brown hat academy

Learning Schedule

2026 Intake - Starting March 2026

Practical cybersecurity training from first principles
to professional certification.

Programme Overview

Start Date:	Monday, 2 March 2026
Duration:	Approximately 10 months (41 teaching weeks + assessments)
Schedule:	Monday to Thursday evenings, 17:00 - 20:00
Live Sessions:	Tuesday & Thursday (2 sessions per week)
Levels:	6 levels (Bridge through Advanced & Leadership)
Certifications:	CompTIA A+/Net+/Sec+/CySA+, ISC2 CC/SSCP, CISSP, CISM

Weekly Session Structure

Day	Time	Activity	Type
Monday	17:00 - 20:00	Self-paced study + Lab work	**Study & Labs**
Tuesday	17:00 - 20:00	Live instructor-led session	**Live Session**
Wednesday	17:00 - 20:00	Self-paced study + Lab work	**Study & Labs**
Thursday	17:00 - 20:00	Live instructor-led session	**Live Session**

| Friday - Sunday | -- | Rest / optional revision | Off |

Curriculum Overview

Level 0: Bridge -Digital Readiness

Code: BH-BRIDGE

Duration: 1 teaching weeks + 0 assessment week(s)

Certifications: None (Preparatory)

Modules:

- Computer Fundamentals & Digital Literacy
- Basic Networking Concepts
- Introduction to Operating Systems
- Professional Communication & Study Skills

Note: Optional for learners with no prior IT experience

Level 1: Foundations -IT & Cyber Foundations

Code: BH-FOUND-1 / BH-FOUND-2

Duration: 6 teaching weeks + 2 assessment week(s)

Certifications: CompTIA A+, CompTIA Network+

Modules:

- Introduction to Cybersecurity
- Hardware and Mobile Devices
- Networking Fundamentals (TCP/IP, OSI)
- Security Concepts and Best Practices
- Advanced Networking & Protocols
- Operating System Administration

Note: Quizzes per lesson aligned to A+ and Network+ domains

Level 2: Core -Core Cyber Foundations

Code: BH-CYBER-2

Duration: 8 teaching weeks + 2 assessment week(s)

Certifications: CompTIA Security+ (SY0-701), ISC2 CC

Modules:

- General Security Concepts
- Identity and Access Management
- Cryptography in Practice
- Threats and Vulnerabilities
- Vulnerability Assessment & Response
- Security Architecture & Resilience
- Monitoring & Security Operations (SIEM)
- Security Policies & Compliance

Note: Core security knowledge -prepares for Security+ exam

Level 3: Practitioner -Choose Your Track

Code: BH-OPS-2 / BH-GRC-2

Duration: 8 teaching weeks + 3 assessment week(s)

Certifications: CompTIA CySA+ (CS0-003), ISC2 SSCP

Includes practical exercises and hands-on labs

Modules:

- Track A: Security Ops & Vulnerability Mgmt
- Track A: Incident Response & Recovery
- Track B: GRC Foundations & Risk Management
- Track B: Policy, Control Frameworks & Audit

Note: Choose Cyber Operations or GRC track. 4 practical exercises per track.

Level 4: Specialisation -Deep Expertise

Code: BH-SPEC-*

Duration: 10 teaching weeks + 3 assessment week(s)

Certifications: CySA+, CISSP, AWS Security, SC-200, CRISC

Includes practical exercises and hands-on labs

Modules:

- SOC & Incident Response (CySA+ advanced)
- Identity & Access Management (CISSP IAM)
- Cloud Security (AWS/Azure/SC-200)
- Advanced GRC & Risk (CRISC)

Note: Choose one specialisation. 4 practicals with scenario-based assessment.

Level 5: Advanced & Leadership

Code: BH-ADV

Duration: 8 teaching weeks + 4 assessment week(s)

Certifications: CISSP, CISM, TOGAF

Includes practical exercises and hands-on labs

Modules:

- Security & Risk Management (CISSP Domain 1)
- Security Program Development (CISM)
- Security Architecture & Engineering
- Leadership, Communication & Strategy

Note: Capstone project + portfolio. Assessment period includes project review.

Week-by-Week Schedule

Sessions run Monday to Thursday, 17:00 - 20:00. Live sessions on Tuesday & Thursday.

Public holidays are marked with (*). No sessions on public holidays or weekends.

