



To know how to suggest is the great art of teaching.

—Henri Frederic Amiel

Global IT Professionals need good project management skills, says British Computer Society (BCS)

It is estimated that around 84 per cent of IT projects fail each year—an extremely high statistic for a business function which is becoming increasingly critical to the overall success of an organisation.

Tight deadlines, even tighter budgets and high-level objectives mean good project management (PM) skills are essential if the benefits of complex IT initiatives are to be fully realised.

Poorly-managed projects can take badly-needed resources away from other priorities and cost organisations in terms of lost revenue. IT staff with strong project management skills are increasingly in

demand. Not only will having such skills and capabilities help to manage and complete successful IT



projects, they can also help IT professionals climb the career ladder and change the perception of IT.

Rachel Burnett, BCS President, says: "By seeing through a project successfully and communicating its achievements to the rest of the business, IT can help redefine its perception as a fundamental and strategic service. It should not be merely a support activity. Project management skills are a critical requirement for IT professionals in order to ensure the success of any programme or initiative."

Skills needed by any good project manager include leadership, management, teamwork, change and risk management, communication, quality control and assurance, and, finally budget control, believes Rachel.

There are now many certification routes available for IT professionals to ensure they are equipped with the latest skills. BCS Professional Examinations has its own project management qualification which enables IT professionals to specialise in this area, leading to a well-recognized standard and valuable knowledge.

The examinations range from a Certificate, Diploma, through to Professional Graduate Diploma in IT—all the capabilities needed to successfully take on an IT project. Each of



Rachel Burnett, BCS President

the qualifications is the equivalent to a year of study at a UK University, and at the highest level is recognised by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA)—the UK's national body which oversees and regulates examination standards—as being equal to a UK honours degree level.

Topics range from Information Systems through to

Software Engineering. The examinations have been put together by industry experts, so they are suited to the needs of the industry and employers. To build an IT profession which is valued and respected around the world, the BCS' internationally recognised professional examinations help you get on, whether that is finding greater job

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recognition, a new career direction, or gain a promotion.

Rachel concludes: "Using experience and qualified IT professionals who are therefore competent at project management will mean a welcome increase in the number success of IT projects."

For more information about BCS

Professional Examinations, please go to www.bcs.org/exams or contact (+ 94) 114736741 / 112698566

BCS has also published a book called Project Management in the Real World, by Elizabeth Harrin. See www.bcs.org/book