Iasa - Architect Core

IN-PERSON • 5 DAYS • CITA-F CERTIFICATION

www.ictskillnet.ie

IASA
The Business Technology Architect Association

Unleash your unstoppable potential, with Technology Ireland ICT Skillnet

Technology is ever-changing. No matter what stage you are at in business or your career, there is always more to learn.

At Technology Ireland ICT Skillnet, our vision is to create **progressive futures**, helping organisations to **transform at scale** and individuals to **develop a competitive edge**, through the **power of learning**.

For almost two decades, Ireland's leading technology companies have trusted us to build the critical skills needed to thrive in a rapidly evolving market.

Let us connect you to the infinite possibilities shaping the world of tomorrow.

Supercharged skills

Each of our programmes are designed, developed, and validated by specialists from academia and industry, working together, with a constant focus on:

1
Creating opportunity and momentum for experienced professionals and those starting out or transitioning career.

2
Delivering learning solutions in a way that **balances work and study**.

3
Providing practical skills, along with the theoretical, allowing businesses to **navigate new frontiers in the world of tech**.

6,000+
companies supported

14,000+
learners upskilled
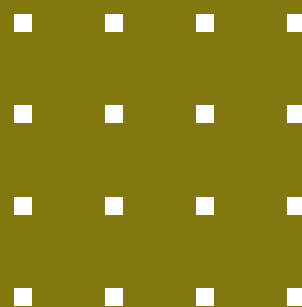
30+
professional programmes

Online, blended, and
in-company training supports

Government-subsidised
programme fees, up to 100%

Iasa - Architect Core

Your pathway to become a successful technology strategist for your business.

A business solution that is fit for purpose (flexible, scalable, compliant, secure, reliable etc) depends on the underlying architecture being aligned to the business. In the same way, a good architect is based on a core set of foundational skills and knowledge from key competency focus areas.

The Iasa Architect Core course welcomes architects to a collaborative journey of professional growth and understanding. Designed by architects for architects, and with a focus on bridging business visions with technological solutions, this course delves into fundamental principles, frameworks and best-practices. Beyond technical proficiency, the course emphasises strategic thinking, innovation and effective communication, for both aspiring and experienced IT professionals.

All great business technology architects have a strong foundation in the three critical areas of:

1. Dealing with business concepts - understanding how business works and how it impacts architecture.

2. Technology strategy, design and delivery - analysing technology options and linking everything back to business objectives.

3. Dealing with stakeholders - having the right mindset and models to engage with internal and external stakeholders, at the right time, in the right way.

Delivered in partnership with the Irish chapter of Iasa Global, this 5-day in-person course will prepare you for these three aspects of architecture practice, and give you the required knowledge of models and tools for developing business technology architectures that meet the demands of modern business.

The course is ideal for IT professionals interested in transitioning to BT architecture roles, experienced BT architects seeking formal recognition, technical team leaders wanting to deepen their strategic and business-focused architectural knowledge, and business analysts aiming to bridge the gap between business and technology.

At a glance

Start Date
Visit the course webpage
to view the next start date

Award
CITA-F Industry Certification

Delivery
In-person

Duration
5 days, 9am-5pm

Fees
Skillnet subsidised: €2,000
Non-subsidised: €2,500

Programme Partner
Iasa Ireland
(Irish Chapter of Iasa Global)

Course structure

The premise of this course is very much 'learn by doing', and is structured over the 5-days into lessons that walk through the demand and supply chains of an architect's engagement with clients, customers and other key stakeholders typical in any business.

In each lesson there are learning slides to help prepare for the workshop exercises that follow. Case studies are then used to support the learning outcomes.

There is extensive use of a subset of visual-based templates, preloaded in a visual tool, to capture important architecture information. This is referred to as the structured canvas approach in the Iasa BTABOK (Business Technology Architecture Body of Knowledge). Students will collaborate in teams using the visual tool, present back to the wider class to be challenged and for open discussion, for the benefit of everyone on the course.

By the end of the course you will be able to think about your technology solutions and communicate them with an entirely new level of stakeholder. **Get ready for an intensive week of knowledge sharing, debate and teamwork!**

Competency Focus Areas

This course specifically looks to improve understanding and skills in the following BTABoK Competency Areas.

