

NIELS MAES

CYBERSECURITY SPECIALIST

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Currently in my third year of cybersecurity studies, with hands-on experience as a security engineer at AZ Sint-Jan hospital in Bruges. I focus on the defensive side of security. Monitoring systems, detecting threats, and keeping incidents under control. Looking for a first professional role in SOC or defensive security.

AREA OF EXPERTISE

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|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Incident Response | Forensics | Social Engineering |
| Threat Modelling | SIEM / Logging | Penetration Testing |

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Security Awareness Platform, AZ Sint-Jan Brugge.** Built a full-stack interactive security awareness web application from scratch in two weeks (Vue.js, Supabase, Apache), replacing a costly outsourced solution. Features a virtual "error room," puzzle mechanics, admin dashboard, and anonymous session tracking.
- **Malware Sandbox Environment, AZ Sint-Jan Brugge.** Designed and deployed an isolated malware analysis sandbox (Flare-VM/VMware) with full static & dynamic analysis toolkit (IDA Pro, BinaryNinja, Procmon, FakeNet-NG). Validated by successfully containing a live sandbox-escape attempt. Authored the team's standard SOP for malware analysis.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Security Engineer Intern, AZ Sint-Jan Brugge

Feb 2026 - May 2026

- Built a full-stack interactive security awareness platform (Vue.js, Supabase, Apache), replacing a costly outsourced solution with an in-house tool still in active use.
- Designed and deployed an isolated malware analysis sandbox (Flare-VM/VMware) with static & dynamic analysis toolkit; validated by containing a live sandbox-escape attempt.
- Conducted a full forensic investigation of a USB incident, uncovering a GDPR breach involving unsalted password hashes and PII from an external vendor.

ICT Staff Member, AZ Sint-Jan Brugge (Summer Job)

Jul 2022 - Sep 2025

- Deployed and restored PCs and laptops across the hospital and provided helpdesk support for IT-related issues.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Applied Science in Cybersecurity

Sep 2023 - Jun 2026

Howest, Bruges

- Thesis: Forensic workflow & malware analysis sandbox implementation at AZ Sint-Jan Brugge.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **Languages:** Dutch (native), English (professional), French (basic).
- **Certifications:** SEC0 - TryHackMe (2026), SEC1 - TryHackMe (2026).
- **Awards/Activities:** Hack The Future 2025 (CTF competition), TryHackMe top user rankings