

HOW I PASSED MY AWS CERTIFICATIONS AND WHY YOU SHOULD TOO_

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Leeds AWS User Group
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WHOAMI_



I'm a senior consultant at The Scale Factory

Certifications:

- AWS Solutions Architect Professional
- AWS DevOps Engineer Professional
- AWS SysOps Administrator Associate
- AWS Security Specialty
- Terraform Associate
- Jenkins Engineer



WHOAREYOU_

- Are you AWS certified?
- Are you studying for or planning to take any AWS certification?



TOPICS **COVERED**

1. Overview of AWS Certifications
2. Benefits of Getting Certified
3. Techniques & Resources
4. Practicalities
5. Conclusion

AWS CERTIFICATIONS

FOUNDATIONAL

Knowledge-based certification for foundational understanding of AWS Cloud.

No prior experience needed.



PROFESSIONAL

Role-based certifications that validate advanced skills and knowledge required to design secure, optimized, and modernized applications and to automate processes on AWS.

2 years of prior AWS Cloud experience recommended.



ASSOCIATE

Role-based certifications that showcase your knowledge and skills on AWS and build your credibility as an AWS Cloud professional. **Prior cloud and/or strong on-premises IT experience recommended.**



SPECIALTY

Dive deeper and position yourself as a trusted advisor to your stakeholders and/or customers in these strategic areas. **Refer to the exam guides on the exam pages for recommended experience.**





BENEFITS_

For employees

- Better job opportunities and salary
- Professional growth
- Professionalise your team

For employers

- Identify skilled IT professionals via AWS certifications



PERCEIVED DOWNSIDES

- I don't have the time / money
- I don't think I'm ready
- Certifications aren't valuable



TECHNIQUES & **RESOURCES**

Video

- Video courses (A Cloud Guru, Udemy)
- AWS exam readiness
- re:Invent videos and AWS Get Certified Challenge

Books

- Study guides
- AWS documentation and whitepapers

Hands-on

- Practical experience
- Hands-on Labs
- Practice exams (Tutorials Dojo)



PRACTICALITIES

- **Book** the exam **in advance**
- If English is not your first language, request **non-native speaker** addition time (30 extra minutes) **before** you book the exam (Request Exam Accommodation -> ESL +30 Minutes).
- You can take some exams (SA Pro) in **French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Chinese, or Spanish**
- If you passed an AWS certification within the last 12 months, you are entitled to a **50% discount**



PRACTICALITIES

You can take the exam:

- At a **Pearson VUE test centre**:
 - PSI testing centres are not available any more
 - Check your nearest Pearson VUE centre and book in advance
- At **home**:
 - Check system requirements in advance (install Pearson software, no secondary monitor, Windows or macOS only)



THE HIRING PERSPECTIVE_

At The Scale Factory we like seeing:

- Certifications matching **practical experience**
- **SA Pro** and **Security** certifications
- New recruits taking an **AWS certification during probation period** as a way to **upskill** our consultants
- Consultants regularly taking a new certification or re-certifying as part of their **growth areas**



**WE'LL BE
HIRING.**

AWS Consultant

SALARY	£65,000 to £85,000
EXPERIENCE LEVEL	Mid
LOCATION*	Remote
COMPANY LOCATION	U.K.

AWS Senior Consultant

SALARY	£75,000 to £95,000
EXPERIENCE LEVEL	Senior
LOCATION*	Remote
COMPANY LOCATION	U.K.


* Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Ireland, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, and the U.K.

<https://scalefactory.com/about/careers>



CONCLUSION & **TAKEAWAYS**

- Get AWS certified!
- Choose the best certification for your career
- Start studying now and book your exam



FURTHER READING_

AWS Certifications Page

<https://aws.amazon.com/certification>

AWS Certification E-book

https://www.experteach.eu/at/assets/files/AWS_TC_Cert_AllUp_eBook_FINAL.pdf

AWS Well-Architected Hands-on Labs

<https://wellarchitectedlabs.com>

Practice exams (SA Pro)

<https://portal.tutorialsdojo.com/courses/aws-certified-solutions-architect-professional-practice-exams>

My blog posts on how to prepare for the AWS SA Pro and Security Specialty exams

<https://scalefactory.com/blog/2022/08/31/how-i-passed-the-aws-solutions-architect-professional-exam>

<https://scalefactory.com/blog/2021/01/31/how-i-passed-the-aws-security-specialty-exam>



**THANK YOU &
GET IN TOUCH_**

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