

University of the West of Scotland
Postgraduate Programme Specification

Session: 2023/24

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Named Award Title:	MSc Project Management (Professional Practice)
Award Title for Each Award:	MSc Project Management (Professional Practice) PG Dip Project Management (Professional Practice) PG Cert Project Management (Professional Practice)
Awarding Institution/Body:	University of the West of Scotland
Language of Instruction & Examination:	English
Award Accredited By:	Association for Project Management
Maximum Period of Registration:	Sept and May intake: 1 year full-time, typically 2 years part-time / Jan intake: 1.5 years full-time, typically 2 years part-time (Professional Practice module is an additional 3 months)
Mode of Study:	Full Time Part Time
Campus:	London Paisley Distance/Online Learning
School:	School of Computing, Engineering and Physical Sciences
Programme Leader:	Dr A Durrant and Dr Sara Hajikazemi

Admission Criteria

Candidates must be able to satisfy the general admission requirements of the University of the West of Scotland as specified in Chapter 2 of the University Regulatory Framework together with the following programme requirements:

Appropriate Undergraduate Qualification

Candidates must be able to satisfy the general admission requirements of the University of the West of Scotland as specified in Chapter 2 of the University Regulatory Framework together with the following programme requirements: Appropriate Undergraduate Qualification is an honours degree in an engineering, science, business, managerial or financial discipline from a United Kingdom University or an equivalent institution. Direct entry to the MSc course will require students to have completed a Postgraduate Diploma in an appropriate discipline or an acceptable equivalent.

Other Required Qualifications/Experience

Non-standard Entry: entry to the postgraduate course (other than Masters direct) may be open to holders of an HND or DipHE award in an appropriate discipline, or a professional qualification accepted as of equivalent status and usually at least three years' relevant experience at a management level. Candidates without formal qualifications who possess extensive professional experience deemed to equip the applicant with the necessary knowledge and skills to successfully complete the course (normally at least eight years at a management level) may also be admitted to the postgraduate programme. The Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Guidelines will be followed.

All students with non-standard entry may be interviewed by one or more members of the course committee. During the interview, evidence of relevant experience will be required to determine if the applicant has the range of knowledge and ability to lead in to the postgraduate programme. International student applications are reviewed by the programme leader, references checked and transcripts considered to ensure the applicant's qualifications and background are suitable for the programme.

Applicants may also be considered with other academic, vocational or professional qualifications deemed to be equivalent.

We welcome applications from international students with equivalency of qualifications. Scholarships may be available on application.

Where English is not first language, applicants must be able to satisfy the University of their competence in English in line with Regulation 2.12, by having an IELTS score of 6.0 or above (with a minimum of 5.5. in each component) or equivalent.

Details are available at the UWS website <https://www.uws.ac.uk/international/english-language-requirements/>.

Further desirable skills pre-application

It is desirable that all entrants to SCQF level 11 have skills in the following areas: numeracy, communication (including report writing and presentation) and investigation techniques.

General Overview

This programme examines current practices, issues and trends in the field of project management and provides students with specialist knowledge to enable them to manage projects to a successful conclusion. The programme is structured around a number of core taught modules namely, Project Management Fundamentals; Projects in Practice; Change Management and Leadership; Project Risk Management; Strategic Project Management and Sustainability and the MSc Project. The delivery of these modules is designed to suit part-time students, full-time students and DL students.

The programme not only develops technical knowledge in project management but also employability skills such as critical thinking, analysis, problem solving, communication, research and ICT skills.

The programme has been designed with reference to the Benchmarking statements for Masters Degrees in Business and Management (2007) and the Association for Project Management's Body of Knowledge. It is accredited by the Association for Project Management (APM).

The key academic aims of the programme are to:

- Produce graduates with the necessary skills and confidence to guide and manage projects to a successful completion.
- To produce graduates with key skills for employment in the field of, and associated fields of, project management.
- To produce graduates with an enquiring, analytical and creative approach to managing projects.
- To develop and encourage independent judgement and critical awareness in managing projects.
- To guide the student in developing an independent approach to investigating and presenting findings on a research topic at postgraduate level.

The programme takes 12 months full-time and 24 part-time to complete.

Maximum registration period is 2 years full-time and 3 years part-time.

The programme is delivered: Hybrid and by Distance Learning.

When not attending campus, students should be equipped with their own laptop and licensed copy of Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Project.

The Professional Practice module is not available for LUBM franchised delivery. Currently APM award accreditation is not applied to LUBM franchise.

The School of Computing, Engineering and Physical Sciences offers a range of opportunities for further study such as progression to MPhil and PhD as well as offering other relevant Masters programmes.

Graduate Attributes, Employability & Personal Development Planning

The programme is designed with employability as a priority. All modules encourage and develop these skills in order that the graduate has skills to equip them for employment in the 21st century. Such skills include critical thought, analysis and problem solving, communication, team building, research and ICT.

