://www.udemy.com/topic/cyber-security>

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- edX is like Udemy and has a range of courses in cybersecurity, see <https://www.edx.org/learn/cybersecurity>

If you've been out of the workplace for at least 18-months and are looking to return to work to a professional, supportive, and rewarding environment, then look at Nomura's Returners Programme<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://inclusivity.co.uk/nomura/?fbclid=IwAR39yIEcOb3wgHyqLxCerNXGQqrsj4Jvlavilh3g-FuKMQ0FBb0nwocEJH0>.

You've  
got this!

