

Course record information

Name and level of final award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master of Science - Project Management <p>The award is Bologna FQ-EHEA second cycle degree or diploma compatible</p>
Name and level of intermediate awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postgraduate Diploma (Pg Dip) - Project Management • Postgraduate Certificate (Pg Cert) - Project Management
Awarding body/institution	University of Westminster
Teaching institution	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution	Recognised Body
Location of delivery	Primary: Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
QAA subject benchmarking group(s)	Business and Management (Master's)
Professional statutory or regulatory body	N/A
Westminster course title, mode of attendance and standard length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSc Project Management FT, Full-time, September or January start - 1 year standard length
Valid for cohorts	From 2024/5

Admissions requirements

There are standard minimum entry requirements for all postgraduate 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: <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/how-to-apply>.

Aims of the programme

Our mission is to shape the future of the professional life of our 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 MSc Project Management course has been designed 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 ethical and sustainable research and development.

Employment and further study opportunities

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 is accredited by the Association for Project Management (APM), the chartered body for the project profession. Students on the course are entitled to a free annual membership of APM. The membership benefits include access to project management knowledge resources, journals, networking opportunities at APM events and preferential rates on APM qualifications. The course also has gained an accreditation from the Project Management Institute (PMI) giving the course a global recognition. Students will be able to access PMI professional development resources such as online courses, career seminars and network with project professionals during PMI events, some are regularly hosted at this university.

The university is a life-time member of the Agile Business Consortium (ABC) giving all students an opportunity to connect with the agile community. Students benefit from free access to real-world agile knowledge and member-only events for free and discounts to resources and events.

While on the course, students are offered an opportunity to attain the one of the sought-after professional certificates in either PRINCE2 or AgilePM. In addition, industry standard methods like Managing Successful Programmes (MSP), Management of Risk (M_o_R), PMBOK and others (see Appendix for an explanation of these and other project management terms) inform the course delivery.

The course is taught by lecturers who are also professional trainers.

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 recognize 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 in the UK and the vibrant global project management market.

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 do so, due to the mix of practical skills and research-like challenges the course offers.

Students who wish to move on to a PhD can use the project module as a vehicle to start their research.

What will you be expected to achieve?

Course learning outcomes

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning.

These are threshold statements of achievement the learning outcomes broadly fall into four categories:

The overall knowledge and understanding you will gain from your course (KU)

Graduate attributes are characteristics that you will have developed during the duration of your course (GA)

Professional and personal practice learning outcomes are specific skills that you will be expected to have gained on

successful completion of the course (PPP)

Key transferable skills that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course. (KTS)

Level 7 course learning outcomes: upon completion of Level 7 you will be able to:

- KNU1 Critically assess current practice in project management in the context of current scholarship. LO1. (KU)
- KNU2 Critically discuss contemporary themes and principles of project and programme management. LO2. (KU)
- KNU3 Critically assess the continual viability of the project management bodies of knowledge as defined by the main professional bodies. LO3. (KU)
- KNU4 Demonstrate a critical awareness of current project, programme and portfolio issues and developments. LO4. (KU)
- KTS1 Evaluate the viability of a new project and its alignment to the strategic capability of the commissioning organization. LO9. (KTS)
- KTS2 Critically apply general project management skills to assess, direct, manage and deliver a project. LO10. (KTS)
- KTS3 Demonstrate creativity and innovative thinking in the assessing, managing, delegating, monitoring and controlling activities associated with project, risk, quality and change management. LO11. (KTS)
- KTS4 Critically evaluate their own work and the work of others in relation to project management reports and records. LO12. (KTS)
- KTS5 Demonstrate a profound competence in undertaking, successfully completing and evaluating a significant project. LO13. (KTS)
- SS1 Plan, delegate, monitor and control a project. LO5. (SS)
- SS2 Align a project to a programme and strategic objectives. LO6. (SS)
- SS3 Demonstrate project teamwork and leadership skills. LO7. (SS)
- SS4 Understand project finance and value contribution. LO8. (SS)

How will you learn?

Learning methods

Each module uses a variety of learning styles such as peer to peer learning, action-based learning, online collaboration, case study-based learning, problem-based and blended 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. Increasingly, and as these become available, simulations are used to make the knowledge more practical.

We use a blended-learning approach which combines traditional teaching methods with the use of on-line resources such as videos, online tests and collaborative tools to improve learning experience in the class and also after the class. The course uses a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) (Blackboard) as platform through which learning material can be accessed 24/7 and communication between staff and students occurs.

The learning environment goes beyond the relatively small number of contact teaching hours. Students are expected to surf the Internet and visit the library facilities to read on project management issues and to keep up with current research on the subject. As projects are ubiquitous, students should be reading the current press to keep up to date with large and small projects that are in progress or have recently been completed.

Students should also take advantage of our London location to visit project management events and conferences organized by such organisations as, for example, the Agile Business Consortium, of which the University is a permanent member, or the Association for Project Management, which is the UK chartered body for project management and who have accredited the course itself, or the UK chapter of the Project Management Institute with which the teaching team has many links. Once the teaching ends, the learning environment changes as the student undertakes a project of their own choice and work on it under the guidance of a personal supervisor. The student-supervisor relationship is complex, and its value depends a lot on the student's input.

During the design of the modules we have considered the learning experience and selected a range of learning styles to ensure we are inclusive and provide an opportunity to also develop employability skills.

