

BCS MEMBERSHIP HANDBOOK

I WANT TO...

SUPPORT MAKING IT GOOD FOR SOCIETY

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BCS OVERVIEW

BCS is a professional membership organisation with a Royal Chartered obligation to make IT good for society. We aim to ensure everyone's experience with technology is positive. It's something we've been committed to since 1957. Today we have over 70,000 members in 150 countries, and a wider community of business leaders, educators, practitioners and policy-makers.

The work of our volunteers plays a huge part in helping us with the BCS mission. They are all committed to our mission to lead the IT industry through its ethical challenges, to support the people who work in the industry, and ensure the digital journey is safe and positive for everyone.

Our four pillars:

As part of the strategy, together we have developed four strategic pillars to help us achieve the aims of the strategy and our Royal Charter: "To promote and advance the education and practice of computing for the benefit of the public".

At BCS we're working to create a society where there's no digital divide, where the IT profession is diverse and inclusive, and cutting-edge tech is providing solutions to the climate emergency.

[Watch the video.](#)



Membership

We know our members will want to invite others to BCS who should be recognised in the profession and connect with the existing BCS membership.



Progression

We need to make sure we all have equal opportunities to progress in our careers and to work together to get the very best talent up the ladder.



Inspiration

We want you to help us to inspire others to get into the profession and to reignite the spark for those already in our industry.



Influence

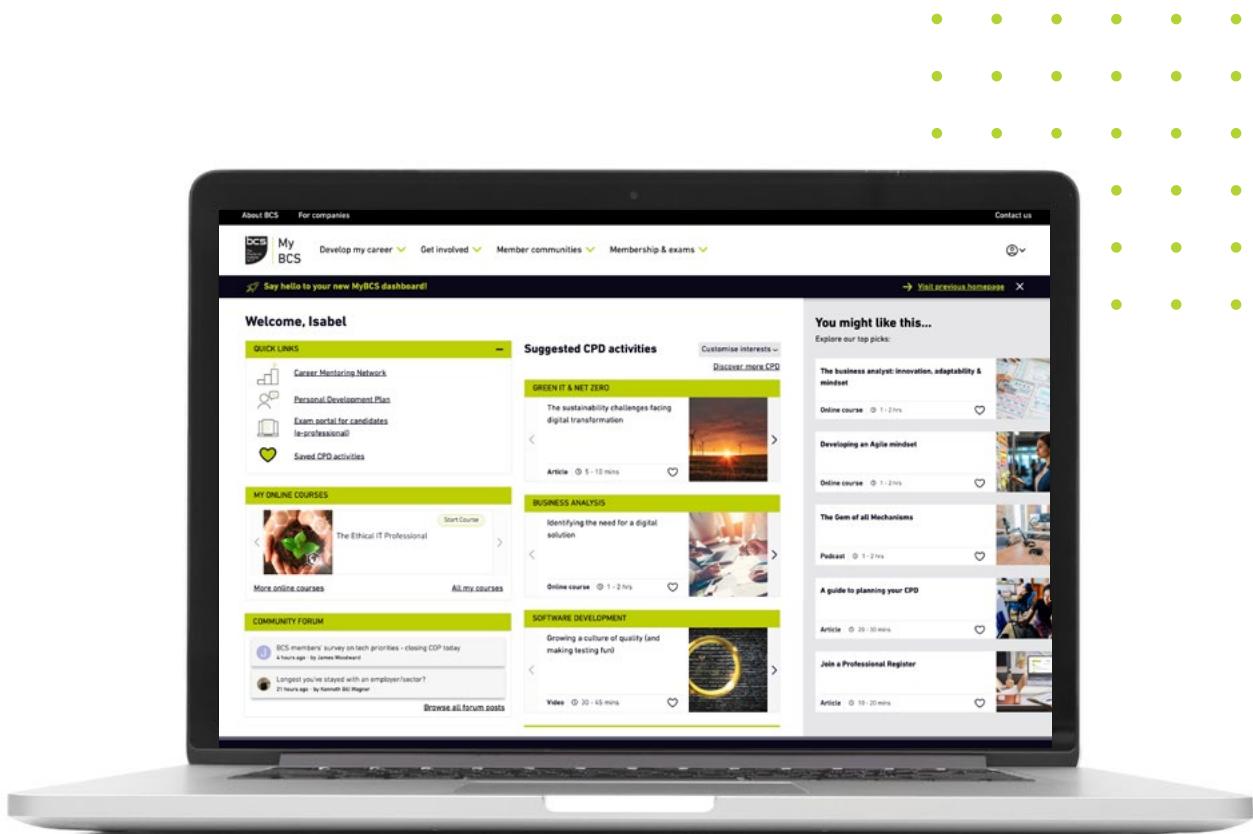
We aim to influence decision-making for our industry at the highest level, both nationally and internationally, across all sectors.



