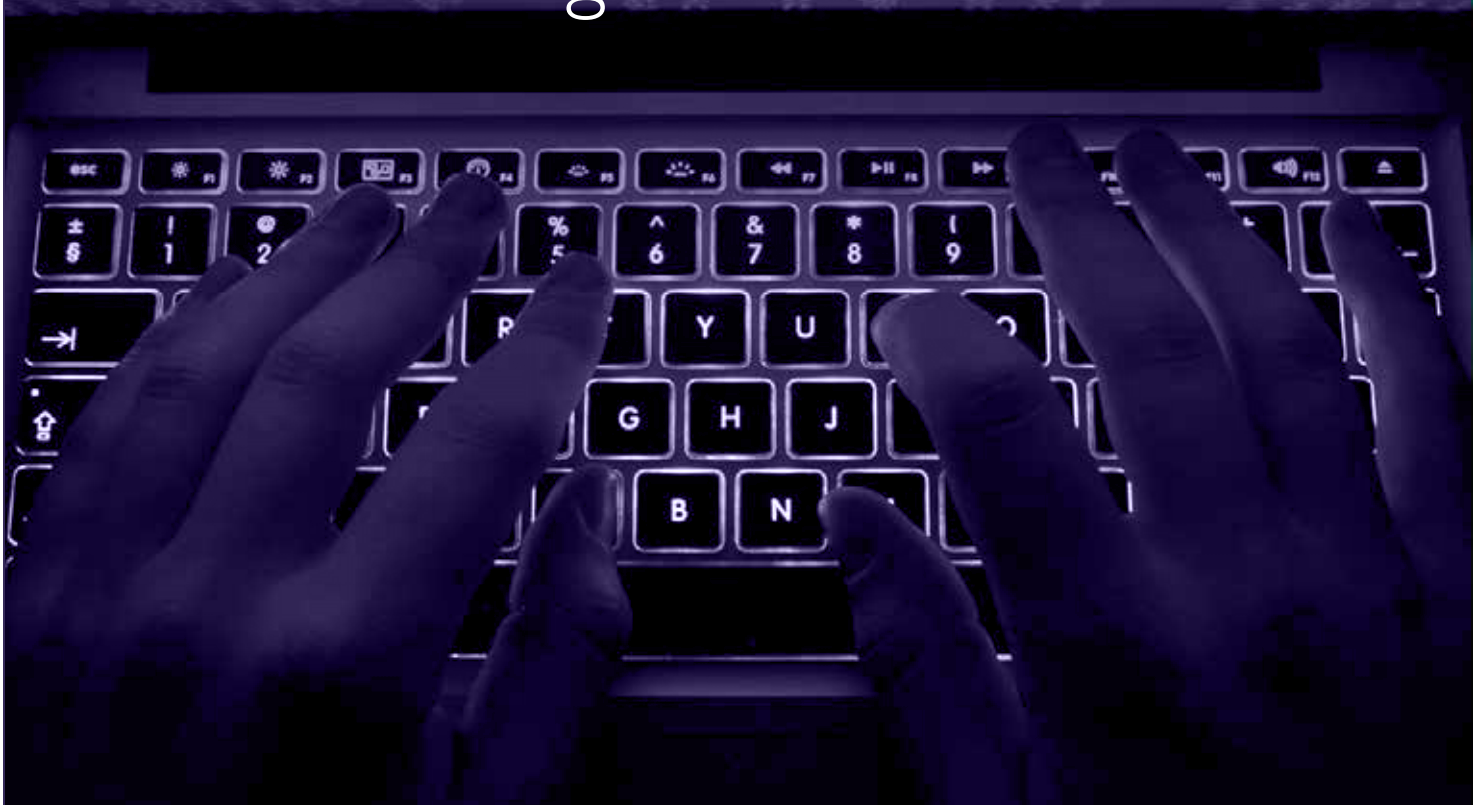
Open Source Intelligence and Investigation Course



Including a Level 3 Certificate in Internet Research and Investigation

The effective and legal use of internet based resources for research and investigation is becomingly increasingly important to operational success across all sectors. Internet and social media usage is revolutionising the way in which we think about gathering information, produce intelligence and generate leads for evidence collection. This qualification enables learners to both understand and apply processes to maximise the efficient and effective use of a range of freely available internet based resources. This is the UKs first OFQUAL recognised qualification within this discipline and sets a nationally recognised standard for internet research and investigation.

