



JOSHUA BERKOH

Country: Kumasi, Ashanti Region, Ghana

Program: Red Team Training Scholarship

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

Growing up in Ghana, there weren't programs like this that were readily available. When the Covid-19 crisis happened, I became unemployed. I took the opportunity to start learning on a variety of subjects and found the Cyversity scholarship program. After speaking with my mentors, who I had met through social media platforms like LinkedIn, or in study groups, I decided to apply and see what happened! I say I was half-way through the "entry-level journey" when I found the scholarship program and took it by the horns. In the program, there were participants from 11 different countries represented and I was the only one from West Africa. In order to use the TV as my extended screen for my studies, I would wait until my family went to sleep at night. After the program, I landed a job as a Tier 1 SOC Analyst with Virtual InfoSec Africa. I have been accepted to Cybersecurity Master's Degree program in the U.S. and will begin those studies soon.

WHAT LED YOU TO APPLY?

During the COVID-19 healthcare crisis, I took the opportunity to start self-directed learning. I registered for several ranges and began studying the field of cybersecurity. Shortly after, I came across Cyversity and their opportunity to learn from Google and Security Innovation in their Red Team program. My mentors encouraged me to go for it and it was one of the best decisions ever because I love my career!

WHERE DO YOU HOPE TO BE PROFESSIONALLY IN ONE/FIVE YEARS?

Finished with my Master's Degree, and working in a Blue Team role and helping people in my community who want a career in security. I plan to partner with Security Innovation to bring a program to my local community in Ghana, Africa which will raise security awareness and bring career development conversations to people who would otherwise never get that education and access. Many of my peers are struggling to get their first jobs in security, even though they have skills and training. I hope to see more opportunities for jobs for junior people. My long-term career goals involve finding a role that works on Threat Intel, Machine Learning, AI, and Threat Detection.

FAVORITE HACKING ACCOMPLISHMENT?

I have been able to achieve Hall of Fame exploits with BugCrowd, ISC2, Ibotta, and Centrifly. I also got my first role working in cybersecurity thanks in part to what I learned in this program, and so I consider that a big accomplishment.

THE HOST:



Powering up the under represented.

THE SPARK PLUG:



Fueling the cyber leaders of tomorrow.

THE TRACK:



Amping and ramping job ready skills.