

Caroline Smith

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Passionate and dedicated MSc Information Technology student at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, with a strong focus on cybersecurity. Actively engaged in hacking challenges and author of a blog on security and IT topics. Enthusiastic about collaborating with others and solving complex puzzles and problems. Eager to bring my analytical skills and tenacity to an enterprise IT environment post-graduation.

Education:

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology – MSc Information Technology; **CGPA 3.54** 2024-2025

- Notable Subjects: Independent Project on cryptographically secure financial data analysis (Python and Rust, in collaboration with HSBC), Principles of Cybersecurity, Engineering Reliable Software Systems (Java)

King's College London – BSc Hons Computer Science, **First Class Honours** 2021-2024

- Notable Subjects: Security Testing (PHP and JavaScript, Graduate Level; top score in the cohort), Security Engineering (C language, Graduate Level; 90th+ percentile score), dissertation on designing a machine learning methodology to detect and explain network attacks (Python, PySpark, SHAP; 90th+ percentile score)

Experience:

Cybersecurity and IT Intern, Nippon Life Benefits (New York City, USA) 05/2024-07/2024

- Significantly streamlined the process of ensuring compliance with NIST CSF 2.0 and New York regulations by revamping critical IT documents including a company-wide Disaster Recovery Plan
- Proactively volunteered for daily helpdesk/technical troubleshooting tasks to reduce the workload of my colleagues and improve my IT problem-solving skills (Microsoft 365, Windows)

King's Undergraduate Research Fellow 07/2023-10/2023

- 1 of 2 students selected to develop a novel tech-based learning approach for detecting vulnerabilities in C programs for the Security Engineering module at King's; initial internship period extended by 3 months
- Created a case study for a new assignment which would integrate my novel approach for learning defensive software security, which was later implemented into a module assignment completed by 100+ students annually

Extracurriculars:

Self-Taught Cybersecurity Knowledge

- Since 02/2024: Created my own blog discussing current cybersecurity and IT concepts, including recent breaches and hacking (Capture the Flag) tutorials
- 07/2023: Attained a CompTIA Network+ certification, demonstrating theoretical and practical knowledge in computer network implementations, operations, security, and troubleshooting

Treasurer/Society Co-Lead, Women in Computer Science Society at King's College London 2023-2024

- After 1 year as Vice President, elected by society members to fulfil responsibilities such as sourcing funding, coordinating panel events with 10+ speakers, and leading an 8-person committee and a society of 100+ members
- Honoured as a finalist for Most Improved Society at the 2023 King's College London Student Union Awards

Awards and Competitions:

- 2024: HK\$10,000 Entrance Scholarship from HKUST
- 2024: King's College London Gold Crown Award: awarded to select society committee members after 3 consecutive years of concrete individual contributions to a society
- 2023: King's Experience Research Award: awarded to research fellows who have created concrete research output
- 2022: Google Solution Challenge (3-month international hackathon, JavaScript): awarded First Place in United Kingdom and Top 50 Global Finalist out of over 800 teams worldwide

Skills:

Technical Skills: Python, Bash, Java, SQL, Git, GitHub, PySpark, Windows, MS Office, macOS, LaTeX

Languages: English (native), German (B1)