Business Technology Strategy

- Business Fundamentals
- Strategy Development and Rationalisation
- Industry Analysis
- Business Valuation
- Investment Prioritisation and Planning
- Requirements Discovery and Constraints Analysis
- Compliance
- Architecture Methodologies & Frameworks
- Risk Management

Human Dynamics

- Managing the Culture
- Customer Relations
- Leadership and Management
- Peer Interaction
- Collaboration and Negotiation
- Presentation Skills
- Writing Skills

Design

- Requirements Modeling
- Architecture Description
- Decomposition and Reuse
- Design Methodologies and Processes
- Design Patterns and Styles
- Design Analysis and Testing
- Traceability Throughout the Lifecycle
- Views & Viewpoints
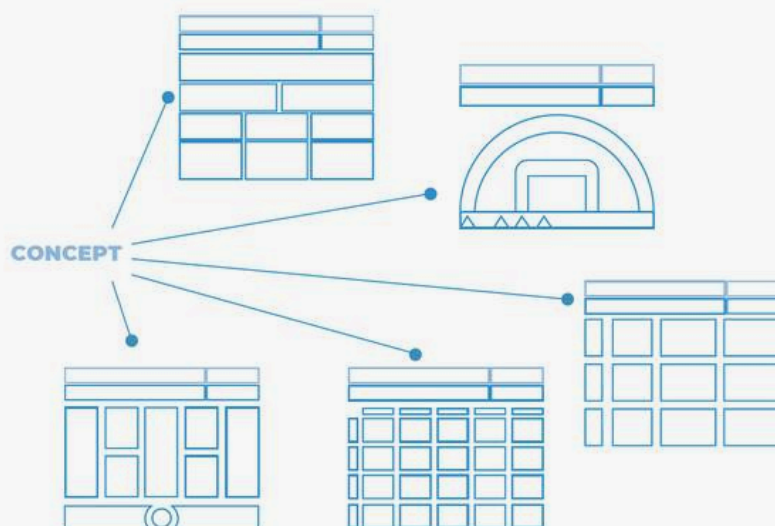- The Whole Systems Design

Quality Attributes

- Balancing and Optimising Non Functional Requirements e.g. Performance, Security, Localisation, all the "ilities"
- Monitoring and Management
- Packaging, Delivery, Post Deployment