MYBCS

Our member secure area is known as MyBCS.

This is an online portal exclusively for members to access their member benefits. This [video](#) shows you the MyBCS dashboard where you can access and personalise content relevant to you.



100 DAY PLAN

As a member, we want to ensure you make the most of your membership journey and encourage you to use your **100-day plan** from your digital welcome pack as a reference guide. Within the first 25 days of your membership, we advise you to sign up to a **Welcome webinar** and find out how BCS membership can help your development and meet some of the BCS team.

You can also sign up to **specialist groups** of your choice to stay up to date with news and discussions as well as share your digital membership pin as part of your welcome pack. By the 100th day you're BCS ready! You know enough about BCS now and what we have to offer to get the most out of your membership.



YOUR MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

• Recognition

As a valued member you can use the respected BCS post-nominals in your email signature and CV/resumé as an endorsement of your professional integrity as it is indicative that you are signed up to our BCS Code of Conduct and shared purpose of making IT good for society. You can boost your professional profile by speaking at a branch or specialist group, presenting a BCS webinar or by writing for our popular ITNOW magazine. Your BCS credentials are a clear and trusted sign of your competence, integrity and influence. Customers and employers will know they're dealing with a professional who understands their responsibility to the public interest and who they can put their confidence in to do a good job.

• Community

Our membership is made up of over 70,000 technology professionals, including business leaders, policy makers, educators and students, all working together to build an ethical and accountable profession that's fit to drive the information age.

With the support of the inclusive BCS community, you can step outside your comfort zone, say 'yes' to the next speaking opportunity or mentoring role (there are plenty to choose from at BCS) knowing you'll receive genuine encouragement and feedback to stretch you as an individual and spur you towards your career goals.

• Mentoring

Every member has full and free access to the BCS career mentoring network. That's where you'll find over 1000 other mentors and mentees all looking to develop their tech skills and credentials. Just set up a profile outlining the type of mentor / mentee you want to work with, as well as the specific outcomes you're looking for and your required timeframes. Mentoring draws on experiences and know-how already tried and tested in a business environment like yours. In an industry as fast-paced as ours, mentorships provide a valuable learning and development platform enabling professionals at every level to take the guesswork out of their business and career decisions.

To find out more about how our mentorship works, log into MyBCS and look under the Get Involved navigation menu.

• Savings and discounts

Now that you are a valued member, you can take full advantage of discounts that BCS offer. Including:

- Books, journals and magazines
- Training providers around the UK
- Dell products
- Plus much more!

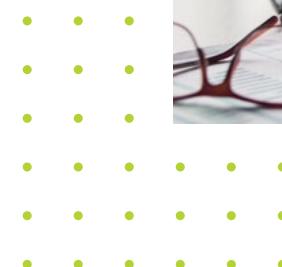
You'll just need to provide your BCS membership number to access your discounts, so be sure to keep your credentials handy.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)

Continuing professional development (CPD)

CPD is often regarded as a chore, a nice-to have if only you had the time! In reality it's probably something you already do without realising – with your membership you have the tools to structure and align this activity more closely around the needs of your role and wider career goals. You'll be able to recognise more relevant opportunities and effectively record and evaluate your learning in your **personal development plan**.

Far from being a chore, you'll discover enjoyable experiences that fine tune your knowledge and competence, increase your value to the organisation and accelerate your career progression.



BCS Discover

Want to discover more about the growing industry and improve your CPD? BCS Discover offers a wide range of online resources that allows our members to access quick and relevant content that supports your career journey as an ethical, competent and accountable tech professional.

BCS Discover CPD content, aligned with **SFIAplus** benchmarking, brings value to your current role through learning materials, videos and research articles that you can access on demand.

Are you looking to progress? Whether you're in a junior or mid-level role, our Discover content helps you develop your professional knowledge. If you're looking to prove your credentials, joining a **Professional Registration** might be for you, helping you to prove that you're committed to maintaining and developing your competence and expertise.

What will you discover today?

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (PDP)

What's next in your career journey?

Those who make a plan for development are more likely to complete it. Take full control of your career development by planning your goals, recording your CPD activities and monitoring your progress. Combined with other **member benefits** you can fill the skills gaps that you have identified, helping you to accelerate your learning journey and career.

