

Do you want to stand out from the crowd of Business Analysts?

Get certified!

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## Introduction

Nowadays we talk about recognizing business analysis and requirements engineering as a profession. But the certifications for these professionals are still in its infancy. At the same time the certifications for project managers, test managers, or software developers for years are widely available and recognized. Both professionals as companies hiring them think that this professional recognition is important. Being certified is perceived by them as something "normal".

In the field of business analysis we have certification programs as well. The most known certifications are provided by the following institutes/associations:

- British Computer Society (BCS),
- International Institute of Business Analysis (IIBA),
- International Requirements Engineering Board (IREB),

Next to these three, smaller initiatives exist like certifications from QAI Global Institute (Certified Associate Business Analyst (CABA)) or Project Management Institute (PMI Professional in Business Analysis (PMI-PBA)).

This paper aims to explain the top three certifications. We want to provide you with background information on the institute, detailed information on the certification itself and how this can be obtained: pre-requisites and exams. We hope that with this paper we can help you during the decision making process and allow you choosing the certification that fits best your work situation. We are convinced that "one fit all" certification scheme does not exist and everyone shall consider carefully

his options. For your convenience we decided to collect all the relevant information in this brief overview.

# Why to certify in the first place?

Many professionals ask themselves the above question: "Shall I certify?". For many employers the obtained certifications are a proof of knowledge and expertise of the candidate. You may say that it is just a piece of paper and the exam is just a snapshot of your knowledge not reflecting your true "you". Yet it is difficult to convince your future employer you know the "stuff" just because you said so or you used it in some projects in the past. The certification is this tangible proof of your professional qualifications. If it can be strengthen through proven track record, that's even better. So if you want to differentiate yourself from others the question "Shall I certify?" should be replaced by "Can I afford NOT to be certified?".

Professional certifications can provide numerous benefits, including improved carrier prospects. Many research reports confirm that certified professionals can reckon on higher salary. International Institute of Business Analysis (IIBA) performed a salary survey that shows that Business Analysts with CBAP recognition earn on average more from their colleagues without professional qualifications [1]. The value of your certification lies also in the recognition you will receive from employers and peers, who understand it as testament to your accomplishment and competence. Finally earning a recognized certificate gives personal satisfaction of accomplishing a milestone in your BA careers.

So when you get convinced to get certified a next question pops up: "What is the best certification program for me, in my work situation?" This paper has been written to help you in answering this question. Before we dive into details of the certifications, we will explain how these certifications relate to the Bloom's taxonomy - the cognitive learning model commonly used in education. We explain the different learning objectives on each level of the taxonomy as well as what is the best assessment method to check whether a candidate reached this required knowledge level.

# The Bloom's taxonomy

Bloom's taxonomy is a model commonly used in education. It helps defining education programs starting from goals and ending on exam questions. All certification programs described in this whitepaper use Bloom's taxonomy to define their programs.

In the area of cognitive learning, this model defines six different levels of knowledge assimilation: remembering, understanding, applying, analyzing, evaluating and creating. In the Bloom's book "The taxonomy of Educational Objectives" the following definitions of knowledge levels are given:

• **Level 1:** Remembering "involves the recall of specifics and universals, the recall of methods and processes, or the recall of a pattern, structure, or setting."

- **Level 2:** Understanding "refers to a type of understanding or apprehension such that the individual knows what is being communicated and can make use of the material or idea being communicated without necessarily relating it to other material or seeing its fullest implications."
- Level 3: Applying refers to the "use of abstractions in particular and concrete situations."
- **Level 4:** Analyzing represents the "breakdown of a communication into its constituent elements or parts such that the relative hierarchy of ideas is made clear and/or the relations between ideas expressed are made explicit."
- **Level 5:** Evaluating involves "judgments or justification about the value of material and methods for given purposes."
- **Level 6:** Creating engenders "combining information, concepts and theories to create a unique product".

