

# BCS LEVEL 6 PROFESSIONAL GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN IT PROFESSIONAL PROJECT

## SYLLABUS

THIS QUALIFICATION WILL BE RETIRING IN 2026



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.

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# Introduction

The final stage within the BCS three-stage Higher Education Qualification programme, the Level 6 Professional Graduate Diploma (PGD) enables candidates who have already achieved the Level 5 Diploma in IT to gain depth of knowledge and expertise in their field.

Our modules have been created in-line with the SFIAPlus framework and latest developments in the industry, giving you a competitive edge in the IT job market and showing your dedication to the industry. You will have the opportunity to learn about topics such as advanced database management, network information systems, web engineering and programming paradigms, as well as to build upon knowledge and skills developed during the Level 5 Diploma.

To successfully achieve the qualification, candidates need to complete:

- One core module (Professional Project in IT)
- Four optional modules

Depending on entrance conditions, completing the Level 6 PGD in IT may support entry onto a Master's degree course at selected global universities.

## 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 Professional Graduate Diploma level.

# Qualification Suitability and Overview

Candidates must have achieved the Diploma in IT or have an appropriate exemption in order to be entered for the Professional Graduate Diploma (PGD). Candidates can study for this PGD 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 6 PGD is suitable for professionals wishing to gain an advanced 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.

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## Learning Outcomes

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

- Identify and investigate a topic which has a computer-based solution.
- Research the literature, evaluate possible solutions, and select the most appropriate solution.
- Evaluate any legal, social, ethical or professional implications of the solution.
- Use project management techniques to 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 a critical appraisal of both.

# Format and duration

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

Candidates are expected to spend approximately 300 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 an individual project.

## 2. Compare possible solutions

### Learners will be able to:

- 2.1** Critically evaluate contemporary solutions to given problems.
- 2.2** Select the best solution for a given situation, considering resource and other constraints, and justify the selected approach.

## Design and implement the chosen solution

### Learners will be able to:

- 3.1** Evaluate, select and apply appropriate technologies and techniques to the stages of the problem solution.
- 3.2** Evaluate appropriate legal, social, ethical and professional implications of the problem solution.

## 4. Evaluate the fitness for purpose of the solution created

### Learners will be able to:

- 4.1** Compare a range of mechanisms for demonstrating the value of a project and rank them according to appropriately selected criteria.
- 4.2** Select and apply an appropriate means of testing the fitness for purpose of the project.
- 4.3** Provide evidence of the fitness for purpose.
- 4.4** Critically evaluate the effectiveness of the developed solution.

## 5. Document the project to an appropriate professional level

### Learners will be able to:

- 5.1** Produce a detailed and coherent project report to a professional level of presentation.
- 5.2** Produce an in-depth critical appraisal of both the product and the process of the project, including personal reflection.
- 5.3** Evaluate 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.

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

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