IT Environment

- Technical Project Management
- Asset Management
- Change Management
- Infrastructure
- Application Development
- Governance
- Testing Methods, Tools, and Techniques
- Knowledge Management
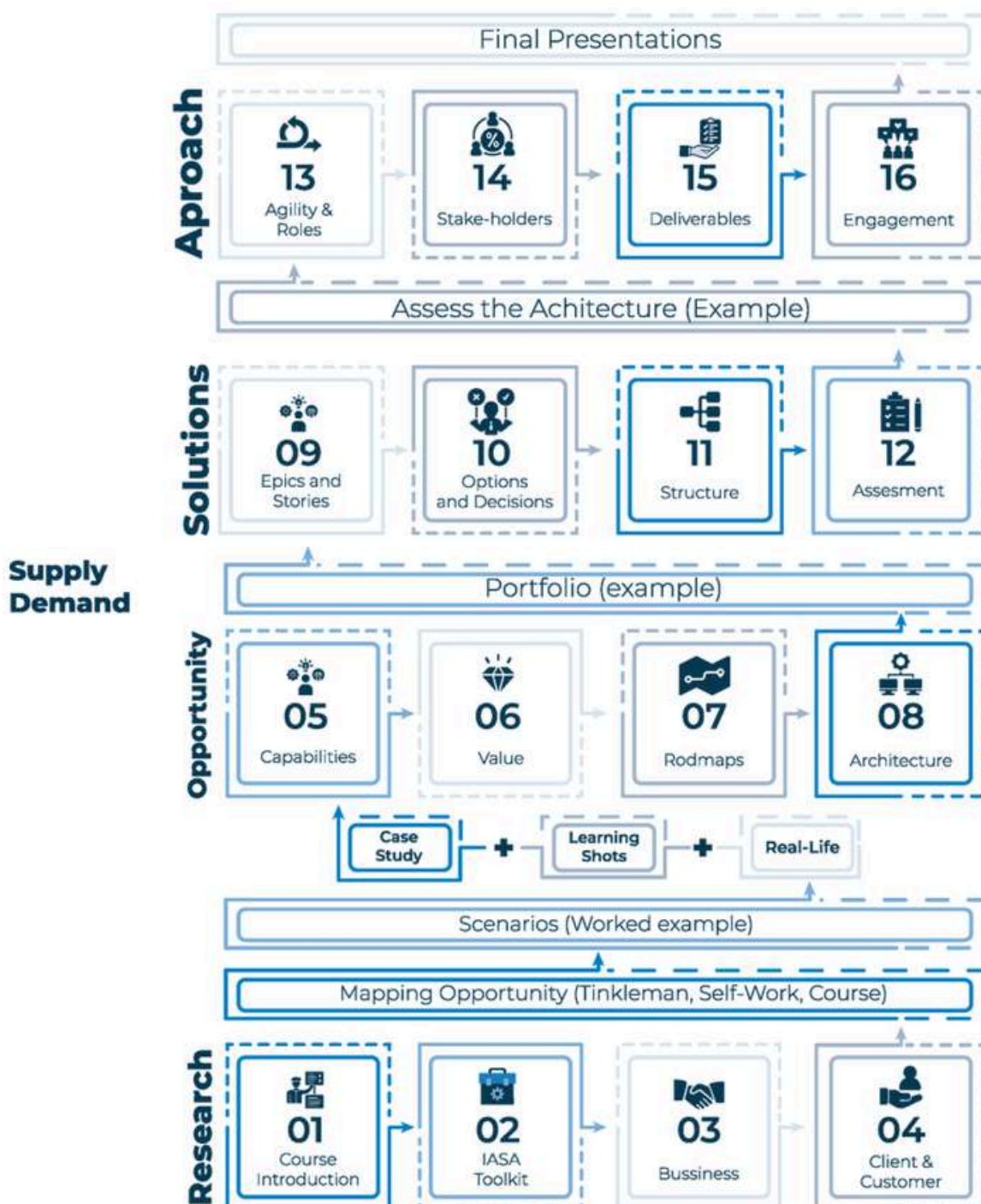- Decision Support
- Platforms and Frameworks

Structured Canvas Approach

In each section of the course, we will introduce you to a range of Canvas and Cards. These bring to life the theory as well as provide a workspace for you to experiment, document and share the information you collect and the analysis you perform.

Course Content

The course structures the demand and supply chain over a series of 16 lessons, 20 plus exercises and a final presentation.

Final Presentations

Aproach

13 Agility & Roles	**14** Stake-holders	**15** Deliverables	**16** Engagement

Assess the Achitecture (Example)

Solutions

09 Epics and Stories	**10** Options and Decisions	**11** Structure	**12** Assesment

Supply Demand

Portfolio (example)

Opportunity

05 Capabilities	**06** Value	**07** Rodmaps	**08** Architecture

Case Study **+** Learning Shots **+** Real-Life

Scenarios (Worked example)

Mapping Opportunity (Tinkleman, Self-Work, Course)

Research

01 Course Introduction	**02** IASA Toolkit	**03** Bussiness	**04** Client & Customer

Lesson Breakdown

The course teaches a rigorous method for understanding stakeholders, customers, personas, customer/stakeholder journeys as well as using empathy and human approaches to building trust and creating solutions. This method has proven invaluable to architects from solution to business.

Time permitting, the instructor may leverage their own network to invite architects and leaders to the course to give candidates real insights into their world, the challenges they have to respond to and what is expected of architects.

Lesson 1: Introduction

The introduction gives you a long view of the entire course and introduces you to the tools and resources available to you. The introduction sections help you understand the nature of architecture, the role and the level and skills of the course. We explore the reasons you are attending, definitions of architecture and the core concepts and structured canvas approach you will use both individually and with groups.