Teaching 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 university supports the recording of lectures, giving students an opportunity to access recordings online, thus helping to enhance the learning experience on the course.

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.

During the design of the modules we have considered the teaching experience and selected a range of teaching styles/technologies to ensure an inclusive experience.

Assessment methods

Most modules are assessed through continual assessment and an exam/ICT, although there are some exceptions where modules are assessed solely by course work. All modules are supported by the university's Blackboard system where all lecture material and additional reading material is deposited.

Assessments perform a multiple role in this course and help us keep a balance between the theoretical demands of a master level course and the practical demands of the professional bodies and employability concerns.

The course incorporates formative assessments which student must complete as it provides useful feedback on which one can reflect on individual progress and act on the feedback to prepare for the assessments that count. Formative assessments are essential as they help to identify ways in which a student can improve. The format of formative assessment delivery varies in each module and due to the nature of the course the formative assessment is integrated within the module and activities such as feedback often take place within seminars.

Summative assessments will measure student's learning and achievement. Students will be assessed on the learning outcomes of the course through different categories of assessments, such as coursework in the form of reports, presentations, case studies, time-constrained in-class tests and exams. Weightings for each assessment element will vary to reflect the nature and master level of the module. The variety of assessments prepare the students for a) the professional body examinations, such as those required by the Association of Project Management, The Project Management Institute and the UK government's best practice portfolio; b) the workplace environment where team work and team leadership is important and c) the theoretical underpinnings which will place the profession's tools and techniques into context and which may lead to a PhD if the student feels inclined to pursue one.

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 research methods sessions, students will work with a supervisor on a one-to-one basis.

While we design assessment, we also consider the roles and activities that a project manager may have to complete to ensure our assessments are both academic but linked to professional practice and preparing students for future employment in project management.

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. Additional free text information on the choices may also be included, for example where students must choose one of two modules.. Course structures can be subject to change each academic year following feedback from a variety of sources.

Modules

Level 7

The course comprises five core taught modules, three option taught modules, of which students can choose one, 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. Students are allowed to pick a 'free elective' module from anywhere in the university if they find one that suits them better than the option modules listed here. Although there are no restrictions in choosing a free elective 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 either the PRINCE2 Foundation and Practitioner certificates or the AgilePM certificates.

To be eligible for the MSc, students have to take and pass six of the taught modules shown in the table below and the project.

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 or four taught core modules and the project.

PG Certificate Project Management

Either three taught core modules or two taught core modules plus one option/elective module

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
7PJMN018W	Agile Project Management	Core	20	10
7PJMN004W	Project Finance and Procurement	Core	20	10
7PJMN008W	Project Management in Practice	Core	20	10
7PJMN009W	Project Management Project	Core	60	30
7PJMN007W	Project Planning and Control	Core	20	10
7PJMN003W	Strategic Programme Management	Core	20	10
7PJMN019W	Advances in Project Management	Option	20	10
7PJMN002W	Managing International Projects	Option	20	10
7PJMN020W	Product Management	Option	20	10
		Elective	20	10

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year. In addition, timetabling and limited spaces may mean you cannot register for your first choice of option modules.

Professional body accreditation or other external references

The course is accredited by the Association for Project Management (APM), the chartered body for the project profession. The students on the course gain free student membership of the professional body, giving them access to a knowledge-based within the sector and also access to a series of lectures/personal development workshops.

The course is accredited by PM/GAC Project Management Institute Global Accreditation Center for Project Management Education Programs.

Course management

The MSc Project Management is taught by staff at the Westminster Business School of Applied Management. The Westminster Business School is an Approved Training Organisation for professional short courses such as PRINCE2, AgilePM, M_o_R and MSP. The School of Applied Management of the Westminster Business School is responsible for the course.

The course team comprises the Course Leader, all lecturers who 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 regulations

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at [westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations](https://www.westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations).

Course specific regulations apply to some courses.

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 Campus Registry. 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. Further information on Blackboard can be found at <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/current-students/studies/your-student-journey/when-you-arrive/blackboard>

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. Further information on the Academic Learning Development Centre can be found at [westminster.ac.uk/academic-learning-development](https://www.westminster.ac.uk/academic-learning-development).

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at that site. Students 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 in their College. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

Support Services

The University of Westminster Student and Academic Services 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. Further information on the advice available to students can be found at <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/student-advice>

The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support students during their time at the University. Further information on UWSU can be found at <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/students-union>

How do we ensure the quality of our courses and continuous improvement?

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel. University Panels normally include internal peers from the University, academic(s) from another university, a representative from industry and a Student Advisor.

The course is also monitored each year by the College 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 evidence of student surveys, student progression and achievement and reports from external examiners, in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the course and make changes where necessary.

A Course revalidation 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 with revalidation panels to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years 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 student engagement activities at Course/Module level, students have the opportunity to express their voice in the running of their course. Course representatives are elected to expressly represent the views of their peers. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the course representatives.
- There are also School Representatives appointed jointly by the University and the Students' Union who meet with senior School staff to discuss wider issues affecting student experience across the School. Student representatives are also represented on key College 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.
- Final year Undergraduate students will be asked to complete the National Student Survey which helps to inform the national university league tables.

This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate, if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification is supplemented by the Course Handbook, Module proforma and Module Handbooks provided to students. Copyright in this document belongs to the University of Westminster. All rights are reserved. This document is for personal use only and may not be reproduced or used for any other purpose, either in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of the University of Westminster. All copies of this document must incorporate this Copyright Notice – 2022©