Start your PDP today





QUALIFICATIONS

When you choose a qualification from the professional body for IT, you know you're in safe hands. BCS qualifications are only delivered by our accredited training provider network, ensuring that our members receive a professional service and support at all times.

We certify practical, relevant IT skills from foundation to expert level - with over 90 certificates all aligned with [SFI Aplus](#). This means that wherever you are in your career and in whichever field of IT, you can learn something new and plot your development on the industry framework.

It's time to elevate your career with a BCS professional certification. Our training programmes help you to sharpen your business focus and understand how you can use technology to make a real difference in a progressive organisation. Our [Qualification and Certification Directory](#) helps you decide which qualification is right for you.

HOW CPD BENEFITS YOUR ORGANISATION

Supports recruitment

59% of millennials claim ongoing professional development is extremely important when deciding whether to apply for a position.¹

33% of employees specifically seek new opportunities for professional development, to keep learning and become better at what they do.²

Aids employee retention

70% of employees across all age brackets believe the quality of development opportunities influences their decision to stay in a job.³

30-50% rise in employee retention rates for companies with strong learning cultures.⁴

Strengthens your competitive edge

24% higher profit margin when you invest in ongoing professional development.⁵

202% increase in productivity.⁶

Boosts your reputation

3 in 5 people value their organisation's approach to employee wellbeing.⁷

63% of a company's market value is attributed to reputation.⁸



1 <https://www.lorman.com/blog/post/39-statistics-that-prove-the-value-of-employee-training>

2 <https://www.hrcloud.com/blog/8-employee-engagement-statistics-you-need-to-know-in-2021#:~:text=Calculate%20Now>

3 <https://www.leaplikeasalmon.com/cpd-stats-explained-infographic/>

4 <https://www.lorman.com/blog/post/39-statistics-that-prove-the-value-of-employee-training>

5 <https://www.leaplikeasalmon.com/cpd-stats-explained-infographic/>

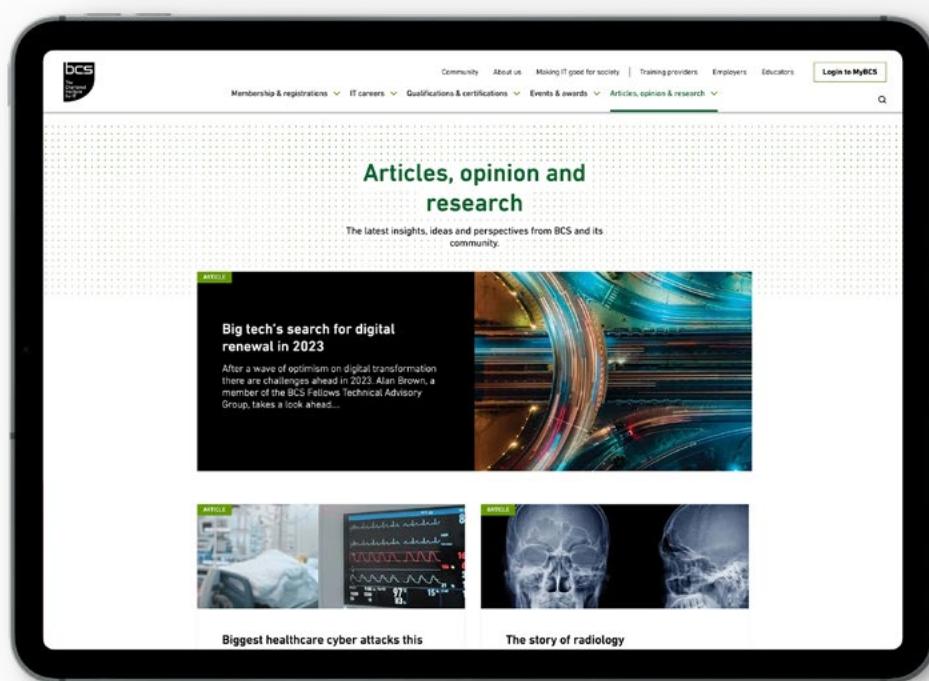
6 <https://www.shiftlearning.com/blog/statistics-value-of-employee-training-and-development>

7 <https://www.techtarget.com/whatis/feature/7-employee-experience-stats-to-reshape-your-EX-strategy>

8 <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/reputation-accounts-for-63-percent-of-a-companys-market-value-300986105.html>

CONTENT HUB

Want to know about the latest insights and ideas across the digital world? Our **Content Hub** includes great up to date resources such as articles, opinions and research to really give you an insight into trending topics such as Green IT, Education and Future Tech. Whether you are an on the go learner or like to stick to visuals, we offer podcasts and webinars highlighting the most recent topics discussed in the community. BCS Opinion also includes articles written by Fellows and Presidents sharing insights about the tech community.



