معاً نصنع الأثر
Together we make an impact

الأكاديمية المالية
THE FINANCIAL ACADEMY

Cybersecurity Graduate Development Program (GDP)

برنامج تطوير الخريجين في الأمن السيبراني



Strategic Partners

صندوق تنمية الموارد البشرية
HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT FUND

الموارد البشرية والتنمية الاجتماعية

المجالس القطاعية للمهارات
Sector Skills Councils



04 APR 2024 | 272 DAYS | In Person

ENGLISH | RIYADH | ~~119,347~~ Fully Supported

Program duration: 9 months
Format: Blended (ILT + eLearning + Mentorship)
Preparation Funding: HRDF – 75% subsidy
Outcome: Employment-ready cybersecurity professionals

Certification:

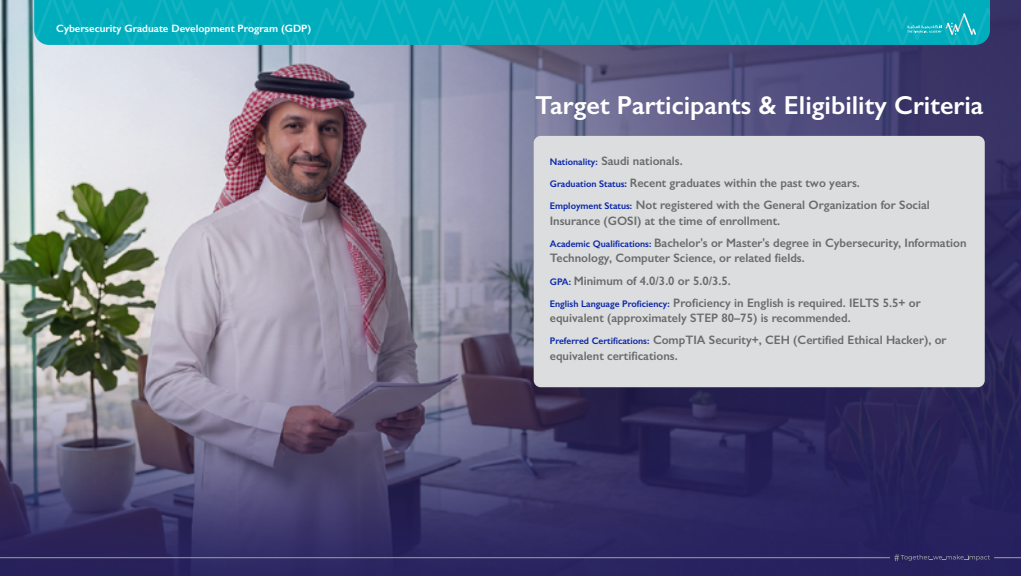
- CompTIA A+
- CompTIA Security+
- CompTIA Network+
- Certified in Cybersecurity (CC)

Learning Outcomes

01. Help learners understand how a modern Saudi bank operates digitally and where cyber risks emerge.
02. Simulate entry-level SOC analyst responsibilities to Detect & Escalate
03. Expose to real banking risks through Misconfiguration in a Cloud-Enabled Bank
04. Understand the lifecycle of a financial transaction and the critical points of vulnerability.
05. Communicate Under Pressure, maintaining professional composure during simulated security incidents or tight deadlines.
06. Evaluate Third-Party Risks, focusing on how banks must secure their supply chain and Fintech partners.

Key Competencies

- Cybersecurity Operations (SOC)
- Cybersecurity & Financial Analysis
- Early Warning Cybersecurity Risk Detection
- Network, Web, Application & Cloud Security
- Digital Forensics & Incident Response
- Threat Intelligence & Cyber-Fraud Management



Target Participants & Eligibility Criteria

Nationality: Saudi nationals.

Graduation Status: Recent graduates within the past two years.

Employment Status: Not registered with the General Organization for Social Insurance (GOSI) at the time of enrollment.

Academic Qualifications: Bachelor's or Master's degree in Cybersecurity, Information Technology, Computer Science, or related fields.

GPA: Minimum of 4.0/3.0 or 5.0/3.5.

English Language Proficiency: Proficiency in English is required. IELTS 5.5+ or equivalent (approximately STEP 80–75) is recommended.

Preferred Certifications: CompTIA Security+, CEH (Certified Ethical Hacker), or equivalent certifications.

