

AAQ BTEC NATIONAL IN COMPUTING (EXTENDED CERTIFICATE)

Launch your tech career with hands-on coding, cybersecurity, and UX design - build digital products and solve real industry challenges in a course that prepares you for university, apprenticeships, or direct entry to the digital workforce.

Level 3 · A Level (or equivalent) · Penwith College

TOP COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

PYTHON PROGRAMMING **CYBERSECURITY & ENCRYPTION** **UX/UI DESIGN** **SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT** **INDUSTRY-RELEVANT SKILLS**

HANDS-ON PROGRAMMING

Master Python and algorithms to design and implement real-world software solutions.

CYBERSECURITY EXPERTISE

Learn to protect networks, apply encryption, and understand legal frameworks like GDPR.

HUMAN-CENTRED DESIGN

Create intuitive interfaces using UX/UI principles and modern prototyping tools. Gain practical programming, cybersecurity, and design skills with a two-year course that prepares you for university and tech careers. Learn to code, secure networks, and design user-friendly systems while building problem-solving and critical thinking skills.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

You'll complete **four mandatory units: Year 1:**

- *Programming Fundamentals* – Python coding, algorithms, recursion, data structures, validation, and testing.
- *Computer Network Security & Encryption* – Network types, security threats, encryption methods (AES, RSA), hashing, and legal issues.

Year 2:

- *Human-Computer Interaction* – UX/UI principles, accessibility, assistive technologies, prototyping tools like Figma.
- *Practical Programming* – Software development lifecycle, systematic approaches, version control, testing, and documentation.

Learn programming, cybersecurity, UX/UI design, and software development. Year 1 covers Python fundamentals and network security. Year 2 focuses on HCI principles and managing software projects using systematic development approaches, preparing you for higher education and tech careers.

WHERE WILL IT TAKE ME?

Careers: Software Developer, Cybersecurity Analyst, UX Designer, Network Engineer, Data Analyst, Systems Architect, Game Developer. **Progression:** Leads to degrees in Computer Science, Software Engineering, Games Development, Cybersecurity, and related fields. Graduates are highly valued for problem-solving, coding, and design skills in a digital-first economy.

FOR THE LATEST COURSE INFORMATION

Scan for assessment arrangements, learner support, confirmed start dates and how to apply.
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ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above, including English and Maths.

IMPORTANT

Course information can change. Please use the QR code below for the current assessment arrangements, entry requirements and start dates.

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