The taxonomy has a pyramid shape, as presented in figure 1, because a student has to obtain learning objectives on the given level before he can move forward the higher levels.

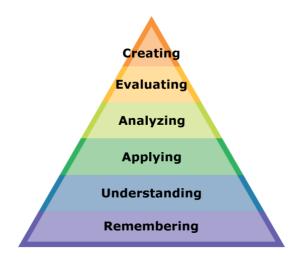


Figure 1 Bloom's taxonomy

Bloom's taxonomy is also used for categorization of questions that commonly occur in educational settings (e.g. exams). The table below contains examples of how questions can be formulated, with what verbs:

Level	Verbs used in (exam) questions		
Remembering: can a delegate recall or	define, duplicate, list, memorize, recall, repeat,		
remember the information?	reproduce state		
Understanding: can a delegate explain	classify, describe, discuss, explain, identify, locate,		
ideas or concepts (e.g. in his own words)?	recognize, report, select, translate, paraphrase		
Applying: can a delegate use the information	choose, demonstrate, dramatize, employ, illustrate,		

Level	Verbs used in (exam) questions
in a new way, in a practical situation?	interpret, operate, schedule, sketch, solve, use,
	write.
Analyzing: can a delegate distinguish	appraise, compare, contrast, criticize, differentiate,
between the different parts of an idea of	discriminate, distinguish, examine, experiment,
concept?	question, test.
<b>Evaluating</b> : can a delegate justify a stand or	appraise, argue, defend, judge, select, support,
decision?	value, evaluate
Creating: can a delegate create a new	assemble, construct, create, design, develop,
product or point of view?	formulate, write.

**Table 1:** Examples of how test questions can be formulated based on the Bloom's taxonomy

Now, we understand the knowledge levels of Bloom's taxonomy, a question may arise what is the best way to test delegate knowledge during a professional qualification.

- Multiple choice questions are commonly used to test the knowledge and understanding levels (Level 1 Remembering and Level 2 Understanding),
- The application (Level 3 Applying) of the knowledge can be better tested if a delegate is asked to solve a practical case. In this scenario-based written examination he demonstrates he has the required knowledge and can apply it in practice.
- Analyzing and Evaluating (Levels 4 and 5) focus on whether a delegate can break down informational materials into their component parts, whether he can examine such information to develop divergent conclusions, making inferences, finding evidence to support generalizations and applying prior knowledge and skills to produce new/original concepts. The best examination method for these two levels is a kind of interactive, perhaps oral examination allowing examiners to test the delegate way of thinking along the way.
- The last level 6: Creating is the most difficult, as it requires a delegate to create new concept for given purposes out of existing concepts. How to examine that? How do you check someone he is an expert? Some think it shall be done by asking a delegate to write a white paper of article on a certain subject.

Institutes offering BA professional qualifications use the above explained Bloom's taxonomy as well as they **make choices** what is the best way to examine whether a delegate reached the expected level of knowledge.

# **Available certifications programs for business analysts**

As already mentioned in the introduction there are three major certification programs for business analysts and requirements engineers. These certifications are provided by the following institutes/associations:

- British Computer Society (BCS),
- International Institute of Business Analysis (IIBA),
- International Requirements Engineering Board (IREB),



When we make a decision on a certification program we face may practical questions like: what kind of exam I have to take? How many questions do I have to answer correctly to pass? How can I prepare? How much does an exam cost? Is the re-certification required? The subsequent chapters explain the four major certifications addressing the typical questions a delegate can have.

