

◆ Introduction (2 minutes)

My name is Rajendra Shrestha. I was born on 6th August 2000, and I am from Mangaun, Shailung-8, Dolakha, Nepal. Currently, I am living in Kathmandu for my studies. My passport number is PA4998927.

Talking about my education, I completed my SEE from Sharada MA VI Shailungeshwor with a GPA of 2.65. After that, I moved to Kathmandu and completed my +2 from Nepal Yubak Secondary School, Paknajol, with a GPA of 2.61. Then I continued my higher education and completed my Bachelor's degree from White Field International College with a GPA of 3.17.

During my bachelor's study, I developed interest in IT, especially in areas like networking and system security. I learned basic technical skills and also improved my problem-solving ability.

I do not have formal job experience yet, but I am very motivated to build my career in the IT and cybersecurity field.

◆ Why UK? (2 minutes)

I chose the UK because it is one of the best destinations for higher education. UK universities are known for their high-quality teaching, practical learning, and globally recognized degrees.

One of the main reasons is that the UK offers one-year master's programs. This helps me save time and also reduces the total cost compared to other countries.

Another reason is that the UK focuses more on practical knowledge, not just theory. In cybersecurity, practical skills are very important, and UK universities provide modern labs and real-world learning.

Also, the UK has a diverse environment where students from different countries study together. This will help me improve my communication skills and gain international exposure.

◆ Why this course? (2 minutes)

I chose MSc Cyber Security Engineering because cybersecurity is a very important and growing field. Nowadays, many companies and organizations face cyber threats, data breaches, and hacking issues.

During my bachelor's study, I got basic knowledge of IT systems and networks. This made me interested in learning how to protect systems and data from cyber attacks.

This course will help me gain detailed knowledge in areas like network security, ethical hacking, cryptography, and system protection. These skills are very important for becoming a cybersecurity professional.

I believe this course matches my academic background and my future career goals. After completing this course, I will have both theoretical and practical knowledge to work in the cybersecurity field.

◆ **Course Modules (Explain slowly)**

The MSc Cyber Security Engineering course includes important modules such as:

- Cyber Security Fundamentals – basic concepts of security
- Network Security – protecting networks from attacks
- Ethical Hacking – learning how hackers work and how to prevent attacks
- Cryptography – securing data using encryption
- Secure Systems Engineering – building secure systems
- Digital Forensics – investigating cyber crimes
- Risk Management and Governance – managing security risks
- Research Project / Dissertation – independent research work

These modules will help me build strong knowledge and practical skills in cybersecurity.

◆ **Career Prospects**

After this course, I can work as:

- Cyber Security Analyst
- Network Security Engineer
- Ethical Hacker
- IT Security Officer
- Cyber Security Consultant

In Nepal, the expected salary can be around NPR 8 to 15 lakhs per year depending on experience and company.

◆ **IHS vs NHS**

IHS stands for Immigration Health Surcharge. It is a fee that international students pay during the visa process.

NHS stands for National Health Service. It is the healthcare system in the UK where students can get medical services.

◆ **University Location**

The University of East London is located in London, United Kingdom. The main campus for my course is Docklands Campus in East London.

◆ **Routes to University**

I can travel to the university using public transport such as:

- DLR (Docklands Light Railway)
- Bus services
- Underground trains

Transport in London is very well managed and easy to use.

◆ **Part-time Job**

No, I will not focus on part-time work. My main goal is to focus fully on my studies and complete my course successfully.

◆ **PSW**

No, I do not plan to apply for PSW. After completing my studies, I will return to Nepal and build my career there.

◆ **Accommodation Plan**

I have not booked my accommodation yet. However, I have researched online platforms like Amber Student.

I plan to stay near my university for convenience and will book my accommodation after receiving my visa.

◆ **Work Limit (UKVI)**

Yes, I know that international students can work up to 20 hours per week during term time and full-time during holidays.

◆ UKVI Rules

- I must attend all classes regularly
- I must not work more than 20 hours per week
- I cannot access public funds
- I must follow all visa rules and regulations
- I must focus on my studies

◆ PSW Knowledge

Yes, PSW allows students to stay in the UK for 2 years after completing their studies to work. But I do not plan to use this option because I want to return to Nepal.

◆ Future after study (2 minutes)

After completing my MSc in Cyber Security Engineering from the University of East London, I plan to return to Nepal and start my career in the cybersecurity field.

In the beginning, I want to work in well-known IT companies and organizations in Nepal where cybersecurity is very important. Some of the companies I am interested in are Deerwalk Inc., F1Soft International, and Leapfrog Technology. These companies work with large systems and sensitive data, so cybersecurity plays a very important role in their operations.

I am also interested in working in banks and financial institutions such as Global IME Bank and NIC Asia Bank, where protecting customer data and financial transactions is very important.