#	Dates	Level	Course	Phase
1	02 Mar - 05 Mar	**Level 0**	Bridge -Digital Readiness	Teaching Week 1/1
2	09 Mar - 15 Mar		*Break & Catch-up Week*	*Self-study / revision / rest*
3	16 Mar - 19 Mar	**Level 1**	Foundations -IT & Cyber Foundations	Teaching Week 1/6
4	23 Mar - 26 Mar	Level 1	Foundations -IT & Cyber Foundations	Teaching Week 2/6
5	30 Mar - 02 Apr	Level 1	Foundations -IT & Cyber Foundations	Teaching Week 3/6
6	06 Apr - 09 Apr *	Level 1	Foundations -IT & Cyber Foundations	Teaching Week 4/6
	* Public Holiday: Family Day -session rescheduled or self-study			
7	13 Apr - 16 Apr	Level 1	Foundations -IT & Cyber Foundations	Teaching Week 5/6
8	20 Apr - 23 Apr	Level 1	Foundations -IT & Cyber Foundations	Teaching Week 6/6
9	27 Apr - 30 Apr *	Level 1	Foundations -IT & Cyber Foundations	**Assessment Week 1/2**
	* Public Holiday: Freedom Day -session rescheduled or self-study			
10	04 May - 07 May	Level 1	Foundations -IT & Cyber Foundations	**Assessment Week 2/2**
11	11 May - 17 May		*Break & Catch-up Week*	*Self-study / revision / rest*
12	18 May - 21 May	**Level 2**	Core -Core Cyber Foundations	Teaching Week 1/8
13	25 May - 28 May	Level 2	Core -Core Cyber Foundations	Teaching Week 2/8
14	01 Jun - 04 Jun	Level 2	Core -Core Cyber Foundations	Teaching Week 3/8
15	08 Jun - 11 Jun	Level 2	Core -Core Cyber Foundations	Teaching Week 4/8
16	15 Jun - 18 Jun *	Level 2	Core -Core Cyber Foundations	Teaching Week 5/8
	* Public Holiday: Youth Day -session rescheduled or self-study			
17	22 Jun - 25 Jun	Level 2	Core -Core Cyber Foundations	Teaching Week 6/8
18	29 Jun - 02 Jul	Level 2	Core -Core Cyber Foundations	Teaching Week 7/8
19	06 Jul - 09 Jul	Level 2	Core -Core Cyber Foundations	Teaching Week 8/8
20	13 Jul - 16 Jul	Level 2	Core -Core Cyber Foundations	**Assessment Week 1/2**
21	20 Jul - 23 Jul	Level 2	Core -Core Cyber Foundations	**Assessment Week 2/2**
22	27 Jul - 02 Aug		*Break & Catch-up Week*	*Self-study / revision / rest*
23	03 Aug - 06 Aug	**Level 3**	Practitioner -Choose Your Track	Teaching Week 1/8
24	10 Aug - 13 Aug *	Level 3	Practitioner -Choose Your Track	Teaching Week 2/8
	* Public Holiday: National Women's Day (observed) -session rescheduled or self-study			
25	17 Aug - 20 Aug	Level 3	Practitioner -Choose Your Track	Teaching Week 3/8
26	24 Aug - 27 Aug	Level 3	Practitioner -Choose Your Track	Teaching Week 4/8
27	31 Aug - 03 Sep	Level 3	Practitioner -Choose Your Track	Teaching Week 5/8
28	07 Sep - 10 Sep	Level 3	Practitioner -Choose Your Track	Teaching Week 6/8
29	14 Sep - 17 Sep	Level 3	Practitioner -Choose Your Track	Teaching Week 7/8
30	21 Sep - 24 Sep *	Level 3	Practitioner -Choose Your Track	Teaching Week 8/8
	* Public Holiday: Heritage Day -session rescheduled or self-study			

