

What it's like to be a...

BCS Digital Apprenticeship Associate End Point Assessor

Dan's experience: Discovering new opportunities

Dan is a senior IT architect who designs technology solutions that are critical to the UK's national infrastructure. He's also a virtual chief information officer to senior leaders in a range of sectors. Over the years, his roles have included everything from service desk support to selling cloud solutions, and he's even owned an IT business.

Today, Dan uses his varied expertise to assess apprenticeship standards including Technical Sales and IT Solutions, and after three years he's carried out more than 150 end point assessments. He told us about his experience of working with apprentices

Bringing skilled professionals into the industry

I believe that apprenticeships are the future. I've always been passionate about helping others through mentorship, and as an assessor I'm doing my part to bring skilled professionals into the IT workforce. For apprentices, the interview marks the end of their apprenticeship and is a significant landmark in their career progression, and I find that playing a part in that is very rewarding.

It's great when you hear about how apprentices have progressed. I discovered that one apprentice ended up becoming my account manager at a vendor I work with (a major global one), and she's doing extremely well in her career. I came across another apprentice that I had interviewed and in a business meeting (18 months after the interview) found out he was doing extremely well as well - in fact we had a beer or two after the meeting!

Gaining valuable experiences

I have been given opportunities to contribute towards technical exam content as a subject matter expert, stand up in front of audiences and give talks. I also get a glimpse of digital industries and organisations outside of my own, which I find inspiring.

When it comes to grading, a Pass is an excellent grade of course, but it's always inspiring coming across examples of work that go above and beyond and being able to award Merits and Distinctions. Some of the work I have assessed has been so good that nobody would have thought it was an apprentice that produced it.

Fitting assessment around other commitments

Assessing is very much a part of my routine now, and has been for a long time. The interview itself is always done at the end of the day, so as not to interfere with my business meetings. The prep and write-ups are done in my own time, which are always outside of working hours, such as evenings and weekends. I find the writing part of it relaxing and therapeutic, but I write proposals for a living, so that might explain why!

Advice for anyone considering becoming an assessor

BCS is the leading end-point assessment organisation in the UK, and as such, their standards are unmatched. So, my first bit of advice is to make sure you assess for BCS. Make sure you aren't afraid to ask lots of questions and speak up if you are unsure of anything - the team are fantastic



"As an assessor, I'm doing my part to bring skilled professionals into the IT workforce."

"One apprentice ended up becoming my account manager at a global vendor I work with, and she's doing extremely well in her career."

"BCS is the leading end-point assessment organisation in the UK, and as such, their standards are unmatched."

Dan

**Interested in becoming an
apprenticeship assessor?
Find out more about the
process and get started here.**