# **Option 1: British Computer Society (BCS)**



BCS is the chartered institute for IT professionals, which offers a wide range of services, including certification and education programs. It was established in 1957, and has earned a good reputation, among others by contributing to the development of standards like Prince2 and ISTQB. Currently BCS has about 75.000 individual members, with groups in the UK and 15 other countries and regions. More information on BCS can be found on this webpage: <a href="https://www2.bcs.org/certifications/ba/">https://www2.bcs.org/certifications/ba/</a>

BCS offers a complete development path for business analysts addressing:

- Hard BA skills and techniques. This certification path ends with BCS International
   Diploma in Business Analysis,
- Advanced BA skills and techniques. The certification path ends up with BCS Advanced
   International Diploma in Business Analysis.
- Expert BA Award endorsed in partnership with the Chartered Management Institute (CMI)
  and the BA Manager Forum (BAMF). This Award validates a candidate's ability to conduct
  complex business analysis activities, engage with senior stakeholders and improve the
  organisation at a strategic level.

## **Recertification**

Recertification is not required.

## **BCS International Diploma in Business Analysis**

To gain the BCS International Diploma in Business Analysis, candidates must pass four written examinations on a number of business analysis topics, each of which leads to a certificate which has value in its own right. These certificate modules may be gained in any order. To convert their set of certificates into the Diploma, candidates attend an interview (oral exam) with two BCS examiners to confirm their technical, business and interpersonal competencies.

The diploma consists of two mandatory modules: Requirements Engineering and Business Analysis Practice and two optional modules: Knowledge based Specialism and Practitioner Specialism.

For Knowledge based Specialism the candidate can choose one of the following trainings:

- BCS Foundation in Business Analysis
- BCS Foundation in Change
- BCS Commercial Awareness

In case of Practitioner Specialism the candidate can choose from:

- BCS Modeling Business Processes
- BCS Systems Developments Essentials

- BCS Systems Modeling Techniques
- BCS Benefits Management and Business Acceptance

The possibility to select Knowledge based Specialism and Practitioner Specialism allows tailoring the certification to the specific needs of the candidate. We think it is a big advantage of this certification program.

#### **Exams**

There are no entry requirements for BCS foundation and practice examinations. All foundation and practice examinations can be obtained as a part of a training program. BCS recommends working with a BCS accredited examination providers. Since 2016 <u>EXIN</u> has taken over the BCS exams for the BCS International Diploma in Business Analysis.

The examinations last for 60 minutes and a candidate is required to answer 40 multiple choice questions. The pass mark for multiple choice examinations is 65% (26 questions answered correctly). This is a close book exam; this means the candidate is not allowed to use any materials.

The exam can be taken as a part of the training or can be taken online: EXIN Anywhere as well as at EXIN computer-based exam centers.

#### **Oral Exam**

The oral examination lasts for 50 minutes and a candidate is required to demonstrate that he can put the competencies gained in the written examinations into a coherent context. He must also show that he has the interpersonal skills required to function effectively as a business analyst.

#### **Preparation**

On the BCS or EXIN website candidates can download a syllabus, sample paper and reading list, allowing exam preparation. The foundation certifications can be obtained through self-study, for other modules it is recommended to follow an accredited training, before approaching the exam.

# **BCS Advanced International Diploma in Business Analysis**

To gain the BCS Advanced International Diploma in Business Analysis, candidates must pass four written examinations on a number of business analysis topics. As in case of Diploma in Business Analysis, each module leads to a certificate which has value in its own right. These certificate modules may be gained in any order. To convert their set of certificates into the Diploma, BCS will do an assessment to confirm candidate skills and engagement in the BA community.

The Advanced Business Analysis Diploma divides in-depth modules into three categories: Analytical Skills, Business Skills and Personal Skills. Within these categories the following in-depth modules are currently available:

- Analytical Skills: Agile Business Analysis, Business Architecture, Data Analysis,
- Business Skills: Benefits Planning and Realisation,
- Personal Skills: Stakeholder Engagement, Team Leadership

## **Assessment for the Advanced diploma**

Professionals who want to obtain the Advanced Diploma in Business Analysis must meet a number of requirements. An applicant must:

- hold the BCS International Diploma in Business Analysis,
- hold 4 certificates in Advanced BA modules spread through three categories (1 certification in Personal Skills and 3 certifications in Analytical Skills and Business Skills),
- have a minimum of 5 years of Business Analysis experience, and
- demonstrate how they have contributed to the wider BA community. This may be through initiatives that are internal to their organisation or may be through involvement in external BA groups.