Cybersecurity Graduate Development Program

Proposed 9-Month Project Timeline

28 Jan 2027
Registration Closes, Receive Nominations

04 April 2027
(01 Month)
Program launch \ PHASE 01 THE LAUNCH PAD

02 May 2027
(02 Months)
Mentorship
(on-the-job training)

04 July 2027
(01 Month)
PHASE 2
THE DEEP DIVE

01 Aug 2027
(02 months)
Mentorship
(on-the-job training)

03 Oct 2027
(01 Month)
PHASE 3
THE SUMMIT

28 Oct 2027
(02 months)
Mentorship
(on-the-job training)

31 Dec 2027
Graduation Ceremony & Project Closure

Parallel tracks

- Technical skills
- Soft skills
- Mentorship (on-the-job training)
- Professional Certification Preparation
- Capstone Project running across phases



Selection Criteria

Who is eligible?

- Nationality: Saudi nationals.
- New Joiners: Recent graduates within the past two years
- Employment status: Non-QOSI registered employees
- Degree: Bachelor's or Master's in Cybersecurity, IT, Computer Science, or related fields.
- Recommended GPA: Minimum 4/3 or 5/3.5.
- Language: Fluent in English (Recommended IELTS 5.5+ or equivalent (approximately STEP 80–75)).
- Certifications: Not mandatory but advantageous (e.g., Security+, CEH, or equivalent).

Key Traits?

- Foundational understanding of financial principles, analytical thinking, communication, and adaptability to technology.
- Alignment with Vision 2030 goals in financial sector localization and innovation.
- The awareness of ESG, fintech trends, or ethical banking.

Prefer candidates with:

- Internships in banks or financial institutions
- Involvement in student organizations, volunteer work, or entrepreneurial activities
- Networking & cybersecurity basics | Analytical thinking | Problem-solving | Communication | Teamwork
- Optional Advantage: Master's degree or dual majors.

Learning Journey

LEGEND: Regular Module | Hands-on Learning | Tools & Labs | Hackathon | OJT & Projects | Certification

THE LAUNCH PAD

Month 01

- Program Launch & Kaplan Orientation
- Foundation of Modern Banking & KSA Banking Ecosystem
- Excel for Banking Professionals
- FinTech and the Transformation in Financial Services
- The Saudi Fintech Landscape, Vision 2030
- Effective Business Communication
- Introduction to RegTech, Saudi Regulatory & Governance Layer
- Introduction to Cloud Computing — AWS Labs
- Design Thinking & Innovation Workshop
- Databases and SQL for Data Science with Python — SQL Labs
- Cyber Risk in Banking & SAMA Cybersecurity Framework
- Time Management and Productivity
- **Full Day Hackathon**

THE DEEP DIVE

Month 02

OJT
On-Job-Training

Mini Projects

Month 03

OJT
On-Job-Training

Mini Projects

Month 04

- IT Fundamentals & Networking — TryHackMe
- Cybersecurity Risk Management, Policies, and Governance — NIST
- Network, Web, App, and Cloud Security — OWASP WebGoat
- Cybersecurity Technologies & Identity and Access Management (IAM) — AWS - IAM Labs
- Third-Party Risk Management (Fintech APIs, KYC vendors)
- **Full Day Hackathon**

CompTIA Security+ & CEH (Certified Ethical Hacker)

Month 05

OJT
On-Job-Training

Mini Projects

Month 06

THE SUMMIT

Month 07

- Penetration Testing and Ethical Hacking — Hack The Box
- Digital Forensics and Incident Handling (DFIR) — ANY.RUN
- Fraud Management Fundamentals: Digital and Cyber Fraud
- Fraud Investigation Techniques, Technologies, and Tools
- Cyber Risk Reporting & Security Policy Writing Lab
- **Full Day Hackathon**

Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) & Applied Cybersecurity Certificate (ACS) - SANS

Month 08

OJT
On-Job-Training

Month 09

Mini Projects

Mentorship & On-the-Job Training

Mentorship Objectives

- Bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world cybersecurity practice.
- Enhance technical, analytical, and professional judgment skills through practical exposure.
- Develop job-ready competencies aligned with cybersecurity, cybersecurity, and risk functions.
- Support participants in applying program knowledge to live business scenarios.

Role of Bank Supervisors / Mentors

- Provide structured guidance and coaching throughout the on-the-job training phases.
- Assign practical tasks aligned with the participant's learning stage and role exposure. Offer continuous feedback on performance, professionalism, and skill development.
- Support participants in completing their Capstone Project and professional growth plan.

Expected Deliverables from Participants

During the mentorship phases, participants are expected to complete the following:

- **Job Shadowing:** Observe and support Cybersecurity Professionals, Cybersecurity Analysts, and SOC, GRC & Cybersecurity Teams in day-to-day activities

  Case Work & Practical Assignments: Participate in supervised analysis of cybersecurity cases, client profiles, and financial statements
- **Mini-Assignments:** Complete short, task-based assignments such as preparing cybersecurity memos, client call summaries, or risk assessments
- **Capstone Project:** Deliver a mentor-guided project demonstrating the application



"Structured on-the-job mentoring aligned with real cybersecurity portfolios and live cybersecurity cases"

Certificats

CompTIA A+ (Core 1 & Core 2)

An entry-level IT certification from CompTIA that validates foundational skills in hardware, operating systems, networking basics, troubleshooting, and security fundamentals. It gives graduates a solid technical base for supporting end users and IT environments in financial institutions. Earned in Phase 2.