Behavioural Objectives
- Define personal course objectives
- Define customer outcome goals
- Describe your customer
- Figure out who is going to enter the leaderboard challenge

Lesson 2: Business and Customer

Understanding your client's business model is crucial for technologists aiming to deliver value-centric solutions. This entails grasping how the client generates and allocates revenue, differentiates from competitors, and positions for growth opportunities. It also involves comprehending their organisational culture, market value propositions, and network connections. Additionally, insights into their architectural and technical staffing, solution delivery processes, and cloud maturity level are essential.
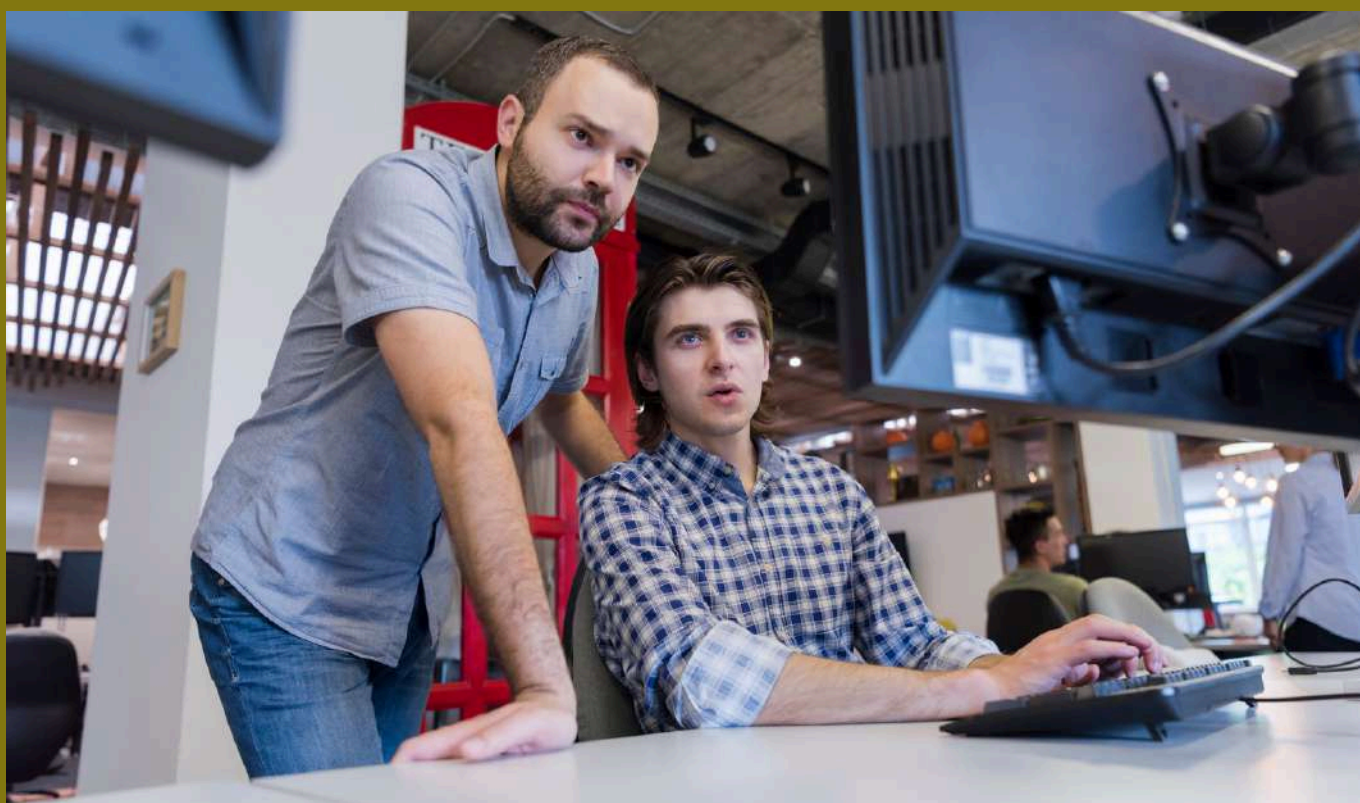
Behavioural Objectives

- Define a business model
- Understand your clients customer
- Define innovation in business
- Advise and lead using detailed knowledge of customers

Lesson 3: Capabilities and Value

Understanding business capabilities provides a stable framework and a common language for focusing on and improving different aspects of the business. Additionally, it facilitates the implementation of a services architecture, which offers flexibility and adaptability in both business and technical domains. Services operate as black boxes to consumers, allowing for seamless integration and reusability. This enables the rapid creation of value by composing existing services, leveraging resources efficiently.

