

Cyber Security Bootcamp Readiness Checklist

Step 1: Assess Your Goals and Commitment

- ☐ Are you passionate about a career in cyber security?
- ☐ Do you enjoy solving challenges like preventing hacks or analyzing threats?
- ☐ Can you commit to an intensive 12-30 week program? (Full-time = 40-60 hrs/week. Part-time takes longer.)
- ☐ Do you have basic IT or tech skills? (Networking or basic coding helps.)
- ☐ Are your goals aligned with entry-level roles? (Cyber Security Analyst, SOC Analyst: \$80k-\$100k avg. salary)

STEP 2: EVALUATE YOUR BUDGET AND FINANCING

- ☐ Can you afford the tuition? (\$8,000-\$20,000 depending on program)
- ☐ Have you researched funding options? (Grants, loans, ISAs, scholarships - e.g., Upskill Canada)
- ☐ Are you okay with long-term financial commitments like ISAs?

Step 3: Research Bootcamp Quality

- ☐ Does the curriculum reflect 2025 trends? (AI security, cloud security, ethical hacking, etc.)
- ☐ Are instructors industry professionals?
- ☐ Is career support offered? (Resume help, mock interviews, employer access)
- ☐ Have you checked reviews and outcomes? (Use Course Report, SwitchUp, Reddit) -
- ☐ Is it accredited or reputable?

Step 4: Consider Learning Style & Alternatives

- ☐ Do you thrive in structured, fast-paced settings?
- ☐ Have you explored other paths (TryHackMe, Cybrary)? -
- ☐ Have you tested your interest (Hack The Box)?

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Step 5: Plan for Career Success

- ☐ Are you ready to actively network during the program?
- ☐ Will you pursue certifications? (CompTIA Security+, CEH, OSCP - often included in bootcamps) -
- ☐ Do you plan to build a portfolio (GitHub, write-ups, tools)?

HOW TO USE THIS CHECKLIST

- Checked 10+ boxes? You're all set to rock!
- Fewer than 8? Time to plug those knowledge leaks before jumping in.

What's next?

- Chat with alumni & advisors
- Size up cyber security bootcamps
- Use this checklist to fire off some savvy questions

Career Tools

- [Metana Cybersecurity Bootcamp Page](#) – Course outlines, tuition, and financing
- Upskill Canada – Potential bootcamp funding opportunities
- Glassdoor & Indeed – Research cyber security salaries and company reviews
- Course Report – Compare bootcamp reviews and outcomes