

# The Provider

The monthly course provider update

July 2009 Issue 01



## KEY DATES



- **Results Release Date** – Will be no later than 7th August 2009
- **October Entry Closing Date** – 15th August for paper applications (after this date a late entry fee of £30 will be charged)
- **Online registrations and re-sit applications Closing Date** – from April 2009 is 31st August 2009
- **Project Proposals (April 2010) Closing Date** – 31st August 2009
- Project submissions (October 2009) Closing Date – 31st August 2009
- Soon to come in September 2009, a new and improved BCS website! [www.bcs.org/exams](http://www.bcs.org/exams)
- **Advance notification for course providers** – BCS is currently undergoing a number of exciting changes which will ensure that we truly are the most effective and relevant professional body for computing and information technology internationally. The BCS corporate identity is changing including the logo. We are unable to inform you of the exact changes at this point in time ahead of the official launch date. For a period of time you will be able to continue using the existing BCS logo however, we would encourage providers to implement the new logo as soon as possible after the September 09 launch date. If you are looking to produce new materials we recommend that you reduce stocks for printing or consider holding on any production until after this date if this is at all possible – for more information please contact us at [theprovider@hq.bcs.org.uk](mailto:theprovider@hq.bcs.org.uk)

Welcome to the first ever edition of The Provider newsletter, this is a monthly update for our valued BCS Professional Examinations course providers. We will remind you of key dates in the Professional Examinations calendar, success stories, helpful information, advice, tips and much more.

## SPOTLIGHT



### Not one, two, or three but four awards won by BCS Professional Examinations Top Candidate.

Miss Tiloka Sunyani De Silva has achieved four top candidate awards for the Professional Examinations qualification including the prestigious Proms G Management Award in 2007/08. BCS would like to again offer our congratulations to Miss De Silva and would like to feature the Top Candidate for the first ever Spotlight article.

Miss De Silva has kindly provided BCS with an insight in to her experiences with all three of the Professional Examinations qualifications, from her initial decision to take the Professional Examinations Certificate in IT to the completion of the Diploma Examination and the PGD Examination.

Miss De Silva started out as an economics student in search of IT qualifications which would compliment her economics background; she stated that "IT skills are becoming more and more of a requirement in the job market. As a student of Economics, I felt that some knowledge of IT would complement my coursework. BCS seemed a good choice: a means of acquiring skills I would not be able to obtain otherwise, short of doing a degree in IT".

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"BCS offers a range of subjects all of which would be useful to have even outside of an IT based career. While offering subjects in software engineering and system design, there are more management oriented subjects which are extremely applicable in most jobs at a planning level. I learnt about designing databases, planning and implementing large scale projects, the importance of service management among other things which are relevant to most occupations".

"The flexibility was not limited to study areas but extended to examinations. Having the option of doing an exam that is held twice a year relieves the pressure on students while giving them the chance to finish everything in a year and a half, half the time it takes to complete a bachelor's degree".

"I followed the classes for all three stages of the BCS Examinations at Esoft. The support provided through lectures and tutorials proved to be invaluable to me, since I came from a completely non-IT background. The syllabi were tackled thoroughly and methodically, and completed in time to allow for revision and tutorials".

"I would recommend BCS to anyone who is looking for professional training in IT".

Mr Gopinath Subramaniam – ESOFIT Professional IT Education Manager is delighted with the success of their top candidate and has high hopes for their students "ESOFIT is one of many course providers in Sri Lanka delivering courses for the BCS Professional Examinations and has been conducting classes since the year 2000. ESOFIT is an 'Accredited Course Provider' in recognition of the facilities and resources that we provide, and we have produced many World and Sri Lankan Prize Winners over the years. ESOFIT specialises in conducting the programme on a part time basis, and we also have a full time study option known as 'BCS Plus' as well."

We would like to report your success stories, please feel free to contact us at [theprovider@hq.bcs.org.uk](mailto:theprovider@hq.bcs.org.uk) with any stories that you would like featured in the Spotlight feature article.

## HOW TO...



### Register for an exam

If a candidate has membership which is current or lapsed, please ensure they write the number on the application form to avoid candidates being duplicated on our database.

**Section 1)** Please ensure each candidate completes and signs their own entry form. Candidates must register using a personal address and not the college address, incorrect entry forms may not be processed until the correct details are confirmed by the candidate.

