UNIVERSITY OF
LEADING
THE WAY
WESTMINSTER⌗

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Course record information

Name and level of final award:	MSc Project Management
	The MSc Project Management is a Masters degree that is Bologna FQ-EHEA second cycle degree or diploma compatible.
Name and level of intermediate awards:	Postgraduate Diploma Project Management
	Postgraduate Certificate Project Management
Awarding body/institution:	University of Westminster
Teaching Institution:	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution:	Recognised Body
Location of delivery:	Westminster Business School
Language of delivery and assessment:	English
Mode, length of study and normal starting month:	12 months full-time; 24 months part-time; 24 months block mode
QAA subject benchmarking group(s):	Business and Management
Professional statutory or regulatory body:	None
Date of course validation/review:	2012
Date of programme specification approval:	November 2011
Valid for cohorts:	e.g. from 2017/18
Course Leader:	Nicholas Lambrou
Course URL:	westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate
Westminster Course Code:	PIMFBIT
JACS code:	N213
UKPASS code:	

Admissions requirements

There are standard minimum [entry requirements](#) for all undergraduate courses. Students are advised to check the standard requirements for the most up-to-date information.

For most courses a decision will be made on the basis of your application form alone. However, for some courses the selection process may include an interview to demonstrate your strengths in addition to any formal entry requirements.

More information can be found here: [westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/how-toapply](#)

Aims of the course

Course mission
To shape the future of the professional life of its graduates by offering a programme that is diverse and vibrant in an inspirational learning environment that embeds internationalisation, employability and professionalism in all aspects of its delivery.

In order to achieve this mission, the course aims to:

- Provide a postgraduate programme in project management that has both a theoretical and practical nature.

- Offer a range of knowledge and skills which will enable graduates to build on their first degree and/or work experience, as part of their personal development plan, to become professionals capable of managing projects in a wide variety of situations.

- Produce graduates with the ability to critically analyse and understand the nature and context of projects using the appropriate project management tools and methods.

- Develop the students' professional attitudes as well as their interpersonal and entrepreneurial skills, as expected by the leading project management professional bodies

- Provide students with critical and evaluative perspectives of the theory and practice of project management and develop their capacity for independent and self-reflective learning, ensuring their future contribution to research and development.

Employment and Further Study Opportunities

The following sought after skills will become part of the students CV: PRINCE2, MSP, M_o_R, DSDM Atern, planning, scheduling, PMBOK (see Appendix 2 for an explanation of these and other project management terms).

Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, i.e. employability skills. The University of Westminster is committed to developing employable graduates by ensuring that:

- Career development skills are embedded in all courses

- Opportunities for part-time work, placements and work-related learning activities are widely available to students

- Staff continue to widen and strengthen the University's links with employers in all sectors, involving them in curriculum design and encouraging their participation in other aspects of the University's career education and guidance provision

- Staff are provided with up-to-date data on labour market trends and employers' requirements which will inform the service delivered to students.

The course has been designed to produce 'hands on' professionals with a broad range of career possibilities in project management, either as project managers in their own right or as members of a Programme, Portfolio or Project Office. Graduates will be able to recognise the project management maturity of organizations and thus place themselves accordingly. Graduates are also expected to enhance their careers within organisations where they can also take on roles as project planners, risk managers, quality managers and estimators, either directing or managing projects. In addition, there is a large freelance contracting project management community which some graduates may aspire to join.

We expect that the majority of graduates in the sector will start their career as project team members in a variety of posts from project support office posts to project team management to project management, with a few, depending on their background, becoming programme managers.

The role of project manager is generic by nature, so most would work for one of the large UK or international government or non-government organizations as consultants or project managers. Those students who will wish to pursue further research into project management issues will be encouraged to due so, due to the mix of practical skills and research-like challenges the course offers.

Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning. They are threshold statements of achievement and are linked to the knowledge, understanding and skills that a student will have gained on successfully completing a course.

Knowledge and Understanding

LO1.   Critically assess current practice in project management in the context of current scholarship;

LO2. Critically discuss contemporary themes and principles of project and programme management;

LO3. Critically assess the continual viability of the project management bodies of knowledge as defined by the main professional bodies;

LO4. Demonstrate a critical awareness of current project, programme and portfolio issues and developments;

Specific Skills

LO5. Plan, delegate, monitor and control a project;

LO6. Align a project to a programme and strategic objectives;

LO7. Demonstrate project teamwork and leadership skills;

LO8. Understand project finance and value contribution;

Key Transferable skills

LO9. Evaluate the viability of a new project and its alignment to the strategic capability of the commissioning organization;

LO10. Critically apply general project management skills to assess, direct, manage and deliver a project;

LO11. Demonstrate creativity and innovative thinking in the assessing, managing, delegating, monitoring and controlling activities associated with project, risk, quality and change management;

LO12. Critically evaluate their own work and the work of others in relation to project management reports and records;

LO13. Demonstrate a profound competence in undertaking, successfully completing and evaluating a significant project.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment Methods

Each taught module includes a three-hour session per week consisting of lectures followed by tutorials/seminars. The lectures are in the form of a discussion while the seminars allow for workshops and other problem solving settings, ranging from individual to group tasks.

All lecture, seminar and additional reading or viewing material is online, accessible by all students and informed by active discussion boards. Lectures are also supported by guest speakers who offer practical or research based insights into the challenges of project management.

