



What it's like to be a...

# BCS Digital End Point Apprenticeship Associate Assessor

From Technical Sales to IT Solutions

## In their own words...

We spoke to one of our assessors about what life is like as an end point assessor, how the role fits into daily life, what the benefits of the role are and what advice they'd give to anyone who is considering taking on an assessor role.

### What is your current Job Role?

I'm a Senior IT Architect, working for a large IT services company in the UK, so I design technology solutions, some of which are critical to our national infrastructure. There's a good chance you've used one of them, for example, if you've ever driven down a smart motorway (no, not the speed cameras). I also provide virtual CIO services to various C-suites across both the private, public, and 3rd sectors.

### Which area of apprenticeship assessing do you specialise in?

My background is quite diverse and I've worn many hats during my career so far, from taking calls on a service desk to selling and deploying infrastructure and cloud solutions, to where I am now, including ownership of my own IT business in-between. As a result, I assess a number of different Standards, from Technical Sales to IT Solutions.

### Why did you choose to become an assessor? What were/are your main motivators for taking on the role?

I've always been passionate about helping others through mentorship, and as an assessor I'm doing my part to bring skilled professionals into the IT

workforce. For apprentices, the interview marks the end of their apprenticeship and is a significant landmark in their career progression, and I find that playing a part in that is very rewarding.

### How long have you been an assessor?

Nearly 3 years now; I've just completed my 150th interview!

### How does being an assessor fit into your day-to-day life?

It's very much a part of my routine now, and has been for a long time. You've got to dedicate enough time to the interview prep as you need to, to be able to identify areas for discussion at interview (i.e., allocate a few hours at least 3 days prior to the interview).

The interview itself is always done at the end of the day, so as not to interfere with my business meetings, and the prep and write ups are done in my own time, which are always outside of working hours, such as evenings and weekends. I find the writing part of it relaxing and therapeutic, but I write proposals for a living, so that might explain why!

## How does being an assessor benefit you and your career?

Apart from the obvious benefit of playing a part in bringing skilled IT professionals into the workforce (of which there is a big skills shortage), I believe that apprenticeships are the future. I have been given opportunities to contribute towards technical exam content as a Subject Matter Expert, stand up in front of audiences and give talks, and I also get a glimpse of digital industries and organisations outside of my own which I find inspiring. Some of the work that I have assessed has been so good that nobody would have thought it was an apprentice that produced it. When it comes to grading, a pass is an excellent grade of course, but it's always inspiring coming across examples of work that go above and beyond and being able to award Merits and Distinctions.

## What positive outcomes have you seen from your work as an assessor?

It's great when you hear about how apprentices have progressed – I discovered, that one apprentice ended up becoming my account manager with a vendors I work with (a major global one), and she's doing extremely well in her career. I also came across another apprentice that I had interviewed and in a business meeting (18 months after the interview) found out he was doing extremely well as well - in fact we had a beer or two after the meeting.

## What advice would you give to someone who is considering becoming an assessor?

BCS is the leading EPAO in the UK, and as such, their standards are unmatched. So, my first bit of advice is to make sure you assess for BCS. Make sure you aren't afraid to ask lots of questions and speak up if you are unsure of anything - the team are fantastic and will be more than happy to help.

## Any other comments?

I just wanted to say thank you to BCS and the EPA Team who are amazing at what they do. The standards have never been higher and I have no doubt they will proactively raise the bar even further.

“ One of the apprentices that I interviewed ended up becoming my account manager at one of my vendors (a major global one), and she's doing extremely well in her career. ”

**Find out more and apply to be a BCS Digital End Point Apprenticeship Associate Assessor online today!**

Visit our web page for more information about the role, including EPA assessor role requirements:

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