**Section 2)** Course details are mandatory and students must complete this section, entry forms will not be processed unless this is completed.

**Section 3)** If the candidate has applied for, or is planning to apply for exemption then they may not enter for the module(s) for which they are seeking exemption.

**Section 4)** The candidate should select the examination venue that they wish to sit at.

**Section 5)** All students must be a member of the BCS and can apply before or at the time of entering for the examination(s).

**Section 6)** Candidates need to ensure that their payment is submitted in full with a completed application form. We have changed our process and candidates are encouraged to pay online where available, as the credit card facility has been removed from the application form. Candidate's wishing to pay by credit card who are unable to use the online facility will need to contact the Professional Examinations office direct to make the payment. Please make all students aware that the Professional Examinations office is open from 08:45 to 17:15 Monday to Friday GMT.

**Section 7)** ALL applications must be signed by the candidate and not on their behalf.

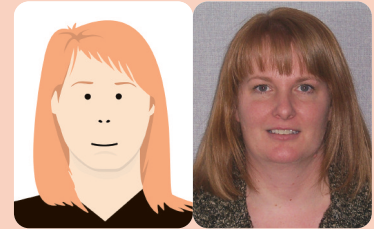


## GIVE ME A BREAK



**Now that's enough about work, lets move on to something a little more fun.**

How about we introduce you to the hard working team behind the Professional Examinations qualification that really makes things happen. Who better to start with than the Head of Professional Examinations – Sharon Hurd.



Sharon Hurd, This is your (BCS) life...

**Name:** Sharon Hurd

**Started at BCS:** August 2001

- Started as an Examinations Officer in the Professional Examinations department.
- Sharon quickly progressed to her current job role as Head of Professional Examinations in August 2002. Since 2002, due to Sharon's excellent efforts, Professional Examinations gained QCA recognition and has further expanded in to new international markets and has introduced even more modules offered at the October session.
- Sharon has led an extremely impressive **20%** growth in the Professional Examinations area over the past six years resulting in an all time historic high!

#### Interesting facts:

- Sharon took part in a 42km roller skating marathon in Berlin with two other BCS employees in 2007.
- Sharon also enjoys building and has built the house she currently lives in with her husband and two children.





BCS Professional Examinations Marketing team is aware that we could do more to help you with your marketing needs. This is why we have introduced this handy hints and tips section with helpful suggestions and contact details if you require more information.

### Hints:

#### Why BCS Professional Examinations can make a difference:

- BCS Professional Examinations offers a UK Honours degree equivalent qualification – many UK universities recognise our qualifications as a route to postgraduate study.
- All three levels are accredited by Ofqual in the UK – Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator.
- Developed in consultation with employers' panel – this qualification meets demands of companies in the IT industry such as: The Ministry of Defence, Royal Mail, Vodafone, Halifax, Royal Sun Alliance and Barclays.
- Flexible delivery – Over 100 course providers worldwide.
- Affordability – Our qualification fees are competitive worldwide.
- BCS offer a highly reputable Chartered Institute for IT status with all of our qualifications.
- BCS and Sun Microsystems provide all BCS Student members with free online Sun course training under a scheme called the Sun Academic Initiative (SAI) – Please contact us for more information at [theprovider@hq.bcs.org.uk](mailto:theprovider@hq.bcs.org.uk)

### Tips:

- The Professional Examinations CD-ROM is an ideal opportunity to reach your students, with all the detailed syllabus information and other important information included in pdf format.
- Alternatively, with your communications to students you can direct students to BCS Professional Examinations website to download the current 09/10 prospectus. We also offer the opportunity for course providers to advertise in the back few pages of the prospectus with an approximate circulation figure of **95,632**.

