bcs
The Chartered Institute for IT

Enabling the information society

Chartered Profession in the UK

Dr Liz Bacon

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Overview

- Chartered Status Registrations
- IT Profession and Industry Perspective
- BCS Management of Chartered Routes
- University Accreditation of Degree Programmes
- Overview of recent updates to Chartered IT Professional and SFIA level 5
- BCS Federation and Future Plans

Chartered Status

The British Computer Society can provide registration routes to:

- **Chartered Engineer (CEng) and Incorporated Engineer (IEng)** :
  - Standards and requirements are defined by UK-SPEC (UK Standard for Professional Engineering Competence)
  - BCS is one or several bodies licensed to provide a route to registration by the Engineering Council.
  - Well established.
  - Revalidation - never
- **Chartered Scientist (CSci)**
  - Licensed by the Science Council to provide a route to registration.
  - Since about 2003.
  - Revalidation - annual
- **Chartered IT Professional (CITP)**
  - BCS controls the standards and routes to registration.
  - Existed since about 2004, recently revised.
  - Revalidation - now every 5 years.

View of Chartered Status by Industry

- **CITP, CEng and CSci** (although not currently well known) respected as saying something about the:
  - Professionalism of an individual, adherence to a code of conduct
  - Ability as self-learners
  - Independent thinkers
  - Etc.
- **But:** are rarely requested on IT job adverts – a useful bonus perhaps but not key to recruitment (CEng required (not legally) for Structural Engineers, highly desired for Civil Engineers)
- **CITP recently major review** - evolved to reflect profession it represents, changes based on direct result of feedback from industry, members and government to ensure Chartered status is more rigorous and relevant in today's business environment.
- **Employers wanted to know the specific competencies of applicants for senior roles in IT.**

Chartered IT Professional

- CITPs should add business value through use of technology
- CITPs should have breadth of knowledge across the whole of IT and competence in their own specialism
- CITPs should understand the business they are working in
- CITP status should tell us something about the holder that we cannot easily find out for ourselves
- CITP should be aspirational and demanding to achieve
- The process of achieving CITP should be rigorous and there should be some form of periodic revalidation
- **i.e. CITP has a more business focus than CEng or CSci.**

Management of Chartered Routes in BCS

- BCS has 8 main boards, 4 externally facing:
  - Professionalism Board – manages **CITP**
  - Engineering and Science Board – manages **CEng and CSci**
  - BCS Academy of Computing which has an Academic Accreditation Committee to manage the **accreditation of University Degree Programmes**
  - Policy and Public Affairs Board

UK Degrees - Structure and Quality Assurance

- **The QAA – Quality Assurance Agency** (England, Northern Ireland and Wales) publishes a Qualifications framework, SCQF (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework) is the Scottish equivalent – both define:
  - 120 credit points as one year of undergraduate (UG) study
  - 180 for a year long masters.
- **BCS may accredit UG university degree programmes that:**
  - Fall into the QAA (Quality Assurance Agency) Computing Subject Benchmark (**expected standards for a degree subject**) for Computing (Undergraduate exists, Postgraduate under development). http://www.qaa.ac.uk/academicinfrastructure/benchmark/honours/computing.asp
  - In order to be considered at least e.g. 240 / 360 points from an undergraduate degree must be in computing.

Chartered Degree Requirements

- **CITP** – typically an accredited honours degree plus further learning beyond graduation.
- **CEng and CSci** – accredited honours degree plus accredited masters degree or appropriate further learning to masters level e.g. through an integrate degree e.g. MEng.
- Can accredit degrees as **partially** meeting accreditation requirements e.g. a BSc and an MSc would typically partially meet the requirements for CEng, together would meet the full requirements.

