

Personal Statement

Ibrahim Saad Almuhaize

Course applied for: BSc in Cyber Security

Thinking about the course that I wanted to study has taken a while. I constantly learn new skills, take up new experiences and engage in various activities. I was born in Manchester, and I lived between Saudi Arabia, Manchester, Lancaster, and Cardiff. I was destined to study in different schools and meet people from all over the world. This helped me to develop a multicultural mindset, and I became more inquisitive about everything around me.

My interest in technology was sparked when I was a child and I have always been a tech-savvy person. I have seen how bulky phones turned into multifunctioning smart ones. I remember I had a conversation with my mother about the evolution of TVs. The picture resolution of the 90s that looked like Minecraft intrigued me! I was then introduced to the concept of “pixels” and how it varies to affect the picture resolution. Joining King Abdulaziz and his Companions Foundation for Giftedness and Creativity (KACFGC) offered me with the opportunity to broaden my experience. Over the period of four years, I learned many life skills, such as discipline, leadership and critical thinking. Alongside these skills, I had the opportunity to experiment with various scientific fields through the programs they offer, including biomedical sciences, computer programming and artificial intelligence. All of which helped me to improve my analytical and evaluative skills. They have also given me an insight into the working environment that I can join after completing my degree.

Programming courses have allowed me to explore the endless possibilities that computer science can bring to the world. I now know most of the basic commands in Java and I am comfortable putting together small pieces of code. The debugging part of programming has helped my mind to become a problem solver. I worked with a team from KACFGC to develop an app for online appointment registration using Android Studio. This process proved my ability in this field and boosted my teamwork morale. I have also learnt how to build PCs for myself, and helped family and friends to do so. This has strengthened my practical ability and knowledge on how operating systems work with different components. With my programming experience, this will be an asset when I go to university.

I understand that computer science is not just about programming and hardware but also about the ethics entailed in the process of design, as well as security and innovative thinking. The online scams that some friends and family members have encountered have brought my attention to the cyber security issues that arise from the use of computers and digitized services. I believe in our rapidly changing society, we need to be fully ready to embrace technology, but also be careful about the issues surrounding it.

Recently, our country announced a bunch of megaprojects, and the fact that computer science has become a fundamental element in the development of a better, smarter future for our generation and many generations to come, inspires me. My objective is to participate in this development process. The Kingdom has launched projects that adopt and implement ultramodern telecommunication systems and ICT technology to bring about digital transformation. Saudi

Arabia has launched several initiatives aimed at making the country one of the most technologically advanced in the world. Therefore, the demand for cyber security professionals has increased. The future-focused enterprises are setting the standard for innovative digital excellence, to deliver high-quality products, solutions, and services supported by the Saudi Data and Artificial Intelligence Authority (SDAIA). The country focuses on developing the technology sector as part of its Vision 2030 initiative, which aims to diversify the economy away from oil dependence and attract high-skilled talents into the kingdom. They will continue to hire people who align with these values, which I desire to have.

I want to study Cyber Security because I want to gain the knowledge needed to participate in shaping the future of my country. I opine that a new world of opportunities will be open to me. I am confident that my enthusiasm and determination will be valuable assets throughout my journey to graduation at your university. I want to be able to find solutions with the use of efficient computer technology. The knowledge and skills that I will gain from this course will help me turn my creative ideas into reality and make the world a better safer place for everyone.