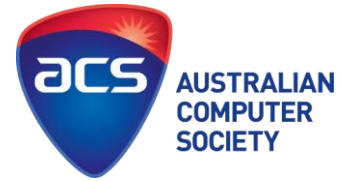


Information sheet: Specialist Accreditation in Cyber Security

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Specialist Accreditation recognizes courses that prepare graduates for specialist roles in Cyber Security.

Background on ACS accreditation:

ACS is the recognised accrediting body for the ICT sector, assuring the continued high quality of education for the ICT profession in Australia. ACS accreditation is awarded to an institution and its programs after a rigorous evaluation of their capacity to produce graduates who have the knowledge and skills required of an ICT professional.

The Accreditation scheme is based in the Australian Qualification Framework (AQF), the Higher Education Standards Framework (HESF), the ACS Core Body of Knowledge for ICT (CBoK), the international Seoul Accord and the Skills Framework for the Information Age (SFIA). The accreditation scheme is aligned with the ACS Certification scheme.

Efficiency reforms in ACS accreditation process:

The ACS has reformed accreditation processes and documents. The new approach maintains the standard but quality criteria are clearer (and aligned with the HESF) and we are much more flexible on forms of evidence. Applications are much shorter with direct information access replacing bespoke reports. An ACS Case Manager can provide guidance.

Specialist Accreditation in Cyber Security:

With growing need for expertise in Cyber Security there have been calls from government and industry for recognition of specialist Cyber Security qualifications and expertise. In 2017 the ACS introduced professional certifications in Cyber Security at the Certified Professional (CP) and Certified Technologist (CT) levels. We now offer specialist accreditation.

The ACS now offers **Specialist Accreditation in Cyber Security** for higher education programs with:

- an identifiable title that distinguishes it from non-specialist programs
- an objective to produce graduates prepared for a specialist Cyber Security job role

The ACS CBoK (Core Body of Knowledge) has been updated for Cyber Security. Programs with **Specialist Accreditation in Cyber Security** will meet the ACS criteria for non-specialist accreditation as well as these specialist criteria:

A program designed for **Professional Specialist Accreditation in Cyber Security** will:

- identify a specific Cyber Security professional role
- address SFIA skills at level 3 specifically required to fulfil the Cyber Security professional role
- contain at least 1 EFTSL (8 subjects) of content drawn from an appropriate Cyber Security body of knowledge compatible with CBoK. This may include Cyber Security related subjects (eg mandatory pre-requisites for Cyber Security subjects).

A program designed for **Advanced Professional Specialist Accreditation in Cyber Security** will:

- identify a specific Cyber Security professional role
- address SFIA skills at level 5 specifically required to fulfil the Cyber Security professional role
- contain at least 1 EFTSL (8 subjects) of content drawn from an appropriate Cyber Security body of knowledge compatible with CBoK. This may include Cyber Security related subjects (eg mandatory pre-requisites for Cyber Security subjects).

The ACS website at <https://www.acs.org.au/cpd-education/accredited-courses.html> will provide recognition and differentiation from non-specialist courses.

Benefits and first step:

With much growth and variance in Cyber Security courses, ACS Specialist Accreditation provides quality assurance and a marketing edge. There is also opportunity for input as ACS continues to refine the system. Cyber Security courses with current ACS accreditation in ICT may simply need a desk audit for Specialist Accreditation. New courses may need a complete accreditation review. Fees may apply but preliminary advice is free. First step is to contact ACS.

For further information, please contact us at accreditation@acs.org.au or +61 (0) 2 9299 3666

For New Accreditation Scheme documents: <https://www.acs.org.au/cpd-education/acs-accreditation-program.html>