BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT, has partnered with the International Software Testing Qualifications Board (ISTQB) to deliver a comprehensive software testing certification programme to the global testing community.

Our relationship with the ISTQB enables us to provide the most up to date and relevant certifications in the industry. Our certificates are available at foundation, intermediate and advanced level supporting software testers throughout their careers and giving them international recognition of their skills and experience.

www.bcs.org/softwaretesting
### Software testing career path

This career path illustrates the potential career progression you can make in software testing. It recognises the importance of certification and experience, and provides a high level alignment with SFIAplus and the Institute’s membership grades.

This diagram summarises the characteristics and development needs that support your career in software testing. For a more detailed career path visit [www.bcs.org/softwaretesting](http://www.bcs.org/softwaretesting).

<table>
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<th>SFIaplus level</th>
<th>Typical experience</th>
<th>Characteristics of level</th>
<th>BCS professional certification</th>
<th>Development needs</th>
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</table>
| **Associate** | 1-2 years | Likely to: run tests and generate reports  
 Typical job titles: test analyst  
 Typical experience: evidence of following and executing organisational test processes | ISTQB-BCS Certified Tester Foundation Level | Seek to demonstrate:  
 competence with organisation practices  
 competence with using test tools  
 management of defects |
| **Professional** | 3-4 years | Likely to: create, run and analyse tests from requirements; train other testers  
 Typical job titles: senior test analyst  
 Typical experience: evidence of requirements management; test strategy understanding | ISTQB-BCS Certified Tester Foundation Level | Institute membership provides services and benefits to support your career development |
| **Chartered Professional** | 4-7 years | Likely to: define and document test strategies and processes; manage a small test team  
 Typical job titles: senior system test analyst  
 Typical experience: evidence of significant test design experience and test planning | Intermediate Certificate in Software Testing Optional: Practitioner Certificate in Requirements Engineering | Seek to undertake:  
 leadership of a small test team  
 definition of test strategies |
| **Fellow** | 6-10 years | Likely to: manage a team of testers or test function on a complex project; be viewed as a test expert  
 Typical job titles: test centre manager, test manager or test consultant  
 Typical experience: evidence of managing a test centre | Chartered Professional is awarded on the basis of knowledge, experience and professionalism | Seek to undertake:  
 increased responsibility and authority  
 management of an organisation’s test centre  
 increased project management  
 When appropriate, Chartered status should be progressed |
| **Career starting point** | 15+ years | Likely to: manage testing on a significant project  
 Typical job titles: test centre manager, test manager or test consultant  
 Typical experience: evidence of managing a test centre | ISTQB-BCS Advanced Certificates:  
 • Test Analyst  
 • Test Manager  
 • Technical Test Analyst | Preparation for significant IT management role |

### Career transitions

As you progress along a particular career path, you are likely to develop interests and experience in other areas of IT and, having gained the necessary competencies, you may wish to change the direction of your career.

The typical and possible transitions into and out of this career path are indicated below.

Typically:
- Solution development
- Software testing
- Business analysis

### Further practitioner certifications

- Further practitioner certifications

- Advanced certificates in software testing

Seek to undertake:
- leadership of larger test teams
- significant test strategies
- improvement of organisation’s test capability

### Intermediate certificates

- Intermediate certificates

Seek to undertake:
- leadership of a small test team
- definition of test strategies

### Chartered Professional

Chartered Professional is awarded on the basis of knowledge, experience and professionalism.

Seek to undertake:
- increased responsibility and authority
- management of an organisation’s test centre
- increased project management
- When appropriate, Chartered status should be progressed

### Foundation

- Green IT
- Information Security Management Principles
- Project Management
- Business Analysis
- Systems Development

### Other industry professional certifications

Other industry professional certifications are available and will be relevant to you as your career progresses.

### Institute membership

Institute membership provides services and benefits to support your career development.

Seek to demonstrate:
- competence with organisation practices
- competence with using test tools
- management of defects

### Review SFIaplus for guidance on developing your career ahead of taking specific certifications

The following certifications will help you develop your knowledge for more senior roles in software testing, or in preparation for a transition to another career path:
Software testing

Software testing is fast becoming a pivotal global industry as organisations around the world increase their demand for certified IT professionals able to test ever more complex systems. The Institute understands the critical role that software testers play in delivering IT that is reliable and effective.

Software testing certifications

We’ve harnessed the experience and expertise of the leaders in the field to provide testers around the world with a means to enhance their skills and demonstrate their credentials.

The Institute’s software testing certifications draw on internationally accepted best practice and provide an insight into the different types of testing, and the techniques and tools used to carry out and manage testing.

The levels are structured to support career progression; following the foundation level, our intermediate certificate provides a valuable learning path to the advanced level.

**Foundation**
- ISTQB-BCS Certified Tester
- Foundation Level

**Intermediate**
- Software Testing

**Higher**
- ISTQB-BCS Advanced Test Analyst
- ISTQB-BCS Advanced Test Manager
- ISTQB-BCS Advanced Technical Test Analyst

**THE BENEFITS**

**For software testers**
- Part of the leading internationally recognised certification programme
- Improves understanding of fundamental principles and global standards of testing
- Demonstrates proven analytical ability
- Provides global recognition of your status as a test professional
- BCS membership available, supporting self-initiated professional development

**For employers**
- Employees increase their value to the business having gained practical and analytical skills
- Aligned with SFIAplus providing a clear development path for employees
- Online exams available for foundation and intermediate level
- Supports your organisation to retain, motivate and recruit the best people in software testing
- Save substantial costs associated with software repairs by testing prior to release

**For training providers**
- Develop a complete, structured portfolio of software testing training courses and certifications
- Intermediate level provides follow on courses for foundation candidates prior to advanced level
- Access an international market which already recognises certifications from the Institute
- Additional revenue from a growing customer base
- Institute endorsement for your business

Find out more at [www.bcs.org/softwaretesting](http://www.bcs.org/softwaretesting)

**About BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT**

Our mission as BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT, is to enable the information society. We’re championing the global IT profession by giving practitioners the professional development and career support they deserve.

Through our extensive certifications and professional development portfolio, we continue to set professional standards and raise levels of competence and professionalism in the industry. As the professional body for IT, we’ve an unrivalled insight into the industry and are ideally placed to guide IT professionals through their career and provide employers with expertly trained employees that add real value to their business.

**Become a BCS Accredited Training Partner**

The software testing industry continues to see market growth around the world and the demand for certified testers has never been greater.

Don’t miss out on this global opportunity. Become part of our international network of training providers and enjoy the benefits that the Institute’s endorsement can bring to your business. You must be accredited by us to deliver our certifications so apply for accreditation today.

[www.bcs.org/trainingpartner](http://www.bcs.org/trainingpartner)