### Recent events and exhibitions that BCS have attended:

- Graduation Ceremonies 2008 in UK, Sri Lanka and Mauritius
- BETT Show 2009 – UK
- The Education Show 2009 – UK
- The Education 2009 Conference – UK
- ICT for Education Conference 2009 – UK
- BCS brain-storming session on 'IT the future Profession' 2009 – Mauritius
- Higher Education Fair 2009 – Mauritius
- BCS annual seminar 2009 – Mauritius
- EDEX – National Higher Education and Careers Expo 2009 – Sri Lanka
- Future Minds 2009 – Sri Lanka
- Chief Information Officer's Forum – (CIO's) 2009 – Sri Lanka

### Coming soon:

- The Scottish Learning Festival 2009 [www.ltscotland.org.uk/slf/](http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/slf/) – UK
- London Graduation Ceremony 13th November 2009 – UK
- BETT 2010 [www.bettshow.com/](http://www.bettshow.com/) – UK
- BCS Quiz Competition for BCS students August 2009 – Mauritius
- BCS Graduation Ceremony 24th October 2009 – Mauritius
- BCS IT Personality award 24th October 2009 – Mauritius
- Professional talk on IT Project Management October 2009 – Mauritius
- Jaffna Exhibition 15-16th September 2009 – North Sri Lanka
- Examination Focus for Self Study Students 19th September 2009 – Sri Lanka
- ICT Member Organisations Mini (INFOTEL) 26-27th September 2009 – Sri Lanka
- National Best Quality Software Awards 16th October 2009 – Sri Lanka
- Graduation Ceremony 10th Anniversary & Graduation Ball 1st November 2009 – Sri Lanka
- Information Communications Technology Agency (ICTA) 2-4th December 2009 – Sri Lanka / Asia

Please contact the appropriate office if you require any extra information about our up-and-coming events and exhibitions:  
UK office: [theprovider@hq.bcs.org.uk](mailto:theprovider@hq.bcs.org.uk) Mauritian office: [Iqbal.boolaky@hq.bcs.org.uk](mailto:Iqbal.boolaky@hq.bcs.org.uk)  
Sri Lankan office: [Niranjala.weerasinghe@hq.bcs.org.uk](mailto:Niranjala.weerasinghe@hq.bcs.org.uk)

**› When is the closing date to apply for the examinations?**

Applications must be received by BCS on or before 15th August for BCS Professional Examinations in October. The online entry facility will be available until 4th September. Applicants must be members of BCS

**› How do I apply to take the BCS Professional Examination?**

You can apply to take the exam online by visiting our website (please note not all venues are available for online registration). Alternatively, you may wish to apply by downloading an application form and sending it back to the BCS Professional Examinations department. Students should apply online wherever possible.

**› Receipt and acceptance confirmation for online applications**

If you apply for a BCS Professional Examination using the online application process you will receive a receipt and confirmation by email. Please ensure you print these and take them with you to the examination centre on the day of your exam.

**Note:** we do not issue a receipt or confirmation letter by post if we have sent these emails to you. The emails should be retained and printed as evidence of registration for the examination

**› Can I sit for an examination in my own country?**

The BCS has standard UK and International venues. If your preferred International venue is not listed, BCS will endeavour to set up a venue in the country of your choice for which an additional venue surcharge of £50.00 will apply. In the unlikely event that we are unable to set up a preferred venue in the country of your choice we will notify you.

**› What are the closing dates for submission of the Professional Project?**

The closing dates are as follows:

**Project Proposals:**

30th April (For October Project Assessment)

31st August (For April Project Assessment)

**Project Submissions:**

31st August (for October Assessment)

Mauritius candidates must submit to regional officer by 31st July

28th February (for April Assessment)

Mauritius candidates must submit to regional officer by 31st January

**› How do I submit my Project Proposal?**

All candidates are required to forward a proposal of their intended Project Submission to BCS for approval before submitting the Professional Project. The closing dates for project proposals will be 31st August (April Submission) and 30th April (October submission)

**Important:** project proposals must be submitted by the closing date in order for your project submission to be accepted in the corresponding session detailed above. All Project Proposal should be submitted by email to [exams@hq.bcs.org.uk](mailto:exams@hq.bcs.org.uk) using the Project Proposal Form. Further guidance on the proposal can be found in section 4.2 and 4.3 of the Notes for Guidance (PDF).

This newsletter can be ordered in large print, audio and braille. For further details please contact [qualsmarketing@hq.bcs.org.uk](mailto:qualsmarketing@hq.bcs.org.uk)

**FEEDBACK**

BCS Professional Examinations welcomes your feedback on any of the newsletter articles. Any recommendations for enhancing the newsletter design and content are welcome. Please contact us at: [theprovider@hq.bcs.org.uk](mailto:theprovider@hq.bcs.org.uk)

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