In these organizations, I want to work as a cybersecurity analyst or network security engineer, where I can apply my knowledge to protect systems, prevent cyber attacks, and manage security risks.

After gaining a few years of experience and improving my skills, I have a long-term plan to start my own cybersecurity consultancy company in Nepal. Through this, I want to help businesses and organizations improve their security systems and protect their data.

In terms of salary, as a beginner in Nepal, I expect to earn around NPR 8 to 12 lakhs per year, and with experience, it can increase further.

My main goal is to build my career in Nepal and contribute to the development of the cybersecurity sector in my country.

◆ Accommodation Cost According to UKVI (Yearly)

According to UKVI rules, international students studying in London need to show living expenses of **£1,334 per month** for up to 9 months.

So, if we calculate yearly living cost:

$£1,334 \times 9 \text{ months} = \text{£12,006 per year}$

This amount includes accommodation, food, transport, and other daily expenses.

Since my university, the University of East London, is located in London, I am required to show this amount as my living cost.

In reality, accommodation costs can vary depending on the type of housing. On average, accommodation in London can cost between £700 to £1200 per month.

I have already planned my finances accordingly. My parents have sufficient savings, and along with that, I have also taken an education loan to cover my accommodation and living expenses.

So, I am financially prepared to manage my yearly living cost as per UKVI requirements.

◆ Funding (2 minutes – speak confidently)

My studies will be fully funded by my parents. They are financially stable and have strong income sources from both agriculture and business.

Firstly, my family is involved in agriculture in our hometown, where we grow crops and manage agricultural land. This provides us with a regular source of income every year.

In addition to agriculture, my parents are also involved in a small business, which gives us an additional and stable income. Because of these two income sources, our financial condition is strong and stable.

We have total savings of around NPR 60 lakhs, which we have saved over time from our agriculture and business income. These savings are sufficient to cover my tuition fees and living expenses in the UK.

Moreover, just for additional financial support and security, I have also taken an education loan from Kumari Bank, Kumaripati branch, mainly to cover my accommodation and extra expenses.

My parents' combined annual income from agriculture and business is sufficient to support my studies without any financial difficulty.

So overall, with our savings, regular income, and education loan, I am fully prepared financially to support my studies in the UK.

◆ **Why not USA/Australia? (2–3 minutes)**

Before choosing the UK, I carefully compared it with countries like the USA and Australia, because both are also popular study destinations.

Starting with the USA, it has very good universities, but there are some disadvantages for me. The tuition fees in the USA are quite high, and the living cost is also expensive. Most master's programs in the USA take around 2 years to complete, which means higher total cost and longer time away from home. Also, the visa process and requirements can be more complex and uncertain.

When I looked at Australia, I found that it also offers good education, but the overall cost is high. Tuition fees and living expenses are expensive, especially in major cities. In addition, most master's programs in Australia take around 1.5 to 2 years, which again increases the total cost.

Now comparing this with the UK, I found the UK to be more suitable for me. The UK offers a one-year master's program, which helps me save both time and money. The tuition fees are comparatively lower than the USA, and the shorter duration reduces my overall expenses.

Another important point is that UK universities focus more on practical and industry-relevant skills, especially in a field like cybersecurity. This is very important for my career.

Also, the UK has a strong global reputation for education, and the degree is widely recognized. The teaching method is more focused and intensive, which helps students gain knowledge in a shorter time.

So, after comparing cost, course duration, quality of education, and career benefits, I found the UK to be the best option for me compared to the USA and Australia.

◆ **Why not Nepal? (2 minutes)**

Nepal is developing in the IT sector, but when it comes to advanced and specialized education in cybersecurity, there are still many limitations.

Firstly, most universities in Nepal do not offer highly specialized courses like MSc Cyber Security Engineering. The available programs are more general IT courses and do not focus deeply on cybersecurity topics such as ethical hacking, digital forensics, and advanced network security.

Secondly, the education system in Nepal is more theoretical. Students learn concepts, but there is less focus on practical skills. In a field like cybersecurity, practical experience is very important

because we need to work with real systems, tools, and real-life scenarios. In Nepal, access to advanced labs, updated software, and modern technologies is limited.

Another important reason is that the course content in Nepal is not updated as frequently as in international universities. Cybersecurity is a fast-changing field, and we need to learn the latest tools and techniques. UK universities regularly update their courses according to industry needs.

Also, Nepal has limited exposure to international standards and global practices. By studying in the UK, I will get international exposure, learn from experienced faculty, and interact with students from different countries. This will help me grow both academically and personally.

So, due to limited specialized courses, less practical exposure, and lack of updated resources in Nepal, I decided to study in the UK. After completing my studies, I plan to return to Nepal and use my knowledge to contribute to the cybersecurity field in my country.