

BCS LEVEL 5 DIPLOMA IN IT

PROFESSIONAL PROJECT

SYLLABUS

THIS QUALIFICATION WILL BE RETIRING IN 2026

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October 2024 v2.0

This is a United Kingdom government regulated qualification which is administered and approved by one or more of the following: Ofqual, Qualifications Wales, CCEA Regulation or SQA.

CONTENTS

3. Introduction
4. Qualification Suitability and Overview
4. Learning Outcomes
5. Format and duration
6. Syllabus
8. Recommended Reading
9. Using BCS Books



Introduction

The second stage within the BCS three-stage Higher Education Qualification programme, the Level 5 Diploma enables candidates who have already achieved the Level 4 Certificate in IT to progress to higher levels of knowledge and competency.

This internationally-recognised qualification introduces you to the business-related aspects of the IT industry, developing your technological expertise while also considering the potential challenges of the day-to-day running of an organisation, such as legal obligations and intellectual property.

Our modules have been created in-line with the latest developments in the industry, giving you a competitive edge in the IT job market. You will have the opportunity to learn about object-oriented programming, user experience, systems analysis and design, as well as to build upon knowledge and skills developed during the Level 4 Certificate.

To successfully achieve the qualification, candidates need to complete:

- One core module
- Three optional modules
- One Professional Project in IT

Candidates who wish to progress onto the next stage will need to complete the Project at end of the Level 6 Professional Graduate Diploma in IT.

Professional Project Core Module

This module provides candidates with the opportunity to demonstrate their practical skills in creating, designing, implementing, testing and documenting a computer-based project, at the Diploma level.

Qualification Suitability and Overview

Candidates must have achieved the Certificate in IT or have an appropriate exemption to be entered for the Diploma in IT. Candidates can study for this diploma by attending a training course provided by a BCS accredited Training Provider or through self-study, although it is strongly recommended that all candidates register with an approved centre. Studying with an approved centre will deliver significant benefits.

Candidates are required to become a member of BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT, to sit and be awarded the qualifications. Candidates may apply for a four-year student membership that will support them throughout their studies.

The Level 5 Diploma is suitable for professionals wishing to gain a formal IT qualification. This module aims to allow candidates to undertake a significant piece of work individually, as well as to demonstrate their practical computing skills.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this module, candidates will be able to:

- Identify and investigate a topic which has a computer-based solution.
- Identify possible solutions, and select the most appropriate solution.
- Show awareness of any legal, social, ethical or professional implications of the solution.
- Plan the development of the solution.
- Use appropriate techniques and technologies to design and implement the solution.
- Identify and apply appropriate methods to demonstrate the fitness for purpose of the solution, providing full evidence in the project report.
- Document both the process undertaken and the product produced, including an appraisal of both.

Format and duration

Candidates are expected to complete the work associated with this module in their own time and to submit their project report for assessment at one of two assessment points in the year.

They are expected to spend approximately 200 hours on their project.

A project proposal must be submitted, and approved by Project Examiners, before the project can be submitted.

The project must be an individual piece of work.

Candidates are responsible for finding an authenticator to provide guidance as necessary, and to authenticate the project as the personal work of the candidate. Authenticators are subject to approval by Project Examiners.

Projects are assessed as either Pass with Distinction, Pass with Credit, Pass or Fail.

Syllabus

1. Select a topic and plan the work

Learners will be able to:

- 1.1** Investigate an information systems problem and identify the needs of users of the computer-based solution.
- 1.2** Produce a specification of the requirements.
- 1.3** Identify milestones to provide project management.
- 1.4** Produce a formal proposal for a joint or individual project.

2. Compare possible solutions

Learners will be able to:

- 2.1** Compare contemporary solutions to given problems.
- 2.2** Select the best solution for a given situation, considering resource and other constraints.

Design and implement the chosen solution

Learners will be able to:

- 3.1** Select and apply appropriate technologies and techniques to the stages of the problem solution.
- 3.2** Discuss legal, social, ethical and professional considerations of the problem solution.

4. Evaluate the fitness for purpose of the solution created

Learners will be able to:

- 4.1** Discuss approaches to project evaluation.
- 4.2** Select and apply an appropriate means of testing the solution.
- 4.3** Provide evidence of the fitness for purpose.

5. Document the project to an appropriate professional level

Learners will be able to:

- 5.1** Produce a project report to a good level of presentation.
- 5.2** Evaluate the success of both the product and the process of the project, including personal reflection.
- 5.3** Discuss how the solution and process might be improved in future.

Recommended Reading

While most projects involve software development there is still a large variation in project type. Similarly, the actual process of software development also varies between projects. No single reference book would be appropriate for all projects. However, useful overall guidance may be found in the text below.

Primary texts

Title: Projects in Computing and Information Systems: A Student's Guide
Author: C. W. Dawson
Publisher: Addison Wesley
Publication date: 2009
ISBN: 978-0273721314

Most candidates undertake this module as part of a preparation courses and have been taught specific software development methods. Some candidates submit a project they have undertaken for their employer and will have already followed company-specific standards for process and documentation. A few projects do not involve software development and might need a different approach to process and documentation.

Project examiners will accept a variety of documentation approaches. However, all candidates are recommended to read the guidance on the BCS website about the required elements of a project report. It might be necessary for a candidate to supplement college-specific or company-specific documentation in order to provide all the necessary elements of a BCS project report. Candidates are strongly advised to seek guidance from their authenticator on the best approach to documentation.

Using BCS Books

Accredited Training Organisations may include excerpts from BCS books in the course materials. If you wish to use excerpts from the books you will need a license from BCS. To request a license, please contact the Head of Publishing at BCS outlining the material you wish to copy and its intended use.

Document Change History

Any changes made to the syllabus shall be clearly documented with a change history log. This shall include the latest version number, date of the amendment and changes made. The purpose is to identify quickly what changes have been made.

Version Number	Changes Made
Version 1.0 September 2021	Document Creation
Version 2.0 October 2024	Removed 'Group project' as an option as no longer offered.

CONTACT

For further information please contact:

BCS

The Chartered Institute for IT
3 Newbridge Square
Swindon
SN1 1BY

T +44 (0)1793 417 445

www.bcs.org

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