University Degree Accreditation

- Each university is accredited once every **five** years – it's not compulsory but virtually all universities in the country seek accreditation.
- **Size of panels** vary (3-5 people) but must include an industrialist.
- University makes a submission using a **standard template** at least 8 weeks in advance of the visit – much of it is on CD, not printed.
- All aspects of quality, resources, content, assessment, student support, admissions are checked.
- Report presented to AAC for a **final decision**. Outcomes can include refusal or a 90 day resubmission, or a reduced period of accreditation.
- Degree programmes normally **expected to have graduates at time of accreditation** so standard of final assessments and projects can be reviewed – otherwise "initial accreditation" is offered, followed up by a paper submission when institutions has graduates.

Accreditation Requirements

- **Core requirements** for all accreditations in the areas of:

  1. Computing related cognitive abilities
  2. Computing related practical abilities
  3. Transferable skills
  4. Legal, Social, Ethical and Professional Issues
  5. Individual project (can be done within a group) for both undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications

- CITP, CEng and CSci all have **additional requirements** specified for 1, 2 and 3 above.
- Normal visits, now called "**Type one**" have between 3 and 5 panel members depending on the size of the provision. At least two members from AAC.
- Recently introduced "**Type two**" visits, panel of two, for institutions that had good report at last visit e.g. no 90 day submissions.
- Individual applications can be made if applicants don't have an accredited degree.

Chartered IT Professional (CITP)

1. **Education and Experience**
   A period of experience working in IT including recent experience (typically 3 years) at SFIA Level 5 or above.

2. **Breadth of Knowledge**
   An 80 question multiple choice test on IT and its application The overall pass mark is 50 out of 75 and applicants must score at least 8 out of 15 in each of the five sections of the syllabus.

3. **Specialist Competence**
   Skills assessment presentation and interview with two assessors from the applicant's specialism e.g. information management and security; strategy and architecture; portfolio, programme and project management; business change; solution development and implementation; service management; supply, quality and resource management; learning and development; and sales and marketing.

SFIA level 5 - Ensure and Advise

- **The Skills Framework for the Information Age (SFIA) is the UK government backed high-level IT skills standard. It describes the typical roles in IT and the skills needed to fulfil them.**
- **Autonomy** - Self initiatives, given broad direction, fully accountable for technical / project / supervisory work, works from objectives, establishes own milestones and team objectives, and delegates responsibilities.
- **Influence** - Influences organisation, customers, suppliers etc. Significant responsibility for the work of others and for the allocation of resources. Makes decisions which impact on the success of assigned projects i.e. results, deadlines and budget.
- **Complexity** - Performs a challenging range and variety of complex technical or professional work activities. Understands the relationship between own specialism and wider customer/organisational requirements.
- **Business skills** - Demonstrates leadership, creativity and innovation. Advises on the available standards, methods, tools and applications, can make correct choices from alternatives. Analyses, diagnoses, designs, plans, executes and evaluates work to time, cost and quality targets, mentors junior colleagues.

BCS Federation

- The Federation will therefore be a **network of partners** that support the establishment of the IT profession.
- **Partnership and equal standing** – relationship managed on an equal basis.
- The **primary aim of the Federation** is to offer an extended network of:
  - Products and services
  - Professional development pathways
  - Information resources to members of the IT profession
  - Provide a more structured approach to training and professional development.
- Via the Federation, BCS will become the **central resource for information and guidance on products and services that support all IT professionals.**
- **Typical Federation Partners**: IT membership bodies certification bodies and training providers.

Benefits of the Federation

- **Increased awareness** of BCS within the IT profession
- BCS becomes central **home** for information on meaningful career development opportunities for IT professionals via CPD register
- **Brand recognition** via Federation partners and endorsed CPD branding
- **Increased membership** through tailored Affiliate member offering opportunity to **develop and promote other services** to Affiliate members
- **Enhanced visibility for SFIA** thus establishing it as a recognised standard
- **Greater support** mechanism for BCS members, particularly those aspiring for CITP status
- Possibilities **for further strategic collaboration** with Federation partners
- Possible to **license CITP.**

Questions