



BCS Northern Ireland Computing Education Committee Terms of Reference

Responsible Body	Academy of Computing Board
Version Number	2
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Summary Of Revisions Made	Version	Date
Initial version	V1	12 July 2021
Greater emphasis on coordination of local expertise and resource sharing locally and nationally.	V2	4 December 2024

Remit

The main purpose of the Committee is to facilitate communication between interested parties in computing education in Northern Ireland. This will include primary and secondary level schoolteachers, award and regulatory bodies, higher and further education staff, industry, government departments and learned societies.

The Committee will:

1. Regularly review the current landscape of computing education in Northern Ireland to monitor the extent to which:
 - a) the curriculum and qualifications are fit for purpose given both the fast-moving pace of computing contexts and the fundamental principles of the discipline,
 - b) there are suitable learning and teaching resources for each area of the curriculum for each stage of learner,
 - c) educators are confident in their pedagogical and content knowledge,
 - d) learners are satisfied with what and how they learn about computing, and
 - e) there is adequate support for computing education across the country so that everyone has access to high quality computing learning.

2. Foster productive collaboration between computing educators in schools, colleges and universities, and with industry colleagues.

3. Liaise with BCS Education & Public Benefit to ensure local awareness of sector wide policy and initiatives.

4. Coordinate local expertise from all levels of computing education to advise as appropriate on matters of NI Computing education policy, curricula, learning and assessment.
5. Under the guidance of the BCS Schools and Colleges Committee, undertake local consultations in computing education to inform feedback and recommendations to BCS Academy Board.
6. Share learning with computing educators across the UK through BCS Academy Board, other BCS committees and Special Interest Groups, and with other countries across the world.

Organisation

1. The Committee will be composed of members nominated from a wide range of stakeholder groups. A non-exclusive, indicative list follows. Representatives from national bodies and elsewhere will be invited to observe or advise, as appropriate. From time to time, the committee may engage with national bodies on joint projects.
2. The Committee will follow the organisation, rules and procedures common to other BCS Academy of Computing Committees.
3. The Committee will liaise closely with the BCS Schools and Colleges Committee

Indicative Stakeholder Groups

- Teachers: primary teachers, secondary computing specialists and special educational needs co-ordinators, as well as representation from special schools and nurseries as appropriate.
- National bodies: CCEA, CAS Northern Ireland, Sentinus, Education Authority, Department of Education.
- Higher and Further Education: representatives from the Further Education sector (IT Hub) and Higher Education including the Open University.
- Industry: SoftwareNI and industry representatives as appropriate from the Northern Ireland software sector, public sector computing and software startups. Department for the Economy. CBI NI.
- Learned and professional societies: IET.
- Learners: we will seek input as appropriate from students at all levels to inform the work of the Committee.

Approval and Review

These Terms of Reference shall be approved by the BCS Academy of Computing Board. The Northern Ireland Computing Education Committee will review them on an annual basis, normally at the first meeting of the academic year.