Software testing

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

Our relationships with the ISTQB and iSQI enable us to provide the most up to date and relevant certification 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.

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 SFIA*plus* 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**

SFIA*plus* level	Typical experience	Characteristics of level	BCS professional certification	Development needs
7	15+ years			**Business management experience** **Strategic planning**
6	10+ 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	**Chartered Professional is awarded on the basis of knowledge, experience and professionalism**	**Preparation for significant IT management role**
5	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 manager **Typical experience:** evidence of in-depth testing knowledge	**ISTQB-BCS Advanced Certificates:** • **Test Analyst** • **Test Manager** • **Technical Test Analyst**	**Seek to undertake:** • increased responsibility and authority • management of an organisation's test centre • increased project management **When appropriate, Chartered status should be progressed**
4	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** **Certified Agile Tester (CAT)**®	**Further practitioner certification Advanced certificates in software testing** **Seek to undertake:** • leadership of larger test teams • significant test strategies • improvement of organisation's test capability
3	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** **Certified Agile Tester (CAT)**	**Intermediate certificates Certified Agile Tester (CAT)** **Seek to undertake:** • leadership of a small test team • definition of test strategies • consider development of agile skills
2	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	**Institute membership provides services and benefits to support your career development**	**ISTQB-BCS Certified Tester Foundation Level Certified Agile Tester (CAT)** **Seek to demonstrate:** • competence with organisation practices • competence with using test tools • management of defects
1			**Review SFIA*plus* for guidance on developing your career ahead of taking specific certification**	

Fellow · **Chartered Professional** · **Professional** · **Associate** (SFIA*plus* grades, vertical)

Career starting point

Your career progression

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
• IT service management
• Business analysis

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

Foundation

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

Other industry professional certification is available and will be relevant to you as your career progresses.

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 certification

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 certification draws on internationally accepted best practice and provides 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 Certified Agile Tester (CAT)
Intermediate	Software Testing
Higher	ISTQB-BCS Advanced Test Analyst ISTQB-BCS Advanced Test Manager ISTQB-BCS Advanced Technical Test Analyst

Agile testing

Agile testing is flexible and adaptive, driven by the need to get projects to market faster and cheaper. CAT is aimed at software testers with or without agile experience.

bcs.org/agiletesting

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
- Ideal route into the rapidly growing field of agile testing
- 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 SFIA*plus* providing a clear development path for employees
- 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
- Agile testing certification to help you deliver projects faster, with greater accuracy and reduced costs

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

Find out more at **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 certification 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 and agile 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 certification so apply for accreditation today.

bcs.org/trainingpartner

® The Certified Agile Tester (CAT) scheme is a trademark of iSQI.

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