

Information for learners

Statement of purpose

Qualification Title	BCS Level 1 ECDL Certificate in IT User Skills (QCF)
Qualification Number	601/1236/0

<p>What does this qualification cover?</p>	<p>This qualification is a level 1 Certificate that introduces you to core IT user skills and applications commonly used in many businesses around the world. Completing this qualification will develop your understanding of these applications and teach you how to use the software efficiently.</p> <p>You will complete one mandatory unit, Improving Productivity Using IT at level 1, and can choose from a number of optional units including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using IT Systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IT user fundamentals ○ IT security for users • Using IT to Find and Exchange Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Using the Internet ○ Using e-mail ○ Using collaborative technologies • Using Productivity Tools and Applications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Database software ○ Presentation software ○ Project management software ○ Spreadsheet software ○ Word processing software <p>The optional units can be level 1, level 2 or level 3 units from the ITQ framework, however, a minimum of 5 credits must come from level 1 units. This flexibility allows you to tailor the qualification to suit your development needs and/or the needs of your employer. For example, you could do using email, using the Internet and word processing software at level 1; and project management software at level 2.</p> <p>This qualification is on the on the Ofqual Register of Regulated Qualifications.</p>
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<p>What will you learn by completing this qualification?</p>	<p>By completing this qualification, you will develop IT user knowledge and skills which you can use to progress to the next level of learning as listed below (see section ‘What could this qualification lead to?’).</p> <p>You will also develop the skills you need to work productively in a junior administrative job role that requires the use of common IT software applications. You can expect to develop skills including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to use IT tools to improve productivity; such as using automated tools like templates and short cuts. • How to use email and the Internet safely and develop fundamental knowledge of computer security. • How to create, retrieve and store documents. • How to present information clearly and apply different formatting techniques to enhance the presentation of documents. • How to use IT tools and devices for working and communicating collaboratively.
<p>Who is the qualification designed for?</p>	<p>This qualification is designed for people who are looking to gain a basic understanding and capabilities in the use of IT applications and provides the skills and knowledge needed to progress to the next level of learning in IT user skills or any subject where basic IT skills are required, such as administration.</p> <p>This qualification will be right for you if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You want to develop a basic understanding of IT software applications; • You are thinking about further learning in IT or a subject where basic IT skills are required; • You are employed and want to prove to your employer that you can use these IT software applications efficiently; • You are employed and want to develop your existing skills for career progression; • You are unemployed and would like to develop your IT user skills to help improve your prospects of getting a job; • You are looking for formal recognition of your IT skills and knowledge; • You want to tailor a qualification to suit your specific development needs and/or the needs of your employer; • You want to prove your competence with a certificate from a leading professional body for IT; • Your employer, like many others across the world, regards ECDL¹ as the international benchmark in IT user competence and evidence of digital literacy.
<p>How many hours do I need to study for?</p>	<p>The minimum number of vocational learning hours is 90. The maximum number of vocational learning hours is 110.</p>
<p>What are the entry requirements?</p>	<p>There are no specific entry requirements for this qualification.</p>
<p>What are the age restrictions?</p>	<p>This qualification is suitable for learners aged 14+.</p>

¹ European Computer Driving Licence (known as ICDL (International Computer Driving Licence) outside of Europe).

Where does this qualification fit in with other qualifications?

This qualification is part of a suite of ITQ qualifications at Levels 1-3, developed by e-skills UK, the Sector Skills Council for Information Technology and aligned to the National Occupational Standards (NOS) for IT Users.

The BCS IT User Skills Qualifications (ITQs) which incorporate the internationally recognised ECDL are shown in the table below.

Level	Size	Title	Number of Units	Learning Hours	Credit Value
1	Award	ECDL Essentials ²	3	65	9
		ECDL Award ³	Flexible	60 - 70	9 - 12
	Certificate	ECDL Certificate ⁴	Flexible	90 - 110	13 - 16
2	Award	ECDL Award ⁵	Flexible	70 - 115	10 - 15
	Certificate	ECDL Extra ⁶	4	120	16
		ECDL Certificate ⁷	Flexible	120 - 155	16 - 20
3	Award	ECDL Award ⁸	Flexible	90 - 150	12 - 18
	Certificate	ECDL Advanced ⁹	5	220	29

The table above shows where this qualification, BCS Level 1 ECDL Certificate in IT User Skills (QCF), fits in the suite of ITQ qualifications.

This qualification is significantly larger than the BCS Level 1 ECDL Award in IT User Skills (QCF) which requires just 9 to 12 credits and can be completed in 60 to 70 hours of learning.

It is aimed at people who are looking to gain understanding and capabilities in a broader range of IT applications by covering skills in software applications that are not covered in the Level 1 ECDL Award.

The BCS Level 1 ECDL Award in IT User Skills (QCF) may be more suitable for you if you only want to gain skills in a smaller number of units and still want or need the flexibility to tailor a qualification to suit your specific development needs.

² BCS Level 1 Award in IT User Skills (ECDL Essentials) (ITQ) (QCF) 500/6226/8

³ BCS Level 1 ECDL Award in IT User Skills (QCF) 601/0633/5

⁴ BCS Level 1 ECDL Certificate in IT User Skills (QCF) 601/1236/0

⁵ BCS Level 2 ECDL Award in IT User Skills (QCF) 601/0634/7

⁶ BCS Level 2 Certificate in IT User Skills (ECDL Extra) (ITQ) (QCF) 500/6242/6

⁷ BCS Level 2 ECDL Certificate in IT User Skills (QCF) 601/1237/2

⁸ BCS Level 3 ECDL Award in IT User Skills (QCF) 601/0635/9

⁹ BCS Level 3 Certificate in IT User Skills (ECDL Advanced) (ITQ) (QCF) 500/6243/8

<p>What could this qualification lead to?</p>	<p>By completing this qualification, you will develop the skills and knowledge needed to progress to further vocational learning at level 2, studying qualifications such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCS Level 2 ECDL Award in IT User Skills (QCF) (601/0634/7) • BCS Level 2 ECDL Certificate in IT User Skills (QCF) (601/1237/2) • BCS Level 2 Diploma in IT User Skills (ITQ) (QCF) (500/6161/6) <p>Whilst this qualification does not form part of an Apprenticeship it can lead you to a Level 2 Diploma in IT User Skills (Apprenticeship Component) where your achievements from this qualification can count towards the Diploma, and ultimately, an apprenticeship in IT. This would be suitable for you if you wish to complete an apprenticeship using smaller, bite-sized qualifications.</p> <p>You will also demonstrate that you can competently carry out job roles in business administration such as Data Entry; Customer Services; or a junior Office Assistant.</p>
<p>Who supports this qualification?</p>	<p>The suite of BCS IT User Skills Qualifications (ITQs) are supported by a number of organisations and further education colleges across the UK.</p>
<p>Why BCS?</p>	<p>BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT is a leading professional body for IT. We and are experts in our field and at the forefront of innovation in learning delivery and assessment.</p> <p>Our coverage of ITQs includes the popular ECDL qualifications, exclusive to BCS. ECDL is recognised and valued in workplaces all over the world. Employers regard it as the international benchmark in IT user competence and meets the growing requirements for evidence of digital literacy from employers.</p>
<p>Where can you find more information?</p>	<p>You can out more information about this qualification at www.bcs.org/ecdl.</p> <p>To find your nearest BCS approved centre where you can study this qualification, please visit our Find a Centre page at http://apps.bcs.org/fac/ or call us on 01793 417530. We are open 8.15am to 5.30pm UK time, Monday to Friday.</p>