USP:The industry's starting point for IT careers. It is vendor-neutral, globally recognised, and proves graduates can keep critical systems running from day one.

ISC2 Certified in Cybersecurity (CC)

An entry-level cybersecurity certification from ISC2, the body behind CISSP. It covers security principles, business continuity and incident response, access controls, network security, and security operations. It confirms that graduates understand core cybersecurity concepts and professional ethics. Earned in Phase

USP:A first credential from the organisation behind CISSP, giving graduates an early foothold on a world-class cybersecurity career path.

CompTIA Network+

A globally recognised networking certification that validates skills in designing, configuring, managing, and troubleshooting wired and wireless networks. It covers network infrastructure, operations, and network security, which are essential for protecting financial sector systems. Earned in Phase 3.

USP:You can't secure what you don't understand. Network+ builds the networking depth that sets strong security professionals apart.

CompTIA Security+

A widely recognised baseline cybersecurity certification that validates the skills needed for core security roles.These include threat and vulnerability management, security architecture, identity and access management, security operations, and governance, risk and compliance. It is a common hiring benchmark for SOC and security analyst roles. Earned in Phase 3.

USP: One of the most requested cybersecurity certifications in job postings worldwide. It signals graduates are ready to step straight into SOC and



Certifications and Tech Stack covered

Certifications

CompTIA A+ Certified
CompTIA Security+
CompTIA Network+
Certified in Cybersecurity
ISC2 Certification

Tech Stack Covered

LOGICGATE
Azure
aws
PRISMA
Google Cloud



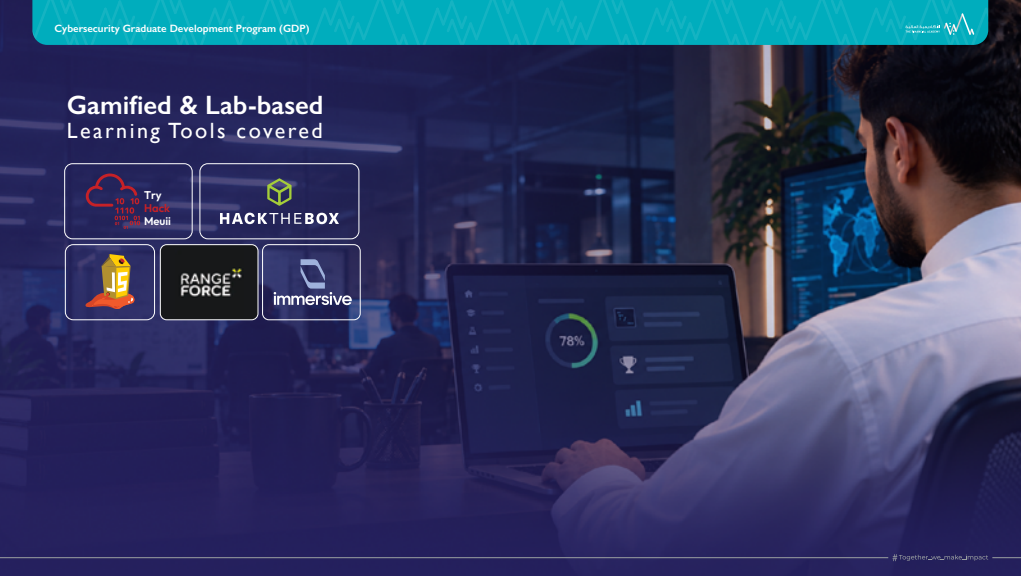
Gamified & Lab-based
Learning Tools covered

Try Hack Me

HACKTHEBOX

RANGE FORCE

immersive



About the Financial Academy

The Financial Academy was established upon a long-standing legacy and extensive expertise in training, professional development, and professional certification. Its services are designed to support all sub-sectors of the financial industry, including banking, finance, insurance, and capital markets, in addition to serving related entities and new graduates aspiring to pursue careers within the financial sector.

The origins of the Financial Academy date back to 1965, when it was founded as the Banking Training Institute, a training division affiliated with the Saudi Central Bank (formerly the Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority – SAMA). The institute was created with the objective of implementing international best practices in professional training and developing the technical and managerial capabilities of professionals working within the banking sector.

Over time, the institute expanded its scope and strengthened its institutional identity. In 1989, it evolved to cover both the banking and finance sectors, operating under the name The Banking Institute.