#### **Preparation**

On the BCS website candidates can download a syllabus, sample paper and reading list, allowing for exam preparation.

## **Exam**

Module	Exam
Agile Business Analysis	90 minute, 'closed book' exam with two sections. Section A comprises 20 Multiple Choice Questions worth 2 marks each. Section B uses scenarios and asks candidates to answer Multiple Choice Questions and to construct short answer responses to questions. Pass mark 65%
Business Architecture	90 minute, 'closed book' exam with two sections. Section A comprises 20 Multiple Choice Questions worth 2 marks each. Section B uses scenarios and asks candidates to answer Multiple Choice Questions and to construct short answer responses to questions.  Pass mark 65%
Business Finance	90 minute 'closed book' 40 scenario-based multiple choice questions Pass mark is 65%
Data Analysis	90 minute 'closed book' 40 scenario-based multiple choice questions Pass mark is 65%
Benefits Planning and Realisation	90 minute 'closed book' 40 scenario-based multiple choice questions Pass mark is 65%
Stakeholder Engagement	90 minute 'closed book' with 40 multiple choice questions Pass mark is 65%
Team Leadership	90 minute 'closed book' with 40 multiple choice questions Pass mark is 65%
Advanced Requirements Engineering	90-minute 'closed book' with 40 multiple choice questions Pass mark 65%

Table 2: Overview of examination forms for the Advanced Diploma in Business Analysis

#### <u>Fees</u>

For International BCS Diplomas in Business Analysis the following fees apply:

Certification	Price
Foundation in Business Analysis Exam	€200 excl. VAT
Foundation of Business Change	
Business Analysis Practice	Price not available.

Certification	Price
Requirements Engineering	The exam has to be
Modelling Business Processes	taken as a part of
Commercial Awareness	the course.
Systems Developments Essentials	
Systems Modeling Techniques	
Benefits Management and Business Acceptance	
Oral exam fee	£325 (excl VAT)
Agile Business Analysis	The exam has to be
Business Architecture	taken as a part of
Data Analysis	the course.
Benefits Planning and Realisation,	
Stakeholder Engagement,	
Team Leadership	

**Table 3:** Pricing BCS Exams

# **Expert BA Award**

For detailed information on the Expert BA Award distinction please refer to <a href="http://certifications.bcs.org/category/17851">http://certifications.bcs.org/category/17851</a>

## **Conclusions**

British Computer Society offers a gradual development path for Business Analysts. It is a mature certification program with clear structure and rules. Candidates can use additional resources as sample papers to check their readiness for the exam or deepen their knowledge through studying resources from the reading list. The Diplomas in Business Analysis has an established name in UK, some universities accept it as a postgraduate degree.

# **Option 2: International Institute of Business Analysis (IIBA)**



IIBA is a community for business analysts that was established in 2006 in Canada. Its aim is "to develop and maintain standards

for the practice of business analysis and for the certification of its practitioners". Starting from the North American region, IIBA has grown into a global community with chapters in many countries. The number of members has grown to well above 25.000 in the last 5 years. More information on IIBA can be found on this webpage: <a href="https://www.iiba.com">www.iiba.com</a>

IIBA develops and maintains the Business Analysis Body of Knowledge (BABOK), which is a framework that provides a summary of the knowledge within the BA profession, reflecting current generally accepted practices for Business Analysis. The BABOK is published and maintained with the help of a large network of global contributors, BA practitioners and industry experts.

