



Module Specification

Cyber Security Research Paper

Version: 2026-27, v3.0, Approved

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Cyber Security Research Paper

Module code: UFCE4B-60-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2026-27

UWE credit rating: 60

ECTS credit rating: 30

College: College of Arts, Technology and Environment

School: CATE School of Computing and Creative Technologies

Partner institutions: None

Field: Computer Science and Creative Technologies

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: The Cyber Security research paper is an opportunity for students to develop their research and synthesis skills in an area of cyber security.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: To enable students to:

Conduct an academic intellectual exploration of a Cyber Security Body of Knowledge

(CyBOK) related topic.

Demonstrate the application of technical, practical and analytical skills and knowledge acquired across the programme as a whole and through their own personal learning.

Develop self-direction and autonomous planning, time-management, evaluation and decision making skills.

Outline syllabus: There is no specific syllabus for this module as the paper is an individual piece of work, elements of the paper production & assessment process are covered in a series of lectures & workshops at the start of the academic year. The lectures will be delivered by the module leader or their nominee, in collaboration with library staff and the supervision team. They will cover topics such as:

Choosing a research topic

The CyBOK

Research methods

Academic writing & integrity

Introducing and developing research skills

Researching the paper idea

Making use of your module leader/supervisor

Writing up

The Viva process

Workshops will be used where appropriate to give students an opportunity to experience viva style questioning, reflect on academic integrity and other topics as appropriate, and to drive the proposal development.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Following the lecture series, students will have a formative feedback session on their proposal with an appropriate supervisor.

Students will be expected to present and defend an outline of their proposed research as the basis for this discussion, and use it to develop a viable strategy for their research.

Suitable topics must be related to the CyBOK and must lend themselves to research .

Each student will be assigned a supervisor who will meet them regularly to discuss progress and to give guidance on planning and managing the work. It is the student's responsibility to research material and techniques appropriate to the subject of the dissertation.

Wherever possible students will be assigned a supervisor with an interest in the topic. The responsibilities of the tutor are primarily to provide guidance on the management of the project, the standard of work required, what can realistically be done in the available time and to give feedback on work done (including the writing of the report).

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Identify a research problem relevant to the CyBOK and scope research to suitably investigate it.

MO2 Synthesise and critically evaluate recent research having a direct bearing on the problem domain.

MO3 Critically and reflectively evaluate the outcome and personal performance with respect to standards of research quality (validity, reliability), ethical considerations and professional competence.

MO4 Communicate and defend research outcomes and learning effectively.

Hours to be allocated: 600

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 588 hours

Staff-guided learning = 12 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/index.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/index.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: As the significant individual project work for a masters programme, primary research presented as a paper is the most appropriate assessment form.

The formal proposal presentation is intended to evaluate the student's ability to formulate and justify an actionable course of research and to demonstrate genuine ownership of their proposed project. Students will present and defend their proposed research to their allocated supervisor. As the student must be able to present and discuss their proposal, inappropriate use of generative AI would not result in a passing grade. In addition students will need to justify how it aligns with the CyBOK and which CyBOK area(s), Supervisors will be formally allocated for the formative review of the proposal with the proposed work being the basis for supervisor selection.

The research paper is marked on its appropriateness as an academic paper and is then assessed through a viva, to address the depth of the students understanding of their topic. The written submission will be a paper formatted and presented as though intended for submission to an appropriate academic journal. The requirement for the paper is that it presents a "concise and comprehensive" description of the work undertaken.

For resit runs, students who fail the initial sit will be provided with feedback by their supervisor and will then be expected to rework their paper and/or proposal and resubmit it, before a further viva (of the paper).

As the student needs to be able to explain and defend their work in a viva that constitutes the majority of the marks, plagiarism or the inappropriate use of generative AI would not result in a passing grade.

Assessment tasks:

Presentation (First Sit)

Description: Viva (up to 45 minutes)

Weighting: 70 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4

Presentation (First Sit)

Description: Oral project proposal defence

Weighting: 0 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: Research paper (up to 15 pages)

Weighting: 30 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO2, MO4

Presentation (Resit)

Description: Viva (up to 45 minutes)

Weighting: 70 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4

Presentation (Resit)

Description: Oral defence of project proposal

Weighting: 0 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: Research paper (up to 15 pages)

Weighting: 30 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO2, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Cyber Security [Frenchay] MSc 2026-27

Cyber Security [Frenchay] MSc 2026-27

Cyber Security [Frenchay] MSc 2026-27

Cyber Security [Frenchay] MSc 2026-27

Cyber Security [GCET] MSc 2026-27

Cyber Security {with International Pre-Masters} [UWEBIC] MSc 2026-27