LIBRARIES AND BOOKSHOPS

BCS bookshop has some useful titles to help support your learning and performance in the industry. The bookshop includes BCS Rolebooks which are a collection of go-to books to help anyone looking to step into a new role, develop their current one or understand the deeper function of a colleague's role. From the bestselling 'Business Analysis' to our essential IT role guides, BCS publishing draws on the expertise in our community to respond to the evolving needs of today's business and technology professionals.

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BCS members
receive **25% discount**
across the entire
store. Simply enter
your membership
number at checkout.

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BROWSE SFIAPLUS SKILLS FRAMEWORK

The **SFIA (Skills for the Information Age) framework** is the most comprehensive definition of IT skills in global business, regularly updated by the SFIA Foundation to remain relevant in our fast-paced industry. Made up of skills and tasks at levels, the framework is used by individuals and organisations across the profession to develop talent and inspire performance.

BCS has developed **SFIAPlus** to help you get more out of the SFIA framework. Fully aligned with our membership grades and professional certifications, **SFIAPlus** is a 3D model which adds real-world detail to the frameworks skills and levels – such as typical work activities, technical and behavioural skills, training activities and more. BCS members can explore every skill, level and detail to plan, map and accelerate your development. You can learn more about **SFIAPlus** by watching a video [here](#).



REGISTRATION AND STANDARDS

Professional registration verifies your capability as an IT professional by an independent assessment of your ability to apply your knowledge and skills. Whichever registration is right for you, achieving professional recognition provides evidence to employers around what you can do and demonstrates your commitment to maintaining your knowledge and skills.

As a BCS member, once we receive information about your skills and experience we ask someone who knows your work well to confirm what you have told us to support your application, and then ask IT professionals, who are BCS Membership assessors, to assess you against your chosen registration standard.

Want to know which professional registrations you can achieve?

[Find out more](#)



MEMBER COMMUNITIES

Whichever your area of interest, our wide-ranging **specialist groups**, **regional groups**, **international sections** and **online community** offer you a professional and friendly platform to share knowledge and experiences, debate ideas, grow your network and raise your profile.

To find out more about community events, check out our **[events page](#)**.

Specialist groups

Choose from over 50 specialist interest groups where members share discussion, ideas and enthusiasm for their chosen subject. Access insight and expertise on topics as niche as Fortran and as diverse as championing digital inclusion for all.

UK and International Branches

From Aberdeen to Belfast, Sussex to the South West, our network comprises almost 50 branches spanning the UK. They're a great place to make new contacts and stay up to date with developments in your region. Our international hubs are located across Europe, North America, Asia and Africa.

[Find out more](#)



BCS STUDENT CHAPTERS

BCS student chapters are a talented and enthusiastic network of students from universities across the UK and internationally.

Chapters provide a platform for like-minded students across IT disciplines to get together to debate and share information. They also offer students the opportunity to connect with people working in the industry and to start building a professional network.

Chapters are run by students, for students. They require a committee of individuals to run the chapter, providing a variety of events and activities for its members. Our dedicated chapter team at BCS can help to support you with events, marketing and funding. We can help

you get connected with industry professional guest speakers and collaborate with the Early Careers Executives. More recent chapters include workshops, event talks known as a Hackathon and other fun ways to get involved across university campus.

[Find out more](#)

[Learn more about student membership and its benefits.](#)



BCS VOLUNTEERING HUB

The work of our volunteers plays a huge part in making IT good for society, one of our aims of professional body with a Royal Charter. BCS membership provides lots of opportunities to enhance your personal development, including volunteering opportunities. Our volunteer hub outlines the main ways you can get involved. BCS have over 100 community groups which are broken down into two main types, local branches and specialist groups. These communities are run by members, for members. These groups provide a great opportunity to network and learn, and they are always keen to have new BCS members volunteer to help out as well.



There are also a variety of ways you can get involved with BCS activity, as well as member groups we have opportunities available such as working with local schools, peer assessment and mentoring. Volunteering is a great way to boost your profile and skills, using your power for good. [This video](#) explains more ways you can get involved and give back to the community.