IIBA provides four certificates for Business Analysts:

- **ECBA**: Entry Certification in Business Analysis (introduced in 2016)
- **CCBA**: Certification in Competency in Business Analysis (introduced in 2011)
- CBAP: Certified Business Analysis Professional (introduced in 2006)
- **CBATL**: Certified Business Analysis Thought Leader (introduced 2016)

IIBA chooses for exclusivity in her certifications; it is reflected in very stringent application requirements followed by a difficult exam. A candidate doesn't have to be an IIBA member to apply.

## **Preparation**

On the IIBA website candidates can download a syllabus, sample paper and reading list, allowing for a proper preparation. The exam is solely BABOK based. Additionally, they can use widely available study guides and exam e-learnings from different companies or join a study group organized by the local IIBA Chapter.

## **Recertification**

The CCBA and CBAP certificates are valid for 3 years. After this period, a candidate has to recertificate. The re-certification process consists of a standard CBAP/CCBA application and exam. ECBA does not require recertification.

The subsequent chapters provide details of the particular certifications.

# **ECBA:** Entry Certification in Business Analysis

## **Application Requirements ECBA:**

Each ECBA applicant must meet the requirements specified below to be eligible to sit the exam:

- No previous BA work experience required
- 21 hours of professional development in the last 4 years
- Agreement with the ECBA™ Code of Conduct.

## Exam:

The ECBA™ exam is 1 hour long and consists of 50 multiple choice questions. It is competency-based aligned to BABOK Guide V3. Re-certification is not required.

Business Analysis Knowledge	
Business Analysis & the BA Professional	2.5%
Underlying Competencies	5%
Business Analysis Key Concepts	5%
Techniques	12.5%
BABOK® Guide Knowledge Areas	
Business Analysis Planning & Monitoring	5%
Elicitation & Collaboration	20%
Requirements Life Cycle Management	20%
Strategy Analysis	5%
Requirements Analysis and Design Definition	24%
Solution Evaluation	1%

**Table 4:** Blueprint of the ECBA Exam

# Fees:

ECBA certification fee consists of application fee and exam fee, see the table below:

	Application fee (non-refundable)		Exam fee	
	Member	Non-Member	Member	Non-Member
Exam fees	\$60	\$60	\$110	\$235

Table 5: Pricing ECBA Exam

# **CCBA**: Certification in Competency in Business Analysis

## **Application Requirements CCBA [3]:**

Each CCBA® applicant must meet the requirements specified below to be eliqible to sit the exam:

- Minimum 3750 hours of BA work experience aligned with the BABOK® Guide in the last seven years
- Minimum 900 hours in each of two of the six knowledge areas, or 500 hours in each of four of the six knowledge areas
- Minimum 21 hours of Professional Development in the past four years
- Two references from a career manager, client or CBAP® recipient
- Signed CCBA Code of Conduct

#### Exam:

When your application is approved, the CCBA applicant has to take an exam, consisting of 150 multiple choice questions to be answered in 3,5 hours. These are multiple choice questions reflecting different levels of Bloom's taxonomy. The precise mixture of questions on different difficulty level in the exam as well as spread across the BABOK knowledge areas is presented in table 6.

BABOK® Guide Knowledge Areas	
Business Analysis Planning & Monitoring	12%
Elicitation & Collaboration	20%
Requirements Life Cycle Management	18%
Strategy Analysis	12%
Requirements Analysis and Design Definition	32%
Solution Evaluation	6%

Table 6: Blueprint of the CCBA Exam

#### Fees:

CCBA certification fee consists of application fee and exam fee, see the table below:

	Application fee (non-refundable)		Exam fee	
	Member	Non-Member	Member	Non-Member
Exam fees	\$125	\$125	\$325	\$450

Table 7: Pricing CCBA Exam

The exam can be taken at any Prometric computer-based exam center. IIBA doesn't release the pass mark for the exam; the Watermark Learning Institute provides information that the pass mark is about 70% [5].

