



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT ENTRY ROUTES TO THE BUSINESS CONTINUITY INSTITUTE

What is the BCI?

Established in 1994, the Business Continuity Institute (BCI) is the leading international association of business continuity professionals. It was originally set up to enable members to obtain guidance and support from fellow business continuity practitioners.

Through its Certification Scheme, the Institute provides internationally recognised status to its members as professional membership of the BCI demonstrates the members' competence to carry out Business Continuity Management (BCM) to a consistent high standard. The BCI has 5000 members in 90 countries.

The wider role of the BCI is to promote the highest standards of professional competence and commercial ethics in the provision and maintenance of business continuity planning and services

What does the BCI do?

The BCI's key objectives are:

- To set, maintain and promote high standards for the ethical practice of BCM, including delivery of goods and services
- To establish and promote high quality education and personal development for practitioners at all levels
- To define the professional competencies expected of business continuity professionals
- To provide an internationally recognised Certification scheme for business continuity practitioners
- To initiate, develop, evaluate and communicate BCM thinking, standards and good practices
- To influence policy makers, opinion formers and other stakeholders worldwide in BCM issues.

How does the BCI achieve those objectives?

The BCI is led by an elected Board of members who are voted in by Statutory BCI members.

The BCI employs experts both skilled in Business Continuity Management and in running membership organizations. 10 staff are based in the UK, 1 in Singapore and 3 in Washington DC.

Why should I join The Business Continuity Institute (BCI)?

The BCI is a membership organization offering a wide range of membership benefits to members including:

- a. Global organization - members in 90 countries
- b. Networking - through conferences and forums
- c. Ability to gather ideas and information from thought leaders to improve your business practices
- d. Exclusive member only resources
- e. Add value to your resume/cv by joining this eminent Institute
- f. Mentorship programs to encourage development of junior practitioner
- g. Organizers of BCM World Conference and Exhibition
- h. Local Chapters including in the USA and Canada
- i. Annual Lecture - New York on April 7th 2010
- j. Continuing Professional Education (CPE) program for continual development of skills
- k. Continuity Magazine - printed and digital versions
- l. Access to the BCI Benchmarking tool
- m. Member discounts to trade shows, conferences and training
- n. Evolving thought leadership to address the ever changing dynamics of our world

Will I have to take the BCI Certificate Exam?

All applicants for Statutory grades of membership including MBCI (Member of the Business Continuity Institute) and AMBCI (Associate Member of the Business Continuity Institute) are required to hold a recognised exam based credential to support practical experience working as a BCM practitioner.

The BCI's own BCI Certificate Examination - leading to the CBCI credential - is one option. Alternative routes leading to BCI membership now include accepting the following credentials:

MBCP
CBCP
ABCP

What are the annual membership fees?

MBCI \$240
AMBCI \$200
(valid to June 2010)

NB The BCI operates a Fair Fees Policy allowing members living and working in less affluent countries to pay reduced fees.

Is there a joining fee?

Yes, there is a one off administrative charge of US\$75 payable at the time of application.

Can I pay membership fees in my local currency?

The BCI accepts fees in £Sterling, US, Canadian and Australian Dollars and Euros.

I thought the Business Continuity Institute (BCI) was a British organization?

Although originally established in the UK, less than 50% of members are now UK based. We are a truly global organization with members in 90 countries.

What benefits are there for someone outside the UK to join the Business Continuity Institute?

To ensure that non-UK based members enjoy full membership benefits we have established several semi-autonomous Chapters to encourage local participation and debate. BCI Chapters can be found in USA, Canada, Japan, Australia (incorporating New Zealand), Scandinavia, Switzerland and South East Asia. We anticipate that Chapters will be formed in India and South Africa in the short term.

Although Chapters are able to run local events, gain local sponsors and facilitate member networking, they do not manage the membership and certification process. All certification is managed centrally ensuring that BCI certification is equally valid throughout the world.

I thought the Business Continuity Institute (BCI) partners with the British Standards Institute (BSI) and adhere to the British Standard (BS 25999)?

The BCI does work closely with the BSI in several areas and many of our members served in the development of BS25999. BCI members also contribute to other global standards including the current work in the US led by ASIS.

The BCI publishes its own Good Practice Guidelines (GPG) which was used heavily in the development of BS25999. A new version of the GPG is available from 23rd March 2010: Good Practice Guidelines 2010: Global Edition which references a wide range of international standards.

How do I register for the Business Continuity Institute's (BCI) Alternate Routes to Membership?

Please visit us online at http://www.thebcicertificate.org/alternative_route.html and click on the Apply Now button. Once you have paid the \$75 USD registration fee, you will receive the pre-application form via email usually within three to four working days. (This could take up to 2 weeks in the case of a high volume of applications.) If you have any questions, please contact Membership@theBCI.org. Once we receive your pre-application form we will send you the appropriate membership application form via email based on the information you provide.

How long will the Business Continuity Institute's (BCI) Alternate Routes to Membership take to complete?

This depends on the level of membership for which you apply. If your membership application is self assessed (as in the case of AMBCI applications or MBCI applications where the MBCP or CBCP has been held for more than five years), you should receive notification if your application is successful within three to four weeks. If you are applying for MBCI with less than five years of holding your MBCP or CBCP credential your application will be externally assessed and this can take up to eight weeks from receipt of a completed form.

Please note that due to potential high volumes of applications, these times may be extended.

What are the steps to Membership through Business Continuity Institute's (BCI) Alternate Routes to Membership?

To apply for MBCI Membership:

Either:

You must have held the MBCP or CBCP credential continuously for five or more years and complete an application form to be submitted with a copy of your CV/resume and two references.

Or:

You have held the MBCP or CBCP credential for less than five years but can evidence at least three year's experience on a scored assessment form which will be assessed by our assessment team of Business Continuity professionals, to be submitted with copy of your CV/ resume and two references.

To apply for AMBCI Membership:

You must hold a MBCP, CBCP or ABCP credential, have at least one year's experience and complete an application form to be submitted with a copy of your CV/resume and two references.

Experience must be in all of the six skill areas outlined in the application form. You can contact Membership@theBCI.org for a pre-application form. After completing this and returning it via email you will be sent the relevant membership application form.

What is the BCI Partnership?

In addition to individual membership, the BCI offers corporate membership through the BCI Partnership. Income generated from the Partnership is put back into awareness raising of Business Continuity Management as a discipline.

Over 70 member organizations are Partners including BAE Systems, BP, BSi Group, BT, Community Resilience, ContinuitySA, DNV, Continuity Shop, EADS, Garrison Continuity, HP, Link Associates, Lloyds Banking Group, Lockheed Martin, Marsh, Milton Keynes Council, Prudential, PwC, Royal Mail, SunGard, Vocalink, and Zurich. To join as a corporate member, go to: www.bcipartnership.com