During your volunteer journey you will also find opportunities to apply for strategic board positions and BCS Council. These roles give members an opportunity to shape the future of BCS and our external influence.

Volunteering Vacancies

Explore our [volunteering vacancies](#) page to find a role that best fits your experience or the skills you want to develop.

Mentoring

[Mentoring](#) is not just a one-way street - being a mentor and watching as your mentee progresses and gains confidence can be a hugely rewarding experience. It can help you to broaden your own knowledge and helps contribute towards your own professional development.

Become an Assessor

[Becoming an assessor](#) can be personally rewarding and satisfying, helping you to build out your skills, network and exposure to a broad range of disciplines. We have various roles available and a full training programme to support you in becoming an assessor. If you have 2-4 hours to spare a month, then becoming a BCS approved assessor could be the perfect opportunity.

BCS POLICY AND INFLUENCE

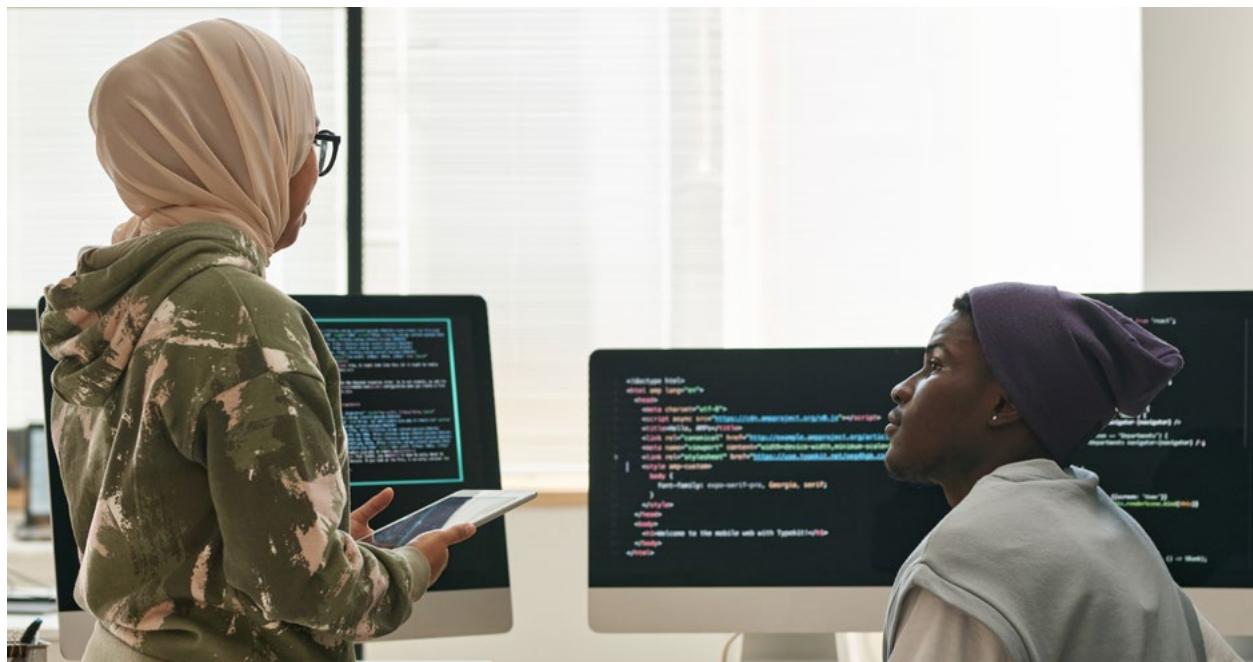
As a professional body whose mission is to make IT good for society, we have identified four key themes that we must focus on to ensure today's technology has a positive impact on everyone.

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You can find out more about Policy shapes the future of today by visiting our website [here](#).

The BCS President is working with the BCS policy team to streamline activity under four themes and campaign goals agreed and signed off by the BCS Trustee Board and Council which are:

- Our digital lives should be in the hands of competent, ethical, and accountable professionals.
- Greater diversity and inclusion in the IT profession benefit society.
- The digital divide is a modern measure of inequality; it can be closed by access to skills as well as technology.
- The world will achieve net zero more rapidly with support of digital and data technologies.





POLICY JAMS

Keep informed on key organisational and public policy developments and upcoming projects with BCS Policy Jams. Get involved in the conversation at the Policy Jam events, where there will be ample opportunity to engage with us and ask questions. You can watch past Policy Jams on our website, covering topics such as Digital Health, AI, Education and so much more!

Watch our past Policy Jams on our website

For further information please contact:

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