Behavioural Objectives

- Describe your clients capabilities and how they impact services
- Think in terms of client value from capabilities to customers
- Describe an innovative business case.

Lesson 4: Roadmaps and Architecture

Aligning strategies within an organisation optimises value by driving corporate, business unit, and capability initiatives in the same direction. This alignment ensures that objectives cascade effectively from corporate strategy down to business technology and sales strategies. Roadmaps play a crucial role in providing stakeholders with a clear understanding of current initiatives and future plans, fostering coordination and alignment.

Behavioural Objectives

- Get involved in the organisations investment roadmap to make recommendations. Get buy off on new ideas as a trusted advisor
- Develop, track and communicate benefits realisation and measurement
- Define and develop and architecture description with the client

Lesson 5: Stories and Options

Of course you want to have close interaction with and stay in regular connection with delivery teams! You'll give them guidance so they know when you should be involved in a decision that might change the architecture. However, the requirements you provide to the delivery teams should be clear enough and provide enough information about what is being delivered and the decisions that led to your approach. The epics and requirements must be strongly enough described so that the architecture succeeds whether you are there or not.
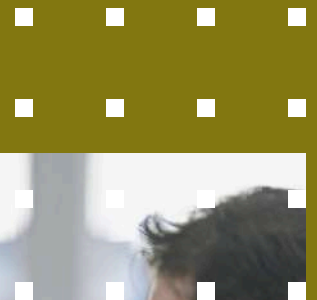
Behavioural Objectives

- When Architects talk to other Architects and get challenged (eg. competitive, on features, etc), challenge back by asking thought provoking questions
- Define and describe architecturally significant requirements. Be able to defend and describe the impact of the requirements and how it shapes the solution
- Understand the current architecture landscape, evaluation of options and the development of a context and benefits realisation view
- Describe and define the relationship between options, decisions and requirements.

Lesson 6: Structure and Assessment

How secure is secure enough? How fast? How reliable? Does the client seem more concerned with security or usability? Reliability or solution speed? Latency or how current the data is? Time-to-market or level of scalability? Your client will likely not be able to understand the tradeoffs and make the decisions that map to their business objectives, imperatives, and risk aversion without you being able to determine which quality attributes are relevant and what the tradeoffs are between them, as well as the funds and time available to deliver the solution to market.

Behavioural Objectives
- Describe an architecture using multiple viewpoints to define its total shape and impacts in both functional and quality attributes
- Facilitate a design thinking session and mentor the customer through more holistic design methods
- Use both formal and informal methods to analyse a peer and a customer architecture description.