#	Dates	Level	Course	Phase
31	28 Sep - 01 Oct	Level 3	Practitioner -Choose Your Track	**Assessment Week 1/3 + Practical Review**
32	05 Oct - 08 Oct	Level 3	Practitioner -Choose Your Track	**Assessment Week 2/3 + Practical Review**
33	12 Oct - 15 Oct	Level 3	Practitioner -Choose Your Track	**Assessment Week 3/3**
34	19 Oct - 25 Oct		*Break & Catch-up Week*	*Self-study / revision / rest*
35	26 Oct - 29 Oct	**Level 4**	Specialisation -Deep Expertise	Teaching Week 1/10
36	02 Nov - 05 Nov	Level 4	Specialisation -Deep Expertise	Teaching Week 2/10
37	09 Nov - 12 Nov	Level 4	Specialisation -Deep Expertise	Teaching Week 3/10
38	16 Nov - 19 Nov	Level 4	Specialisation -Deep Expertise	Teaching Week 4/10
39	23 Nov - 26 Nov	Level 4	Specialisation -Deep Expertise	Teaching Week 5/10
40	30 Nov - 03 Dec	Level 4	Specialisation -Deep Expertise	Teaching Week 6/10
41	07 Dec - 10 Dec	Level 4	Specialisation -Deep Expertise	Teaching Week 7/10
42	14 Dec - 17 Dec *	Level 4	Specialisation -Deep Expertise	Teaching Week 8/10
	* Public Holiday: Day of Reconciliation -session rescheduled or self-study			
43	21 Dec - 24 Dec	Level 4	Specialisation -Deep Expertise	Teaching Week 9/10
44	28 Dec - 31 Dec	Level 4	Specialisation -Deep Expertise	Teaching Week 10/10
45	04 Jan - 07 Jan	Level 4	Specialisation -Deep Expertise	**Assessment Week 1/3 + Practical Review**
46	11 Jan - 14 Jan	Level 4	Specialisation -Deep Expertise	**Assessment Week 2/3 + Practical Review**
47	18 Jan - 21 Jan	Level 4	Specialisation -Deep Expertise	**Assessment Week 3/3**
48	25 Jan - 31 Jan		*Break & Catch-up Week*	*Self-study / revision / rest*
49	01 Feb - 04 Feb	**Level 5**	Advanced & Leadership	Teaching Week 1/8
50	08 Feb - 11 Feb	Level 5	Advanced & Leadership	Teaching Week 2/8
51	15 Feb - 18 Feb	Level 5	Advanced & Leadership	Teaching Week 3/8
52	22 Feb - 25 Feb	Level 5	Advanced & Leadership	Teaching Week 4/8
53	01 Mar - 04 Mar	Level 5	Advanced & Leadership	Teaching Week 5/8
54	08 Mar - 11 Mar	Level 5	Advanced & Leadership	Teaching Week 6/8
55	15 Mar - 18 Mar	Level 5	Advanced & Leadership	Teaching Week 7/8
56	22 Mar - 25 Mar	Level 5	Advanced & Leadership	Teaching Week 8/8
57	29 Mar - 01 Apr	Level 5	Advanced & Leadership	**Assessment Week 1/4 + Practical Review**
58	05 Apr - 08 Apr	Level 5	Advanced & Leadership	**Assessment Week 2/4 + Practical Review**
59	12 Apr - 15 Apr	Level 5	Advanced & Leadership	**Assessment Week 3/4**
60	19 Apr - 22 Apr	Level 5	Advanced & Leadership	**Assessment Week 4/4**

Programme End Date: Approximately 25 April 2027

South African Public Holidays 2026

Saturday, 21 March 2026 - Human Rights Day (Sat -no effect)

 * Friday, 03 April 2026 - Good Friday (affects schedule)

 * Monday, 06 April 2026 - Family Day (affects schedule)

* Monday, 27 April 2026 - Freedom Day (affects schedule)

* Friday, 01 May 2026 - Workers' Day (affects schedule)

* Tuesday, 16 June 2026 - Youth Day (affects schedule)

* Monday, 10 August 2026 - National Women's Day (observed) (affects schedule)

* Thursday, 24 September 2026 - Heritage Day (affects schedule)

* Wednesday, 16 December 2026 - Day of Reconciliation (affects schedule)

* Friday, 25 December 2026 - Christmas Day (affects schedule)

  Saturday, 26 December 2026 - Day of Goodwill (Sat -no effect)

Assessment & Grading Policy

Quizzes

Per-lesson quizzes aligned to certification exam objectives. Results available immediately.

Practical Exercises

Scenario-based practical work assessed within 2-3 weeks of submission.

Project Assessment

Capstone and major projects assessed within 8-10 weeks. Detailed feedback provided.

Certification Prep

Mock exams and study guides provided 2 weeks before each certification window.

Minimum Pass Mark

70% for quizzes, Competent/Not Yet Competent for practicals.

Resubmission

One resubmission allowed per practical within 7 days of feedback.

Important Notes

- All sessions run in the evenings: 17:00 - 20:00 (SAST) to accommodate working professionals.

- Live sessions are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Monday and Wednesday are for self-paced study and lab work.

- Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays are rest days -no scheduled sessions.

- No sessions are scheduled on South African public holidays. Affected weeks may have reduced contact time.

- At Level 3, students choose between Cyber Operations and GRC tracks.

- At Level 4, students choose one specialisation: SOC & IR, IAM, Cloud Security, or Advanced GRC.

- Students must complete each level before progressing to the next.

- Break weeks between levels are provided for revision, catch-up, and rest.

- The schedule is designed to be fast-paced but realistic -approximately 10 months from start to completion.

- All dates are subject to change. Students will be notified of any schedule adjustments in advance.