The course offers a balance between theory and practice, augmented by the peer to peer learning opportunities that arise from the expected diversity in terms of academic, cultural and professional experience within the student cohort.

In addition to the formally taught section of the course, students undertake a project, which is completed after the final examinations have taken place. Following a small number of scene-setting sessions, the project module has no formal class contact; instead, students will work with a supervisor on a one-to-one basis. Most modules are assessed through continual assessment and an exam, although there are some exceptions where modules are assessed solely by course work. All modules are supported by the university's electronic bulletin board where all lecture material and additional reading mater is deposited.

Each module uses a variety of learning styles such us peer to peer learning, action based learning, on line collaboration, case study based learning and problem based learning. Group work is encouraged as teamwork and team building are integral parts of project management. Where group work is assessed, the group need to keep a diary of contributions to allow for individual allocation of marks.

Course Structure

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Postgraduate students study 180 credits per year and part-time students usually study 180 credits over two years.

The course comprises five core taught modules, two option taught modules and a project module, all designed to deliver a critical understanding of the Project Management Body of Knowledge, as this evolves.

The core modules are compulsory and must be taken by all students. They provide the foundation onto which the course is based and provide coverage of the Project Management Body of Knowledge.

Option modules allow students to explore less generic but influential project management aspects or applications. Although there are no restrictions in choosing any option module, the course leader who has responsibility for the academic programme of study of each student, must agree and sign off the selection made by each student.

In addition to the core and option modules, students will be given the opportunity to attend a five-day in-house intensive course leading to the PRINCE2 Foundation and Practitioner certificates, as defined by the Association of Project Management Group (APMG).

Credit Level 7				
Module code	**Module title**	**Status**	**UK credit**	**ECTS**
7PJMN007W	Project Management Foundations	Core	20	10
7PJMN008W	Project Management in Practice	Core	20	10
7PJMN003W	Programme and Strategic Management	Core	20	10
7PJMN001W	Management of Risk and Scheduling	Core	20	10
7PJMN004W	Project Finance and Procurement	Core	20	10
7PJMN008W	Project Management Project	Core	60	30
7PJMN006W	Project Management for IT	Option	20	10
7PJMN002W	Managing International Projects	Option	20	10
	or an approved 20 credit free elective	Option	20	10

NB: Not all option or elective modules will necessarily be offered in any one year.

Award requirements
MSc Project Management
All taught core modules plus the project module plus one option/elective module

PG Diploma Project Management
All taught core modules plus one option/elective module

PG Certificate Project Management
Either three taught core modules or two taught core modules plus one option/elective
module
Academic regulations
The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at
westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations

How will you be supported in your studies?

Course Management
The MSc Project Management is taught by staff at the Westminster Business School. The Westminster Business School is an Approved Training Organization for PRINCE2 courses. The Business Information Management and Operations Department of the Westminster Business School is responsible for the course. The Head of the Department is David Barnes. The Course Leader is Nicholas Lambrou.

The course team comprises the Course Leader, all lecturers that teach on the course (the Module Leaders) as well as course advisors. This group is responsible for the planning, management and delivery of the course.

Academic Support

Upon arrival, an induction programme will introduce you to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which you will be studying, the Library and IT facilities, additional support available and to your Faculty Registry Office. You will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Each course has a course leader or Director of Studies. All students enrolled on a full-time course and part time students registered for more than 60 credits a year have a personal tutor, who provides advice and guidance on academic matters. The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students access their course materials, and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students

Learning Support

The Academic Learning Development Centre supports students in developing the skills required for higher education. As well as online resources in Blackboard, students have the opportunity to attend Study Skills workshops and one to one appointments.

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at that site. Students[1] can search the entire library collection online through the Library Search service to find and reserve printed books, and access electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books). Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group study, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. They can also choose from several computer rooms at each campus where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the courses taught at their Faculty. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

Support Services

The University of Westminster Student Affairs department provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers, specialist advice for international students and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support students during their time at the University.

How do we ensure the quality of our courses and continuous improvement? The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel in 2011. The panel included internal peers from the University, academic(s) from another university and a representative from industry. This helps to ensure the comparability of the course to those offered in other universities and the relevance to employers.

The course is also monitored each year by the Faculty to ensure it is running effectively and that issues which might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the outcomes from Course Committees, evidence of student progression and achievement and the reports from external examiners, to evaluate the effectiveness of the course. Each Faculty puts in to place an action plan. This may for example include making changes on the way the module is taught, assessed or even how the course is structured in order to improve the course, in such cases an approval process is in place.

A Course review takes place periodically to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers. Students meet

---

[1] Students enrolled at Collaborative partners may have differing access due to licence agreements.

with review panels to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years e.g. from Course Committees is also part of the evidence used to assess how the course has been running.

How do we act on student feedback?
Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways.

- Through Course Committees students have the opportunity to express their voice in the running of their course. Student representatives are elected to Committee to expressly represent the views of their peer. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the student representatives.

- Each Faculty also has its own Faculty Student Forum with student representatives; this enables wider discussions across the Faculty. Student representatives are also represented on key Faculty and university committees.

- All students are invited to complete a questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced.

- The University also has an annual Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey or PTES which helps us compare how we are doing with other institutions, to make changes that will improve what we do in future and to keep doing the things that you value.