

BCS Foundation Award Course – Understanding Ethical Principles in the IT Profession

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Course Title – BCS Foundation Award – Understanding Ethical Principles in the IT Profession	Course duration – 1 day
Exam - included	Exam type - Invigilated
Qualification – BCS Foundation Award - Understanding Ethical Principles in the IT Profession	

Course Syllabus

1. The importance of ethics to society, business and IT professionals

- 1.1 Explain the impact of ethical principles on society.
- 1.2 Explain the impact of ethical principles on organisations.
- 1.3 Explain the impact of ethical principles on individuals.

2. Ethical behaviour required by IT professionals

- 2.1 Explain the differences between a rules-based system and a principles-based system.
- 2.2 Describe the key elements of the BCS Code of Conduct.
- 2.3 Describe the key points of the ethical standard ISO 26000.
- 2.4 Identify ethical behaviours required to deal with different situations.

3. The role of corporate governance

- 3.1 Describe the role of corporate governance in an organisation.
- 3.2 Identify ways to monitor corporate governance.

4. Legislation

- 4.1 Identify basic business laws and standards that influence the way an organisation operates.
- 4.2 Identify elements of data privacy laws that organisations must operate within.

5. Ethical dilemmas and safeguards

- 5.1 Identify potential ethical dilemmas facing IT professionals and safeguards that can be implemented.
- 5.2 Explain the term “sustainability” in relation to IT.
- 5.3 Describe the key components of the triple bottom line and the impact of this on IT professionals.

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Course Overview

Our BCS Foundation Award in Understanding Ethical Principles in the IT Profession is designed for individuals seeking to understand the purpose and value of ethics in a modern workplace.

Ethics is the cornerstone of society; it helps to shape organisational culture, and it influences decision making. As the use of digital technology is now integrated into virtually every aspect of everyday life, ethics in IT is becoming more important than ever.

This award is designed to enable individuals to explore ethics in relation to their own role and the ethical principles upheld within the IT profession. It aims to show them how to identify common threats to their ethical behaviour and the safeguards that can help to minimise these threats. It also considers the role of legislation and corporate governance in ensuring ethical standards are promoted and maintained.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the award, you will be able to demonstrate:

- The importance of ethics to society, business and IT professionals
- The ethical behaviour required by IT professionals
- The role of corporate governance
- Relevant legislation
- The ethical dilemmas and safeguards

Who should attend?

This award is suitable for any individual wishing to understand the opportunities presented by AI and how these can benefit an organisation.

Entry-Level Requirements

There are no specific entry requirements for this award. However, some professional experience in a business or IT environment may be helpful.

What's included?

1 day in-person classroom training or 1-day virtual online training.

Exam information

This award is assessed through completion of an invigilated online exam which candidates will only be able to access at the date and time they are registered to attend.

Type	18 multiple choice questions, 1 scenario-based question
Duration	30 minutes
Supervised	Yes

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Open book	No (no materials can be taken into the examination room)
Passmark	13/20 (65%)
Delivery	Digital format only

Adjustments and/or additional time can be requested in line with the BCS reasonable adjustments policy for candidates with a disability, or other special considerations, including English as a second language.

Qualifications

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What else?

This award has been created alongside a selection of other awards available from BCS, which offer candidates a clear pathway of progression into other disciplines of IT. This makes it ideally suited for those looking for a change of career, an upskilling workforce, and sustainable employers.

This award counts towards achieving your Foundation Certificate in AI and/or your Foundation Diploma in AI.

To receive the Foundation Certificate in AI you need to achieve **four awards** – one award from each of the categories

- 1. Business innovation**
- 2. Data**
- 3. Ethics**
- 4. Machine learning and other AI techniques**

To receive the Foundation Diploma in AI you need to **achieve eight awards in total** – one or more award from each of the categories

The courses are as follows:

- **How AI can support your organisation**
- **How to manage risk**
- **Understanding the problem and implementing the solution**
- **Understanding data in your organisation**
- **Big Data**
- **Data visualisation**
- **Understanding ethical principles in the IT profession**
- **Understanding the role of ethics in the responsible use of AI**
- **AI and the digital ecosystem**
- **Knowledge-based systems**
- **Smart products, robotics and automation**

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- Machine learning
- Generative AI