Lesson 7: Agile, Roles and Stakeholders

We will define architecture team roles, the extended team impacts and related activities. This is where you put together your punch list of resources needed to deliver and operate. We will also review tools so you can start to understand how to better communicate with people and what approaches they are likely to be receptive to. As an architect, you communicate with experts and there isn't a right or wrong to your decisions. You decide between tradeoffs that are specific to the context you are working in.
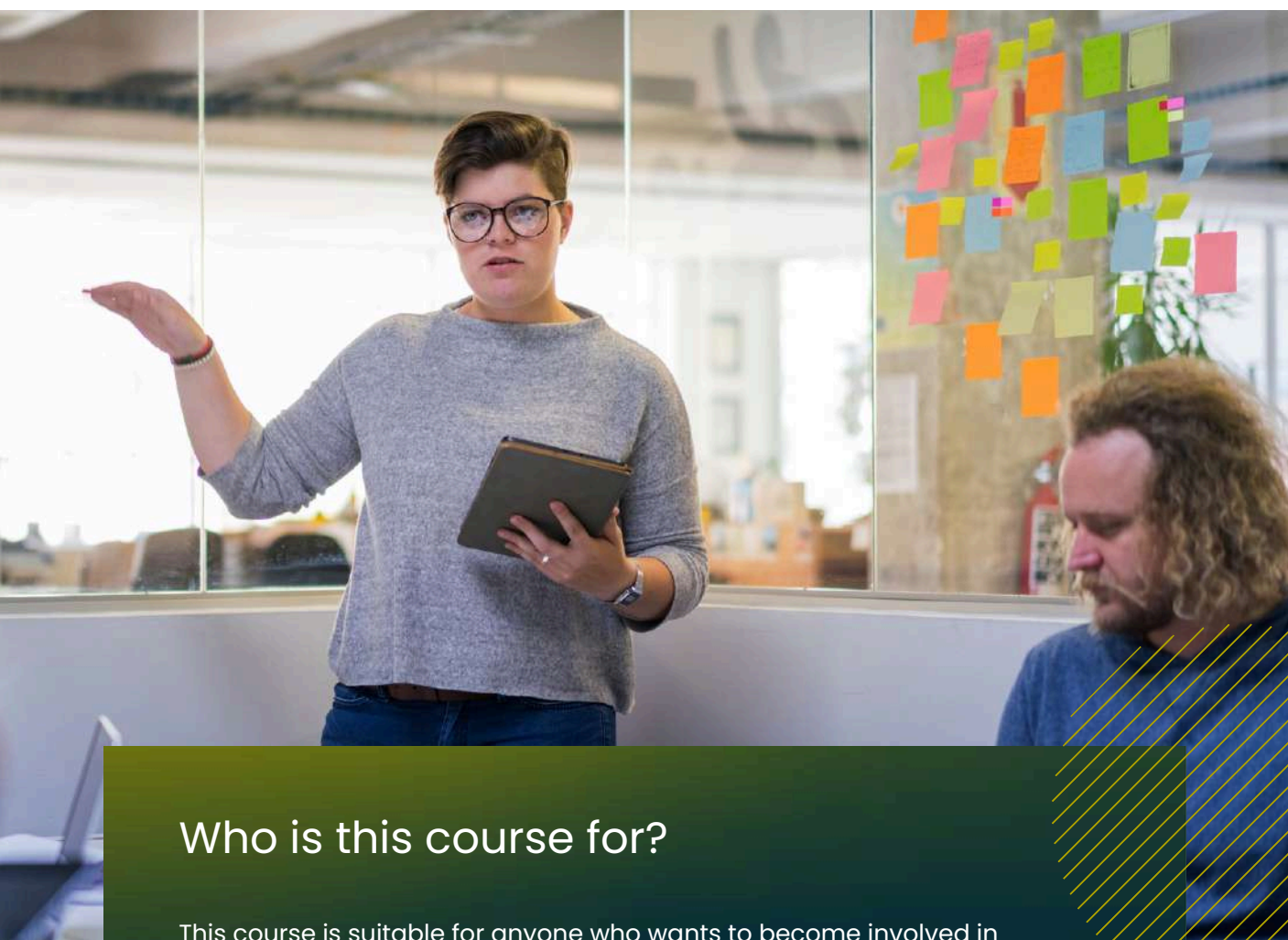
Behavioural Objectives
- Define an agile team structure which optimises a client engagement
- When engaged in stakeholder interactions the architect should have a leadership persona and engage based on a deep understanding of stakeholder needs
- Define Stakeholders using multiple tools to better define a stakeholder management plan
- Actively define architecture team roles, the extended team impacts and related activities.

Lesson 8: Deliverables and Engagement

Architecture teams have to engage an organisation, the BTABoK simply allows them to be objective and concrete about those activities as well as to set clear objectives and use the same language in doing so. For example, the stakeholder article provides tools and techniques to improve stakeholder management. The engagement model does not require that a team use all of the concepts (articles). In fact a team may actively choose to not use a particular concept. One large organisation which used Iasa training actively rejected using business cases, value methods, benefits realisation etc. for a time (they have since begun using them as their digital maturity needs grew).

