
RAUL BLANCO VAZQUEZ

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Final year Computer Science student at the University of Leicester, maintaining a First-Class academic record with hands-on experience in cybersecurity and software development. Certified in network security, incident detection, and threat mitigation through the Google Cybersecurity Certificate, with practical skills in Linux, Python automation, and SIEM tools. Eager to grow professionally in cybersecurity, contributing to threat detection, incident response, and the digital resilience of organisations.

SKILLS

- **Programming Languages:** Python, Java, HTML/CSS/JavaScript
- **Tools & Platforms:** Git, Gitlab, Linux, SQL
- **Frameworks & Libraries:** PyTorch, Spring Boot, OpenCV, Firebase, Pandas, scikit-learn
- **Cybersecurity:** Network Security, Incident Detection and Response, Python Automation, SIEM Tools, Threat Mitigation, Firewall Concepts

TECHNICAL PROJECTS

Deepfake Detection System (Final Year Project): 20/10/25 – 27/04/26

Built a defensive ML system for detecting synthetic media and video-based impersonation attacks using Python, PyTorch, FastAPI, Docker, and computer vision.

- Developed a secure preprocessing pipeline using MTCNN face detection and MediaPipe alignment, processing 14,000+ videos into 447,000+ face images for forensic model training.
- Trained and benchmarked deepfake detection models including XceptionNet, an EfficientNet-B4 ensemble, LSTM temporal modelling, and compression-robust fine-tuning.
- Evaluated robustness across in-the-wild and out-of-family deepfake settings, achieving 91.54% AUC on WildDeepfake and 71.61% AUC on DFDC out-of-family evaluation.

COMPETITIONS & AWARDS

1st Place - Hackathon Capital One - 2024: Built *Campus Essentials Locator*, a web app helping students find campus resources. Won 1st place among competing university teams.

3rd Place - Hackathon IBM - 2025: Developed *Study Buddy*, a study session platform built with Java 17, Spring Boot, Firebase, and Vanilla JavaScript. Features included smart session matching by module/year, real-time in-session chat, a join request system, and user ratings - deployed on Railway.

Morgan Stanley Programming Challenge - 23/10/24:

Developed a trading bot using dual exponential moving averages (EMA) to operate in a simulated forex market (EUR/GBP). Implemented 2:1 risk management and real-time data processing using Python, Pandas, and APIs.

CERTIFICATES

Google Cybersecurity Certificate, *Google Career Certificates* - 10/2024:

In-depth exploration of cybersecurity practices for protection against modern threats. Key skills acquired:

- Network security, incident detection and response, hands-on experience in risk identification, threat mitigation, automation with Python, use of Linux, SQL and use of SIEM tools.

IBM Certificate (Watson X): *IBM x LeicesterCS Event* - 15/01/2025:

Development of a conversational AI chatbot using IBM's cloud tools, in collaboration with LeicesterCS.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science (Honours): Computer Science, Expected First-Class in 06/2026

University of Leicester - United Kingdom

- **Foundations of Cybersecurity – 90%:** Mastered public key cryptography and modern cryptosystems. Implemented secure network applications and analyzed internet protocols and attack vectors.
- **Databases and Domain Modelling – 83%:** Practical experience with relational databases and MySQL, web development using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, and understanding of database security issues including unauthorized access and data loss prevention.
- **Software Architecture and Systems Development – 86%:** Full-stack web application development with Spring Boot in an agile environment, from requirements gathering to deployment.

LEADERSHIP & ACTIVITIES

Founder and President, 08/2024 - Ongoing

University of Leicester Salsa Society

- Founded and scaled the society to 50+ members in the first month, organising weekly events with a 90% participation rate. Increased event attendance by 30% through promotion, targeted outreach, managing all communications, scheduling, and stakeholder coordination. Led a team to secure partnerships with local instructors and now leading hundreds of active members.

LANGUAGES

Spanish: Native, **Galician:** Native, **English:** Native