# **CBAP**: Certified Business Analysis Professional (introduced in 2006)

## **Application Requirements CBAP:**

Each CBAP applicant must meet the requirements specified below to be eligible to sit the exam:

- Minimum 7500 hours (approximately 5 years) of BA work experience aligned with the BABOK® Guide in the last 10 years
- Minimum 900 hours in each of four of the six knowledge areas
- Minimum 21 hours of Professional Development in the past four years
- Two references from a career manager, client or CBAP® recipient
- Signed CBAP Code of Conduct

#### Exam:

When your application is approved, the CBAP applicant has to take an exam, consisting of 150 multiple choice questions to be answered in 3,5 hours. These are multiple choice questions reflecting different levels of Bloom's taxonomy. The precise mixture of questions on different difficulty level in the exam as well as spread across the BABOK knowledge areas is presented in table 8.

BABOK® Guide Knowledge Areas	
Business Analysis Planning & Monitoring	14%
Elicitation & Collaboration	12%
Requirements Life Cycle Management	15%
Strategy Analysis	15%
Requirements Analysis and Design Definition	30%
Solution Evaluation	14%

**Table 8:** Blueprint of the CCBA Exam

#### Fees:

CBAP certification fee consists of application fee and exam fee, see the table below:

	Application fee (non-refundable)		Exam fee	
	Member	Non-Member	Member	Non-Member
Exam fees	\$60	\$60	\$110	\$235

Table 9: Pricing CBAP Exam

The exam can be taken at any Prometric computer-based exam center. IIBA doesn't release the pass mark for the exam; the Watermark Learning Institute provides information that the pass mark is about 70% [5].

#### **CBATL:** Certified Business Analysis Thought Leader

This level recognizes business analysis professionals who have over 10 years of experience and are considered industry Thought Leaders as follows:

- whose expertise in the BA field is well sought after,
- who advance the BA profession,
- who give back to the community,
- who contribute to the evolution of the BA practice.

## **Conclusions**

IIBA Certifications are valuable addition to a CV of any experienced BA professional. It has very rigid application criteria and a difficult exam, what makes it available to very limited group.

Business Analysts prepare for the exam by self-study of BABOK or by joining a study group organized by a local chapter. The self-study can be supported by study kits widely available on internet bookstores. IIBA releases syllabus and sample questions to foster the preparation to exams.

The certification is perhaps, in our opinion, expensive. The recertification every 3 years requires continuous development of the professional (following a course with one of the IIBA Endorsed Education Providers) that adds up to the costs.

# **Option 3: International Requirements Engineering Board (IREB)**



webpage: www.ireb.org

IREB has been set up in Germany in 2006, to develop a certification program in the field of requirements engineering. Through this program IREB wants to standardize and improve the requirements engineering practice. More information on IREB can be found on this

The IREB provides the Certified Professional for Requirements Engineering (CPRE) qualification. It is available on three levels:

- CPRE Foundation: available since 2006
- CPRE Advanced: containing the three modules
  - Requirements Elicitation and Consolidation (E&C): Techniques from the Foundation Level are elaborated here in more detail and further techniques added enabling participants to efficiently elicit and consolidate requirements.
  - Requirements Modeling: Correct use of graphical models to express functional requirements.
  - Requirements Management: Appropriate methods and techniques to effectively deal with the management of requirements throughout the product development.
- CPRE Expert: The Expert Level is currently being elaborated.

#### **Exam**

IREB provides currently foundation and advanced levels examination. There are no pre-requisites for the foundation level exam. For the advanced level exam the foundation exam is required.

## **Foundation level exam**

The foundation examination lasts for 75 minutes and a candidate is required to answer 45 multiple choice questions. The questions are of differing difficulty and have assigned differing amounts of points. The pass mark for multiple choice examinations is 60%. This is a close book exam, this means the candidate is not allowed to use any materials.

The exam can also be taken at Pearson Vue computer-based exam centers.