Behavioural Objectives
- Describe an architecture teams deliverables for an end to end process as a trusted advisor to business and leaders of execution
- Describe critical processes for the architecture team at an organisation
- Describe common elements of an engagement model for a client and how adaptations might impact their progress.
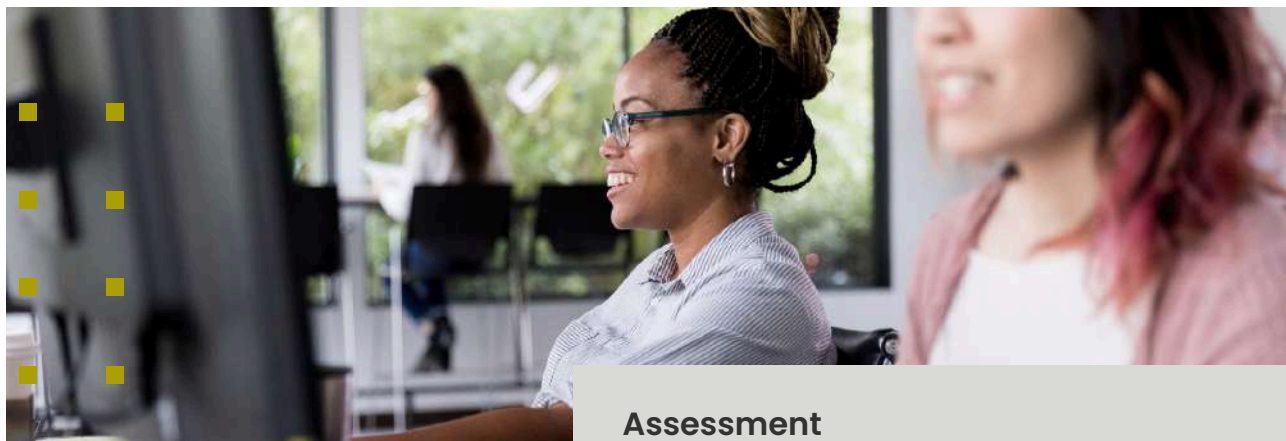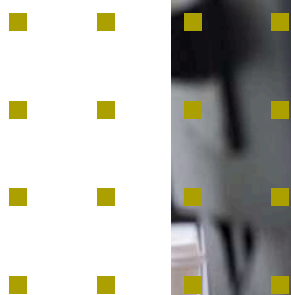
Who is this course for?

This course is suitable for anyone who wants to become involved in technical architectural work, but you should at a minimum have basic knowledge and experience of system development.

Ideal candidates for the course are:

▶ Technology architects, that are either new into the role or are seasoned architects, looking to update their skills, transition into BT architecture roles or are preparing for CITA-P/D certification.

▶ Experienced IT staff from other roles that are considering the move into technology architecture.

▶ Senior technical team leaders that are considering establishing or improving their architecture practice or want to deepen their strategic and business-focused architectural knowledge.

▶ Business analysts aiming to bridge the gap between business and technology.

If you are ready to become a skilled BT architect who designs impactful, business-driven technology solutions, the Iasa Architect Core course provides the essential knowledge and tools to achieve your goals.

Outcomes for you

At the end of this course you will gain a deep understanding of analysing complex business requirements, translating them into technological solutions, and ensuring alignment with overarching business strategy.

You will be able to think about your technology solutions and communicate them with an entirely new level of stakeholder. You will be able to describe the way your company is positioned within the enterprise and devise methods for making that position stronger.

These will form a reference point of what it means to be a successful business technology architect and how to behave. You can take these learnings and tools into your organisation, along with a wealth of further material provided in the Iasa Business Technology Architecture Body of Knowledge (BTABOK).

Assessment

On the final day of the course, candidates present back their learning journey reflecting on what they have learnt, what they can apply to their role and that of their organisation's architecture practice, and thoughts on their own career path.
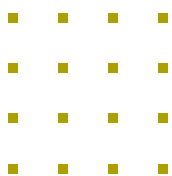
Following completion of the course candidates must undertake an open book exam featuring multiple-choice questions within a specified time frame to earn the CITA-F certification level. Guidance on exam preparation and recommended study materials are provided to participants during the course.

Ultimately this course, and the CITA-F certification, will set you up for success in the business technology architect profession, knowing what's core to making you a better architect that adds value to your organisation.

Award

Upon completing the course, participants will receive CITA-F industry certification from Iasa Ireland, validating their expertise in the field. This certification is recognised by industry professionals and signifies proficiency in relevant skills and knowledge essential for successin the field of architecture. The CITA-F credential is awarded by achieving 70% or higher on the CITA-F examination.