As the financial industry continued to grow and the insurance sector required specialized professional development, the institute was transformed in 2014 into the Financial Institute, thereby extending its services to include the insurance sector.

In 2019, through a strategic collaboration between the Capital Market Authority (CMA) and the Saudi Central Bank, the Financial Academy was established to deliver comprehensive services across the financial sector, encompassing banking, finance, insurance, and securities markets.

Both the Capital Market Authority and the Saudi Central Bank serve as founding strategic partners of the Financial Academy and contribute to its financial support, in accordance with the cooperation memorandum signed between the two entities. This initiative forms part of the Financial Sector Development Program, one of the flagship programs under Saudi Vision 2030.

In 2020, the Financial Academy gained independent legal and administrative status following the issuance of Council of Ministers Resolution No. (538) dated 14 April 2020, approving the establishment of an academy dedicated to developing and enhancing the capabilities of professionals in the financial sector.

Subsequently, in 2023, the Council of Ministers approved the final governance and organizational framework of the Financial Academy, further strengthening its institutional role in advancing human capital development within the Kingdom's financial sector.



About the Financial Academy

Excellent Work Groups



Training at the Financial Academy gives you the opportunity to join and interact with carefully selected groups of peers who work at different organizations and job levels. This pool of diverse perspectives will enrich your learning experience and expand your professional network within the financial sector.

An Optimal, Have-It-All Learning Environment



The Academy's facilities provide a unique learning environment with high-quality training rooms equipped with cutting-edge technology, spacious shared lounges, dining facilities, and a variety of other amenities. Prayer rooms for both men and women are also available.

Easy-to-Reach Offices



The Financial Academy is easily accessible, being directly connected to King Abdullah Financial District (KAFD) Metro Station via a pedestrian bridge. It is alternatively easy to reach using ride-hailing apps or private cars. Once you get to KAFD, head to Building No. 2.07 through Area 2.

At the Heart of KAFD



Located in KAFD, where many financial sector organizations are based, the Financial Academy enjoys a unique and strategic location. In addition, the area is known as a business and entertainment hub with many cafés and restaurants, making the learning experience more enjoyable thanks to its vibrant surroundings.



Connecting and Learning

Though it comes from within, transformation often requires a catalyst. And for many business leaders, the Financial Academy (FA) professional training programs and development activities have been that catalyst. Here, you're fully immersed in a transformational living-learning experience, networking with gurus from around the world, and engaging in programs led by prominent local and international financial industry experts . It's a holistic experience that will enrich and develop your career - and your life.

ADMISSIONS

We admit candidates to specific sessions on a rolling space available basis, and encourage you to apply as early as possible. Although most programs have no formal educational requirements, admission is a selective process based on your professional achievement and organizational responsibilities.

Contact person

For registration confirmation or any related inquiries, please contact :

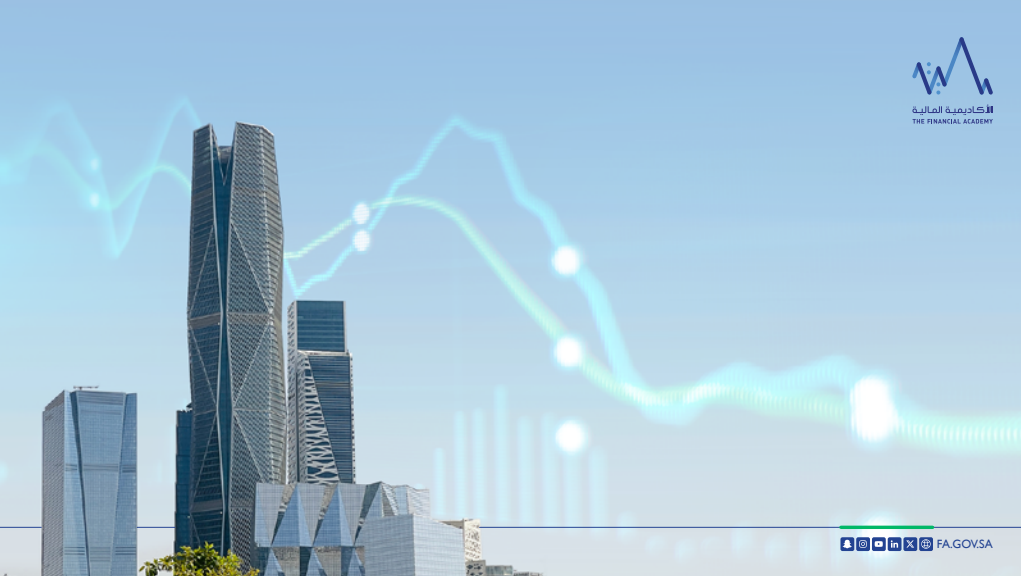
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FOR A PERSONALIZED CONSULTATION

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