## **Advanced level exam**

The advanced level examination consists of two parts: Part 1 - a multiple choice exam and Part 2 - a written assignment.

Part 1: Multiple choice exam for the advanced level works similarly to the foundation one.

**Part 2**: Together with the positive results of Part 1 exam, the candidate receives instructions how to start the second part. Detailed rules can be read in the IREB Examination Regulations [6].

During the written assignment the candidate must create a written study on pre-defined groups of topics. The written assignment should take approximately 16 hours of work. It must be the original work of the candidate. The written assignment must be completed and sent back to the designated certification body within three months of receiving it.

#### **Preparation**

Candidates can prepare for the exam by attending a training with the IREB endorsed training provider. The training shall take at least three days. It is also possible to prepare by self-study. IREB publishes at its website syllabi and sample exams as well as a reading list which helps in the preparation.

#### **Recertification**

Recertification is not required.

#### **Fees**

For CPRE the following fees apply:

	Fee
Exam fee Foundation Level	€250 excl VAT
Exam fee Advanced Level	€600 excl VAT

Table 10: Pricing IREB Exams

#### **Conclusions**

IREB has with her CPRE Foundation certification an established position. There are training providers all around the globe. The Foundation exam is available in multiple languages. Despite of this the enthusiasm about IREB diminishes, due to long waiting time for the Advanced and Expert levels. The advanced level syllabi for "Requirements Elicitation and Consolidation" and "Requirements Modeling" have been released in May, 2012 and the related training and certifications have been released in a year later in November 2013.

The name of certificate states it is a Certified Professional for Requirements Engineering. Syllabi of different parts of the certification confirm that the main focus is put to teach how requirements shall be developed and managed. This is perceived as a kind of limitation of this certification, knowing that Requirements Engineering is only one of the aspects of Business Analysis.

# **Partnership among certification institutes**

All the above mentioned institutes are involved in the same field of practice. Hence there is some overlap in program content as well as exams. This led to two important formal agreements among institutes:

- BCS Certificate in Requirements Engineering and IREB Certified Requirements Engineering Professional are exchangeable. It means that:
  - Candidates who have completed the IREB's CPRE Foundation level will be exempt from taking the BCS Certificate in Requirements Engineering to achieve their Diploma. So the candidate doesn't need to achieve the BCS certificate in Requirements Engineering, the CPRE Foundation Level certificate is equivalent and sufficient.
  - Candidates who have completed the BCS Certificate in Requirements Engineering will be exempt from taking the IREB CPRE Foundation level to progress to the Advanced level. So the candidate doesn't need to achieve the CPRE Foundation Level certificate, the BCS certificate in Requirements Engineering is equivalent and sufficient.
- The Certified Business Analysis Professional (CBAP®) qualifications are exempt from the Requirements Engineering module and the Knowledge-based specialist module.

# Choosing a certification program which suites you best

As we already mentioned in the introduction a certification program which fits everybody needs does not exist. The following scenarios are possible:

If you are a senior Business Analyst, and you don't want to you may consider to choose:

- IIBA CBAP as the distinction of your knowledge and experience (keep in mind however then the recertification will be required) or
- BCS Expert BA Award to get distinction for your professional achievements.

If you are a junior BA, starting your career, you may consider following an IREB or BCS development program and gradually build your "BA muscle". Choice between BCS and IREB will be mostly based on consideration whether Requirements Engineering is your core activity (IREB) or enabler to analyze business problems and provide suitable solutions justifying why the recommended solution in the best (BCS).

The selection of a suitable certification is an important decision. It should not be made hastily: take into account among others your current work and the scope of your activities, your professional experience but also your career plans, in which direction you would like to develop as Business Analyst. All that will influence your final choice.

# **Further assistance**

If you need advice on what certification program fits your personal situation, does not hesitate to contact BA Coach for personal advice at +31 6 38 33 01 33.

# **References**

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