Upon completion of this course, you will have an improved understanding of:

What are architecture lifecycles, deliverables, and engagements

How to improve an architecture practice engagement model

Tools and techniques for value measurement, tradeoff analysis, design and quality attributes

Methods to work across business, technical and management stakeholders

Ways of understanding and using customer centric design approaches

Better ways to combine agile delivery with architecture excellence

Critical skills in navigating change management from ideation to execution

How to plan and manage the competencies you need throughout an architecture career

Funding eligibility

The fees for this programme are part-funded by Technology Ireland ICT Skillnet. The reduced programme fees are €2,000.

Applicants must be working in a private or commercial semi-state organisation registered in the Republic of Ireland (Business, Consultant, Freelancer) to avail of the grant-aided fees. As a government-funded training network, we can only support those meeting these criteria.

Applicants who do not meet our funding criteria may in some cases be able to apply directly with Iasa Ireland and pay the full fee if there are available places.

Please speak with our programme team to learn more about the availability of funding.

info@**ictskillnet**.ie

What our course participants have to say

The Iasa Architect Core course gives professionals a holistic journey through an overall approach and key considerations to ensure **architecture deliverables and outcomes are setup for success.**

Ger O'Flynn,
Head of Commercial IT,
Musgrave

The course was a great opportunity to understand the depth and breadth of architecture, the supportive tools, the journey to achieve great outcomes, and how to describe the value propositions to all stakeholder levels. **An incredibly empowering experience.**

Matthew Downing,
Principal Platform
Architect, Kainos

The Iasa Architecture Core training course was a great in person experience with a good balance of instructor led content, classroom discussion and practical learning. **I would highly recommend to any aspiring to practicing architects.**

Niall Clancy, Corporate
Technology Domain Architect,
Canada Life Europe

Programme delivered in partnership with:

IASA
The Business Technology Architect Association

Iasa Ireland is a member of Iasa, a global association with over 60,000 members worldwide and is the Irish association representing IT architects at all levels. Iasa promotes the IT architecture profession through the advancement of best practices and education, and the delivery of programmes and services to IT architects of all levels.

Iasa Ireland is a not for profit association led by a team of volunteers who are practising technology architects in companies such as Irish Life, Bearingpoint, Eirgrid and Bank of America Merrill Lynch. The mission of Iasa Ireland is to make IT architecture a recognised and valued profession through the advancement of best practices and education and by delivering programmes and services to IT architects of all levels.

Ready to develop your career in Technology Architecture?

Our team is ready to answer any questions you might have regarding this programme. Send an email to info@ictskillnet.ie or use the enquiry form on our programme page and one of our programme leads will be delighted to assist you.

Start your learning journey today with Technology Ireland ICT Skillnet by clicking on the Learn More button.

Learn More

Embrace the future with confidence, with Technology Ireland ICT Skillnet as your training partner.

Technology Ireland ICT

Skillnet

Programme pillars

Our wide range of programme channels allows you to access training in the latest technologies driving business development.

Artificial Intelligence	Blockchain	Cloud	Cybersecurity
Data Analytics	Fintech	Global Business Services	Innovation & Transformation
Leadership	Quantum	Software Architecture	Software Development

Industry approved

With the support of our Industry Steering Group, made up of some of Ireland's most progressive companies, you can be assured that our programmes will provide you with the most relevant and cutting-edge skills that industry demands.

Fidelity INVESTMENTS **Hertz** **Liberty Information Technology** **ERICSSON**

IBM **CISCO** **hp** **Technology Ireland** Ibec

Certification you can trust

Through our strategic partnerships with some of Ireland's most influential higher education institutions, we offer a range of certificate, diploma, and masters programmes, with awards accredited on the National Framework of Qualifications.

TU Dublin **Atlantic Technological University** **MTU** **DCU** Ollscoil Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath Dublin City University **Maynooth University** National University of Ireland Maynooth

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH **National College of Ireland** Ollscoil na Gaillimhe **UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY** **TUS** **UCD** DUBLIN

Join 14,000+ learners who have transformed their careers with us. **Explore our range of courses ›**

www.**ictskillnet**.ie

Technology Ireland ICT

Skillnet.

UNLEASH YOUR
UNSTOPPABLE POTENTIAL

in X ▶ ⃝ f

Get in touch to invest in your development.
Email: info@ictskillnet.ie **Call:** +353 (0)1 469 3754

www.**ictskillnet**.ie

Skillnet IRELAND

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Co-funded by
the European Union