

BCS Accreditation.....

Relevance, Recognition,
Assurance



BCS degree accreditation

The BCS accreditation of degrees is an important benchmark of the standard of Higher Education programmes and their contribution to the IT profession. Our accreditation provides an indicator of quality to students and employers and provides independent recognition for the institutions that offer them.

As part of our Royal Charter we have a responsibility to develop and maintain standards in educational qualifications that provide an appropriate foundation for those who wish to follow a career in computing. To support this aim we accredit a range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes offered by over 100 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

Types of accreditation

We accredit degree programmes for our own Chartered IT Professional (CITP) status. Depending on the type of degree, graduates that successfully complete a BCS accredited degree may either partially or fully meet the educational requirement for CITP registration or fully meet the further learning educational requirement for CITP registration. Whilst still being required to meet relevant professional experience requirements, graduates from accredited programmes will benefit from an accelerated route to CITP status. Individuals with a fully accredited degree are also eligible for professional membership of BCS (MBCS) at the point they graduate.

We are also a nominated body of both the Engineering Council and the Science Council. As a result we accredit degree programmes for Chartered or Incorporated Engineer (CEng or IEng) status as well as for Chartered Scientist (CSci) status. BCS accredited degrees can therefore be an accelerated route to these Chartered registrations by satisfying the underpinning knowledge requirements.

Logos

One of the benefits of Educational Affiliate membership of BCS is the use of our Educational Affiliate logo. Our Accredited Degree logo is also available for institutions to promote their accredited courses to prospective students and interested employers.



Benefits of accreditation

BCS accreditation for Higher Education programmes provides a number of benefits for a variety of stakeholders. Whether you are a potential student, a Higher Education Institution, an employer or a representative of the IT profession here's what BCS accreditation could mean to you:

Benefits for students

- **Relevance** – BCS accreditation ensures that degrees:
 - meet the high standards set by the profession
 - meet employer's needs
 - provide a solid underpinning in computing
- **Recognition** – graduating with a BCS accredited degree provides:
 - the opportunity to apply for professional membership of BCS (MBCS)
 - a progression pathway to professional registration by fulfilling (either partially or fully) the academic requirements for CITP, CEng, CSci or IEng statuses
 - a potential advantage when looking for a job as some employers may look for graduates with accredited degrees
- **Assurance** – by seeking accreditation from BCS, institutions are demonstrating their commitment to ensuring their programmes are relevant and support progression for their students
- **An international benchmark** – accredited degrees are recognised by some other countries that have signed international agreements





Benefits for HEIs:

- Independent recognition – BCS accreditation provides confirmation that your institution provides high quality computing education programmes
- Benchmarking – accreditation from BCS enables you to compare your programmes against those offered by other institutions both nationally and internationally
- Commitment – achieving BCS accreditation demonstrates your institution's commitment to developing future IT professionals that have the potential to achieve Chartered status
- Employability – employers often seek to employ graduates from accredited degrees. BCS accreditation and professional membership can help your graduates to stand out from the crowd
- Marketability – BCS accreditation can be used to attract potential students to your programmes. Accreditation is now advertised as part of the Key Information Set (KIS)
- Support – our accreditation process supports the continual improvement of your programmes and highlights areas of best practice among institutions
- Internal recognition – BCS accreditation can help to demonstrate to the senior management within your institution that your department is committed to providing high quality computing education
- BCS membership – as an accredited degree provider you will also receive:
 - Educational Affiliate membership of BCS providing access to a wealth of industry reports, publications and data
 - 5 professional membership (MBCS) subscriptions for one year for graduates from accredited courses
 - use of the BCS Educational Affiliate and BCS Accredited Degree logos for your prospectus and website
 - listing in our online database of accredited programmes (CEng/IEng accreditation is also listed on the Engineering Council accredited degree programme database)
 - an opportunity to engage with a range of our member groups

Benefits for employers

- Independent assurance – BCS accredited degrees have been reviewed by representatives from academia and industry to ensure they meet the standards set by the profession
- Recruitment – graduates from BCS accredited degrees will:
 - be eligible for professional membership of BCS (MBCS)
 - be on the way to Chartered status having met the academic requirements for CITP, CEng, CSci or IEng statuses
 - have an appreciation of legal, social, ethical and professional issues in relation to computing
 - have an appreciation of the IT industry and be able to contribute to your business with the potential to develop into rounded IT professionals over time
- Participate – as an employer you can:
 - help shape degree programmes by working with Higher Education Institutions in providing placements, judging projects, delivering guest lectures or contributing to industrial advisory boards
 - have a voice in BCS accreditation decisions by joining our team of academic accreditation assessors

Benefits for the IT profession

- Establishing the profession – BCS accreditation ensures there is:
 - a steady flow of qualified IT professionals entering the industry with the right skills to enhance the status of the profession
 - an opportunity to grow the number of people achieving Chartered status by providing an accelerated route
- Advocacy – BCS accreditation provides the opportunity for the profession to demonstrate to students the importance of professionalism, the value of professional membership and what it means to be Chartered
- Representation – BCS accreditation ensures that the profession has strong links with HEIs and can provide advice and guidance on the design of degree programmes



Who we are

Our mission as BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT, is to enable the information society. We promote wider social and economic progress through the advancement of information technology science and practice. Our 70,000 strong membership includes IT practitioners, businesses, academics and students around the world.

As the global awarding body for IT qualifications and certifications we help people, businesses and society at large to improve their skills and knowledge in the field of information technology. We do this by setting the standards of excellence for course content, training provision and examination and certification systems. We create programmes for every level, from basic computer skills to advanced niche expertise.

We partner with organisations to provide the development tools they need to get the most from their IT professionals.

www.bcs.org/accreditation



BCS The Chartered Institute for IT

Membership First Floor Block D North Star House North Star Avenue Swindon SN2 1FA
T +44 (0) 1793 417 424 Online enquiries www.bcs.org/contactus www.bcs.org/accreditation

© BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT is the business name of The British Computer Society (Registered charity no. 292786) 2014

If you require this document in accessible format please call +44 (0) 1793 417 600

