**Course Summary**

The BSc (Hons) Digital & Technology Solutions (Network Engineering) degree programme at the University of Suffolk is fully accredited as meeting the standard of the Digital & Solutions Technology Professionals degree apprenticeship. It equips graduates with the knowledge and

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1 For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014)](https://www.qaa.ac.uk/standards-and-quality-framework/levels-of-education).
2 All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](https://www.hefce.ac.uk/policy/credit/).
3 Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](https://www.suffolk.ac.uk/regulations/).
4 Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](https://www.suffolk.ac.uk/admissions/entry-requirements/). Further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the [University’s DBS webpage](https://www.suffolk.ac.uk/dbs/).
5 The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](https://www.suffolk.ac.uk/admissions/entry-requirements/).
University of Suffolk

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

hands on skills required by employers in the IT and telecommunications sectors. They are designed to give students opportunities to acquire the specialist academic knowledge, practical skills and industrial certification that will help secure employment in this competitive economy. Graduates will have achieved core competencies in network engineering, software engineering, data analysis, cyber security, business analysis and project management. In addition, graduates will have achieved the specialist competencies of Network Engineer and Cyber Security Analyst on the Digital & Technology Solutions framework.

Course Aims

• Provide students with a sound knowledge and understanding of network technologies;

• Enable students to be proficient in the design and maintenance of data communication networks;

• Provide students with sound knowledge, understanding and practical skills in advanced networking and communications topics;

• Provide students with comprehensive knowledge and understanding of cyber security for networks, software and systems;

• Enable all apprentices on the Network Pathway to achieve the specialist competency of Network Engineer on the Digital & Technology Solutions framework, and additionally covered the knowledge and skills expected of Cyber Security Analysts;

• Enable all apprentices on the Network Engineering Pathway to successfully achieve their end-point competency as Network Engineers;

• Help students develop competencies in effective interpersonal and business communication, presentation skills, business and project management;

• Help students develop the personal qualities and professional attributes required by employers (these include: reliability, integrity, ethical approach, dependability, team work and reflection);

• Encourage students to understand their own technological responsibilities in the context of the client organisation and its commercial and business operation;

• Develop students’ ability to take responsibility for their own learning and professional development.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BSc (Hons) Digital & Technology Solutions (Network Engineering) course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes,
have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).6

1. Express and employ detailed knowledge and systematic understanding of essential facts, concepts, principles and theories, both established and emergent, relating to cyber security for software, networks, and systems.

2. Express and employ detailed knowledge and systematic understanding of essential facts, concepts, principles and theories, both established and emergent, relating to advanced topics in network engineering.

3. Utilise knowledge and skills relating to cyber security to analyse, develop and deploy ethical “cyber attacks” for essential penetration testing of software, networks and systems, and to analyse, develop and deploy cyber defences in depth to protect software, networks, and systems, using both established and bleeding-edge techniques as appropriate.

4. Utilise knowledge and skills relating to advanced topics in network engineering to analyse, specify, develop and deploy technical solutions to appropriate problems, using both established and bleeding-edge techniques as appropriate.

5. Understand, describe, and comment upon the literature and cutting edge research in cyber security and specific areas of network engineering, and appreciate the associated uncertainties, ambiguities, and limits to knowledge at the forefront of the discipline.

6. Apply methods and techniques learned in cyber security and advanced topics in network engineering to consolidate, extend, and apply knowledge and understanding to extended realistic and real-world projects.

7. Apply detailed knowledge, systematic understanding, and mastered techniques to initiate and execute one major and multiple minor projects in different topic areas.

8. Critically evaluate arguments, concepts, requirements, constraints and data in order to make rational judgements on appropriate algorithms, designs, methods, and configurations leading to the necessary analysis, design, implementation, and/or testing of a solution or identification of a class of solutions to significant problems.

9. Present ideas, information, analyses, designs, implementations, tests and results relating to cyber security, or network engineering, critically, comprehensibly and succinctly to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.

10. Deploy appropriate established and/or cutting edge theory, practices and tools for the successful attack and defence of software, networks and systems.

11. Recognise the legal, ethical and professional issues in all aspects of cyber security,

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6 As set out in the QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014)
and be able to exercise initiative and personal responsibility in cyber security.

