

University of the West of Scotland

Module Descriptor

Session: 2024/2025

Title of Module: Projects in Practice			
Code: QUAL11021	SCQF Level: 11 (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework)	Credit Points: 20	ECTS: (European Credit Transfer Scheme)
School:	School of Computing, Engineering and Physical Sciences (CEPS)		
Module Co-ordinator:	Hazhar Faris, Ralitsa Arnaudova		
Summary of Module			
<p>Projects in Practice provides an opportunity for students to test seminal concepts and frameworks in a real-life managerial context.</p> <p>The module begins by distinguishing between key project management methodologies such as Waterfall and Agile, followed by an overview of PRINCE2/PRINCE2 Agile (Projects in Controlled Environments) and its application in several industrial contexts, alongside a taster of the PRINCE2/PRINCE2Agile exam offered to industry professionals.</p> <p>Students explore the significance of strategically fit projects, and practice establishing strategic alignment between high-level organisational objectives with relevant Projects, Programmes and Portfolios. This is complimented with a facilitated ideation session to kick-start their group coursework, which is to plan, produce and evaluate the effectiveness of a real-life project of their choice. Students are coached into effective presentation and communication skills and are asked to produce and present a business case for their project of choice, justifying its reasoning by considering key stakeholders and beneficiaries.</p> <p>The module facilitates students through experiencing real life project planning, execution, and reflection, including business case justification, project governance, creating a project charter (terms of reference), performing estimation and a feasibility study, crisis and critical chain management, project monitoring and change control, stakeholder engagement, benefits realisation, project closure and project evaluation.</p> <p>In the process, students experience leadership and team dynamics challenges, honing universal graduate skills such as effective communication, problem-solving, negotiation, time, and conflict management.</p> <p>Throughout the module students consider how technology can be used at various stage of the project life cycle: creating schedules, defining, and organizing tasks, dependencies, resources and costs, planning options; project outputs, status reports, stakeholder communication, monitoring, control, updating, progress.</p> <p>This module will work to develop several 'I am UWS' Graduate Attributes to make those who complete this module:</p> <p>Universal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical Thinker 			

- Ethically-minded
 - Research-minded
- Work Ready**
- Problem-Solver
 - Effective Communicator
 - Ambitious
- Successful**
- Autonomous
 - Resilient
 - Driven

Module Delivery Method

Face-To-Face	Blended	Fully Online	HybridC	Hybrid 0	Work-Based Learning
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

See Guidance Note for details.

Campus(es) for Module Delivery

The module will **normally** be offered on the following campuses / or by Distance/Online Learning: (Provided viable student numbers permit) (tick as appropriate)

Paisley:	Ayr:	Dumfries:	Lanarkshire:	London:	Distance/Online Learning:	Other:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LUBM

Term(s) for Module Delivery

(Provided viable student numbers permit).

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Learning Outcomes: (maximum of 5 statements)

These should take cognisance of the SCQF level descriptors and be at the appropriate level for the module.

At the end of this module the student will be able to:

L1	Apply and critically evaluate the impact of project management standards and methodologies such as Agile and Waterfall, alongside PRINCE2 principles, themes, and processes.
L2	Identify and critically evaluate the use of different software and technology for the successful delivery of a project.
L3	Practice planning, execution, management, and evaluation of a real-life project.

L4	Demonstrate competence in using project planning software.	
Employability Skills and Personal Development Planning (PDP) Skills		
SCQF Headings	During completion of this module, there will be an opportunity to achieve core skills in:	
Knowledge and Understanding (K and U)	<p>SCQF Level 11</p> <p>K&U of international and industry project standards and methodologies; the main concepts of the PRINCE2 methodology.</p> <p>K&U of methods for planning and control, managing activities, resource, and costs.</p> <p>K&U of Microsoft Project for planning and control.</p>	
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	<p>SCQF Level 11</p> <p>The comprehensive group coursework allows students to practice the above knowledge continuously throughout the term in pursuit of managing and execution of a real-life (business or charity) project with real outputs and benefits for stakeholders.</p>	
Generic Cognitive skills	<p>SCQF Level 11</p> <p>Ability to examine dynamic organisational (business and charity) problems, ideate, and obtain planned and controlled solutions through the means of project outputs and outcomes.</p>	
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	<p>SCQF Level 11</p> <p>Communication skills honed via written reports and presentations. ICT and numeracy skills developed by means of project planning and control techniques.</p>	
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with others	<p>SCQF Level 11</p> <p>Develop individual and group autonomy, time management, initiative, self-directed learning, and reflection. Practicing accountability towards coursework group team members and stakeholders in the chosen project.</p>	
Pre-requisites:	Before undertaking this module, the student should have undertaken the following:	
	Module Code: N/A	Module Title: N/A
	Other: N/A	
Co-requisites	Module Code: N/A	Module Title: N/A

*Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Learning and Teaching	
In line with current learning and teaching principles, a 20-credit module includes 200 learning hours, normally including a minimum of 36 contact hours and maximum of 48 contact hours.	
<p>Learning Activities</p> <p>The Learning & Teaching Strategy for this module is based on the general strategy for the MSc Project Management.</p> <p>Classes are delivered on a weekly basis. Lectures will introduce and exemplify key theoretical and critical concepts. Tutorial sessions will be given to further develop students' understanding and facilitate them to practice managing a project within their groups. Students are given sufficient time and support to work on the coursework.</p> <p>For Distance Learning students and hybrid/blended deliveries, full use will be made of the VLE. That is, all teaching material will be made available on-line and students will be guided through the material. Email and videoconferencing will be used to support students. The class test will need to take place at a designated remote site under UWS protocols.</p>	<p>Student Learning Hours (Normally totalling 200 hours): (Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)</p>
Lecture/Core Content Delivery	24h
Tutorial/Synchronous Support Activity	12h
Asynchronous Class Activity	6h
Independent Study	158h
	Hours Total: 200h
**Indicative Resources: (eg. Core text, journals, internet access)	

The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes:

[1] APM Body of Knowledge (2019) 7th edition, Princes Risborough: Association for Project Management, UK.

[2] Project Management: Processes, Methodologies, and Economics, A. Shtub, J. Bard, and S. Globerson, Prentice-Hall International Series in Industrial & Systems Engineering.

[3] Project Management: A Systems Approach to Planning, Scheduling, and Controlling, 2013, H. Kerzner, John Wiley and Sons Inc.

[4] Managing Successful Projects with PRINCE2 by AXELOS (Author), published by The Stationery Office, ISBN-10: 0113310595, ISBN-13: 978-0113310593

[5] Agile Project Management Handbook, DSDM Consortium, 2010

[6] Lock D, (2013), Project Management; Gower, 10th Edition.

[7] A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (Pmbok Guide), Project Management Institute, PMI.

[8] Agile Practice Guide (2017) by Project Management Institute.

Please ensure the list is kept short and current. Essential resources should be included, broader resources should be kept for module handbooks / Aula VLE.

Resources should be listed in Right Harvard referencing style or agreed professional body deviation and in alphabetical order.

(*N.B. Although reading lists should include current publications, students are advised (particularly for material marked with an asterisk*) to wait until the start of session for confirmation of the most up-to-date material)

Attendance and Engagement Requirements

In line with the [Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure](#): Students are academically engaged if they are regularly attending and participating in timetabled on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time.

For the purposes of this module, academic engagement equates to the following:

- **Prompt Attendance of Lectures** - Students are expected to attend scheduled lectures promptly and actively participate by taking notes, asking questions, and contributing to discussions.
- **Prompt Attendance of Tutorials** - Students are expected to attend tutorials on time, prepared with any assigned readings or tasks. Active participation in tutorial discussions and activities is strongly encouraged.
- **Weekly Access to Materials on Aula** - Students are required to access Aula on a weekly basis to stay informed about updates, download lecture slides or readings, and engage with any online activities or discussions.

- **Successful completion and submission of coursework**

Equality and Diversity

The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: [UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code](#).

Aligned with the University's commitment to equality and diversity, this module supports equality of opportunity for students from all backgrounds and learning needs. Using the VLE, material will be presented electronically in formats that allow flexible access of content. This module complies with university regulations and guidance on inclusive learning and teaching practice. Specialist assistive equipment, support provision and adjustment to assessment practice in accordance with the University's policies and regulations. More information on the University's EDI policies can be accessed at: <https://www.uws.ac.uk/about-uws/uws-commitments/equality-diversity-inclusion/>

(N.B. Every effort will be made by the University to accommodate any equality and diversity issues brought to the attention of the School).

Supplemental Information

Divisional Programme Board	Engineering
Assessment Results (Pass/Fail)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
School Assessment Board	Civil Engineering and Quality Management
Moderator	Muhammad Ayat
External Examiner	L Supramaniam
Accreditation Details	This module is part of a degree programme accredited by APM: Association for Project Management.
Changes/Version Number	2.16

Assessment: (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)

Assessment 1 - Group Assignment, Planning and Delivering a Project

The group use a chosen methodology to develop the Terms of Reference or Project Initiation Document and plan for a particular project they will carry out. A baseline plan is developed using project planning software. The students develop the use of the chosen software package (such as Microsoft Project) and continue to update their baseline plan for the project. They track, analyse and comment on important amendments and changes. They conduct scenario analysis on problems and corrections/changes the project encountered.

The coursework is based on a real-life business or charitable project of their choice. This project is undertaken from week 2 onwards. The students also make a presentation of their progress and results and conclusions to the project board.

(N.B. (i) **Assessment Outcomes Grids** for the module (one for each component) can be found below which clearly demonstrate how the learning outcomes of the module will be assessed.

(ii) An **indicative schedule** listing approximate times within the academic calendar when assessment is likely to feature will be provided within the Student Module Handbook.)

Assessment Outcome Grids (See Guidance Note)

Component 1							
Assessment Type (Footnote B.)	Learning Outcome (1)	Learning Outcome (2)	Learning Outcome (3)	Learning Outcome (4)	Learning Outcome (5)	Weighting (%) of Assessment Element	Timetabled Contact Hours
Group Assignment: A portfolio of practical work	✓	✓	✓	✓		100%	0