

Cyber Careers

Security Pathways

Social Engineer

The Work?

Social engineering is form of cyber attack where you use human interaction to break into computer systems. Essentially, you're trying to tick people into letting you access their computer, and this can be done by using techniques from sending phishing emails to disguising yourself as a cleaner so you can infiltrate a building.

Skills and Interests

- Good analytical skills
- Good Hardware knowledge
- well organised
- Ability to work under pressure

Entry

Social engineering is one career where qualifications do not normally help you. There are no formal degrees in this subject.

A lot of companies look for experience. But there are certifications such as the Offensive Security's certifications (OSCP / OSCE) and the Certified Information Security Systems Professional (CISSP).

The mantra is generally: Jack-of-all-trades, master of a couple.

Employers look for people who have a fairly broad generalist experience, but have taken an interest in deeply diving into one or two.

They also look for mentality; can the candidate think like a bad guy? Is security your job, or a passion? What does your home network look like? And very importantly, does the candidate have the ability to communicate clearly, concisely, and professionally.

Wages

generally between £70,000 - £100,000 per year

What they say:

It's not a job for everyone you need to be very attuned to people and how they react, and be prepared to dig through rubbish bins on occasion – but it is great fun. My son think's I'm a female James Bond!



Julie, Social Engineer