12. Research, design, implement, test, utilise and document network solutions to address specific problems, using their knowledge, understanding and technical skills in network engineering.

13. Develop an understanding of a specialist subject or problem area to a level where they can effectively evaluate it, analyse possible solutions, design an appropriate solution and bring that solution to a successful conclusion in a defined time-frame, showing by doing so their capabilities and readiness for lifelong learning and professional training.

14. Evidence the qualities and transferable skills necessary for graduate-level employment requiring the exercising of initiative, personal responsibility, and decision making, through working individually and in groups on mini-projects, extended case studies and scenarios, and their major project.

Course Design
The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks and Apprenticeship Standards:

- QAA Subject Benchmark in Computing (2016)
- Digital & Technology Solutions Professional apprenticeship standard (version 2.1, 2016)

Course Structure
The BSc (Hons) Digital & Technology Solutions (Network Engineering) comprises modules at levels 4, 5 and 6.

Module Specifications for each of these modules are included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Module Type</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 4</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Platforms</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>R</td>
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<tr>
<td>Networking Overview</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>R</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal &amp; Professional Development</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delivering Network Capability</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations of Management</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>R</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Level 5</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Routing Technologies</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>R</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction to Relational Databases</td>
<td>20</td>
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7 Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards.
Awards
On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BSc (Hons) Digital & Technology Solutions (Network Engineering). Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a DipHE Digital & Technology Solutions (Network Engineering) on successful completion of 240 credits including the mandatory module at level 5, or a CertHE Digital & Technology Solutions (Network Engineering) on successful completion of 120 credits.

Course Delivery, Assessment and COVID-19
Our guiding principles for delivery during the 2020-21 academic year will be based around a rich blended learning environment, which will include some online delivery of lectures as well as face to face delivery of seminars, lab work and tutorials as applicable. Where possible assessment will be undertaken as planned and where this is not possible, e.g. on-site examinations, an equivalent assessment will be made available to students. We do not intend to have a fully online academic year for any of our students.

Our campus will be safe and welcoming for new and returning students, but we will observe – as all universities must – the government guidance in place at the time and so the delivery and assessment statements below are under continuous review as circumstances change.

Course Delivery
The course is delivered at Ipswich. Students studying full-time on BSc (Hons) Digital & Technology Solutions (Network Engineering) are likely to have approximately 220 contact hours for level 4, 224 contact hours for level 5 and 195 contact hours for level 6. The contact hours will be a mix of lectures, practicals, seminars and workshops according to the nature of the module. As students will be apprentices, they will also be in full-time work-based employment and training with their employer when not at university. Students will normally be expected to undertake at least 6 hours per module of independent study in an average week, but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment
A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to
assess each module’s intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will be mostly coursework (including assignments, dissertations, essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals and research projects), and four examinations and practical time-constrained assessments.

End Point Assessment
All students on the course undertake an End Point Assessment (EPA) to complete their Digital & Technology Solutions Professional apprenticeship students will be expected to undertake the EPA as part of their degree. The EPA will be delivered by the University. The EPA will be 100% coursework (including project, dissertation and presentation. Following successful completion of the EPA students will achieve their Digital & Technology Solutions Professional (Network Engineer) apprenticeship and BSc (Hons) Digital & Technology Solutions (Network Engineering) degree.

Special Features
The BSc (Hons) Digital Technology Solutions (Network Engineering) [degree apprenticeship] meets the requirements of the Digital and Technology Solutions Professional (integrated degree) apprenticeship standard and is accredited as Tech Industry Gold by Tech Partnership Degrees, the digital sector’s industry accreditation body.

Course Team
The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists, active researchers and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute.

Course Costs
Students undertaking BSc (Hons) Digital & Technology Solutions (Network Engineering) will not be charged tuition fees directly. Tuition fees will be agreed between the University and a student's employer. Students will be required to sign a commitment statement before starting their apprenticeship which will detail the student's, employer's and University's expectations under the apprenticeship agreement.

Students may choose to enrol onto certification exams – details of the costs of these will be advised when available. Taking certification exams is not a mandatory part of the degree.

Academic Framework and Regulations
This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the website.