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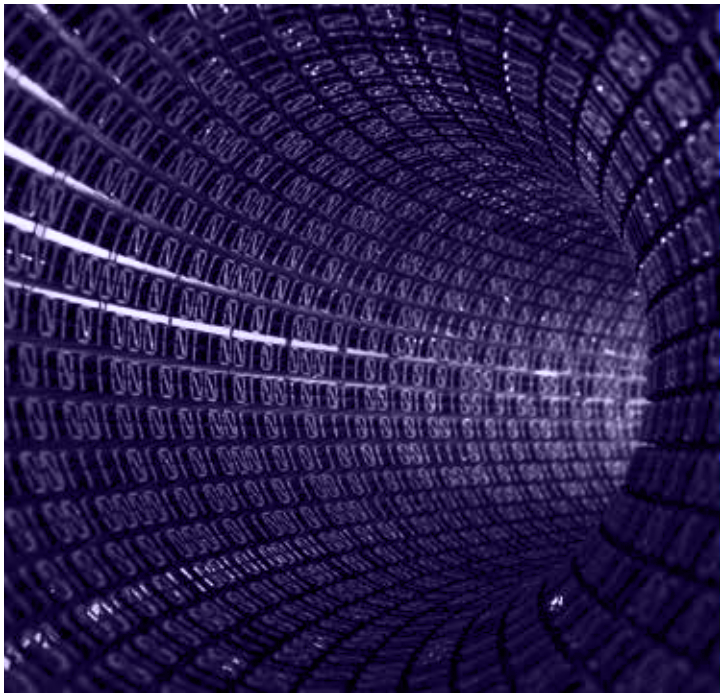

Who is the qualification suitable for?

This qualification in internet research and investigation is suitable for anyone working within a research or investigative role, who primarily uses the internet and world-wide web as their primary source of information. Any sector whose primary source of information is gained from the world-wide web would gain huge benefit from this course and associated qualification, such as:

- Military
- Law Enforcement
- Insurance
- Fraud
- Marketing
- Research and Development
- Finance

What will this qualification give me?

- An underpinning understanding of how the wider internet functions and can be effectively exploited for research and investigative purposes.
- Knowledge of non-conventional search engines and techniques to improve efficiency and data ranges.
- The ability to exploit a wide range of information, to include social media, online images and geo-locational information.
- Confidence to work within the boundaries of current legislation and guidelines.
- The ability to reduce digital footprint and conduct internet research and investigation in a safe and professional manner.
- A UK approved, OFQUAL regulated qualification as proof of your knowledge and skill set.

Delivery Model

The programme will include the OFQUAL approved qualification - ProQual Level 3 Certificate in Internet Research and Investigation (601/8071/7)

Each course will focus on areas that better suit the client, however fundamental knowledge and practical elements will need to be completed to ensure qualification standards are met.

Cohort size: 12-20 delivered upon the organisation's site.

Delivery of the Internet Research and Investigation Qualification is over three days. Knowledge delivery and learner led practical application is included throughout the training period. A combination of facilitated practical exercises during the three day workshop and completion of three short online question papers post workshop will allow for achievement of the qualification.

Content

This programme equips analysts, investigators and internet users with comprehensive knowledge and research skills that can be employed when using online resources throughout a range of activities across multiple sectors.

Modules

Module 1 - What is Open Source Intelligence

- Types of Open Source channels
- Relevancy of open source data to investigators
- Surface web V dark net
- The Intelligence cycle
- The role of OSINT in international letters of request/MLATs
- Establishing that up to 90% of all intelligence can be derived from OSINT

Module 2 - Footprints and Digital Shadows

- How digital shadows/footprints can inadvertently be left
- The impact of leaving online traces during investigations
- Identification of risks to individuals/operations/organisations
- How to mitigate leaving digital shadows

Module 3 - Search Engines

- Web browsers
- Browser plugins, add on's, and extensions
- Single source search engines
- Search syntax
- Boolean operators
- Meta search engines
- People Search engines

Module 4 - Social Media

- Social media as an investigatory tool
- Extracting information from:
- Facebook
- Twitter
- VK
- LinkedIn

Module 5 - Public Records

- Companies house
- Land registry
- Criminal records
- Due diligence resources
- Marine traffic
- Air traffic
- Address and telephone look ups

Module 6 - Email Headers and IP addresses

Email Headers and IP addresses

- Understanding emails headers
- Identification of IPs from email headers
- IP whois
- Website whois
- Websites as an investigatory tool

Module 7 - Mapping

- Mapping tools
- Using mapping tools during investigation
- Mapping tools as a planning aid

Module 8 - Photos

- Researching/acquiring photos
- Reverse photo look up
- Extracting photo exif (Exchangeable Image File) data
- Understanding exif (Exchangeable Image File) data

Module 9 - Recording your work

- International best practice
- Tools to assist in record keeping
- Evidential standards

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