



# ACE-CSE NEWSLETTER

Q4 2024

## CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

### October marked Cyber Awareness Month!

In today's digital world, staying safe online is more important than ever—whether you're a student, academic, or young professional, you have a role to play in protecting your personal data and devices.

We've been running a social media awareness campaign with tips for staying safe online with the key message: **Cyber Security is Everyone's Responsibility.**

## WELCOME

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the QUB ACE-CSE newsletter! We're thrilled to bring you the latest news, insights, training opportunities, and events from our Academic Centre of Excellence in Cyber Security Education (ACE-CSE) initiatives. Together, we're advancing Queen's University's cyber security strategy by fostering a culture of cyber awareness and enhancing cyber security knowledge across educational pathways, institutional operations, and the broader community!



**>600 STUDENTS  
COMPLETED THE  
EXCITE  
EXPERIENCES**

Following on from the launch of the EXCITE immersive cyber security experiences student training in Autumn 2023, for 2024 we rolled out a web-browser based version of the immersive experiences. Over 600 students have tried the experiences with over 260 students completing the training.

**25 STUDENTS  
TAKING ISC2  
ENTRY-LEVEL  
CYBER SECURITY  
TRAINING**

We teamed up with an industry expert to offer students a short course on the fundamentals of cyber security, from understanding common threats to learning practical defense techniques. Students completing the training can apply for the ISC2 Certified in Cyber Security certificate.

**1044  
PARTICIPANTS IN  
GOLDEN PHISH  
COMPETITION**

Running for the third time, the Golden Phish Competition was entered by 1044 staff demonstrating their skills in spotting a phishing email. The star prize of an iPad was awarded to one randomly selected participant.



## == GOLD ==

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) awarded Queen's gold recognition from its ACE-CSE programme after demonstrating that it is delivering first-rate cyber security education on campus and promoting cyber skills in its community.

You can read more on [QUB News Website](#).

### CYBER FIRST SCHOOLS VISITS



We hosted 3 visits with almost 100 Year 13 and 14 pupils with their teachers from Strathearn School, Dromore High School, Belfast Boys Model School and Foyle College.

The pupils were given a tour of the Computer Science Building and talks on Cyber Security, Artificial Intelligence and careers with Engineering and Computer Science.

Feedback from the Schools has been very positive with another 3 visits planned before the end of 2024.

### CYBER SECURITY ESCAPE ROOM



The Digital and Information Services directorate ran two sessions of the **Cyber Security Escape Room Challenge** by the PSNI with 40 staff testing their problem-solving and cyber security knowledge in a race against the clock.

### AHSS VR ROADSHOWS



Coordinated by the ACE-CSE School liaisons, the **Faculty of AHSS held two roadshows** to offer students the opportunity to try out the full virtual reality experience of the EXCITE cyber security training. Over two days, students from Law, HAPP, AEL, Social Sciences and Biological Sciences trialled the VR version.



### 15 YEARS OF CSIT

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, The Rt Hon Hilary Benn, opened CSIT's Cyber Security Summit highlighting its importance on the global cyber security stage. This event celebrated 15 years of Research, Innovation and Education in Cyber Security at Queen's.



### BSIDES BELFAST

3 Cyber Security PhD students presented their work at BSides Belfast. CSIT sponsored the event and were available to chat to attendees about the various cyber security courses available at QUB.



### STUDENT SECURITY HACK 2024

A team of five students from Queen's Cyber Security Society (QSEC) represented QUB at the Microsoft Ireland Security Hack in Dublin. They had the opportunity to develop data analysis techniques and threat-hunting skills.



### QSEC HOSTED SIMON WHITTAKER

QSEC hosted Simon Whittaker, Co-Founder and CEO of Vertical Structure, for an inspirational talk about joining the cyber security industry and the importance of cyber awareness with regards to the Computer Misuse Act and how to be careful with it.