On completion of the Project Management programme, you will gain the following Graduate Attributes:

- You will be a **critical thinker** working **collaboratively** with colleagues on **research-minded** projects
- You will be an **ambitious, motivated work ready professional**, able to show future employers you are a **problem solver** and an **effective communicator**
- Your research will be **innovative** and **creative** producing **resilient** solutions to our project management challenges.

The University is committed to providing the opportunity to engage with an e-portfolio-based model of (Personal Development Plan) PDP for all students enrolled on University programmes. The process is based upon self review by students at all stages of their study and developing individual learning plans. More specifically students enrolled onto the MSc Project Management will be encouraged to engage in PDP supported through the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), induction, the module Change Management and Leadership and the personal tutor system. PDP is further supported through presentations and seminar attendance by the professional bodies such as the APM.

Students will also be encouraged to join the Association for Project Management (APM) giving them access to materials and events in this field.

Work Based Learning/Placement Details

There is no placement associated with the programme. However, work related learning opportunities for face-to-face students are delivered through field trips, case studies and a 'live' audit at the postgraduate diploma level.

For Distance Learning (DL) students, the entire programme will be carried out in the workplace. DL students, if appropriate will have a mentor in the workplace, and there will be agreed contact points between the company and UWS.

Invited speakers from the profession will also enhance the learning for the student at all levels and all modes of delivery.

All students will be encouraged to carry out their dissertation with a company or in an area that is deemed useful to industry.

All students will be encouraged to join the Association for Project Management (APM) as student members. The APM provides the opportunity for networking, access to resources and information on project management.

Engagement

In line with the [Academic Engagement Procedure](#), Students are defined as academically engaged if they are regularly engaged with timetabled teaching sessions, course-related learning resources including those in the Library and on the relevant learning platform, and complete assessments and submit these on time.

Where a programme has Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body requirements these will be listed here:

For the purposes of this programme, this equates to the following:

On campus students are expected to attend all timetabled sessions and to engage with all formative and summative assessment elements of all the modules that are included in the programme specification as core modules as well as any optional module when applicable.

On-line students are expected to engage via Moodle and video conferences as well as engaging with all formative and summative assessment elements of all the modules that are included in the programme specification as core modules as well as any optional module when applicable.

Equality and Diversity

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

11	QUAL11013	Project Management Fundamentals	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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* Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Footnotes

Optional Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	QUAL11024	Professional Practice	60	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paisley and London only
11	QUAL11021	Projects in Practice	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11	QUALxxxxx	Strategic Management & Sustainability	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11	QUAL11016	Case Studies in Project Management	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11	QUAL11015	Change Management and Leadership	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11	QUAL11019	Project Risk Management	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11	QUALxxxxx	Postgraduate Research Methods	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

* Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Footnotes

An additional 40 credits should be selected from the above optional modules for the PgCert.

The Professional Practice module may be taken as additional credit and can be done through a work placement. Students completing the Professional Practice module will be awarded the PG Cert Project Management(Professional Practice). [Note that this module is offered subject to availability of suitable placement opportunities and cannot be guaranteed]

* Paisley students must choose between Project Risk Management or Risk

Management and Procurement Systems. All other students take Project Risk Management

Criteria for Progression and Award

The PgCert in Project Management will be awarded on successful completion of 60 credits which must include QUAL11013 any other 40 credits from the programme.

B. PG Dip
Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)

Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Demonstrate a critical understanding of developments in project management.
A2	Develop a critical awareness of risk management issues within the project environment.
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Select and use a range of specialised skills and techniques for project management.
B2	Apply the skills and techniques of project management to solve complex problems
B3	Apply modelling and analytical techniques for risk management.
B4	Develop and apply knowledge to case study scenarios.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Communicate, using appropriate methods, to a range of project stakeholders and team members.
C2	Communicate with peers, more senior colleagues and specialists.
C3	Undertake critical evaluation of a wide range of numerical and graphical data.
C4	Choose and apply appropriate software to assist in managing projects.
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	Identify, conceptualise and define new and abstract problems and issues in project management.
D2	Develop original and creative responses to problems and issues.
D3	Critically evaluate case studies for project success.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working With Others	
E1	Demonstrate effective and ethical project and team leadership.
E2	Develop the ability to reflect on own and others' roles and responsibilities.
E3	Deal with complex and ethical and professional issues.

Core Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	QUAL11013	Project Management Fundamentals	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

* Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Footnotes

Should the student fail to pass QUAL11013 Project Management Fundamentals, a named award cannot be given.

Optional Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	QUAL11019	Project Risk Management	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
11	QUAL11015	Change Management and Leadership	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
11	QUAL11016	Case Studies in Project Management	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
11	QUALxxxxx	Strategic Management & Sustainability	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
11	QUAL11021	Projects in Practice	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
11	QUALxxxxx	Postgraduate Research Methods	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
		UWS Level 11 module up to 20 credits					1
11	QUAL11024	Professional Practice	60	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2 not available LUBM

* Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Footnotes

Footnote 1. Students must select 100 credits from the following options
QUAL11019 Project Risk Management

QUAL11015 Change Management and Leadership

QUALxxxxx Strategic Management and Sustainability

QUAL11021 Projects in Practice

QUALxxxxx Postgraduate Research Methods

Any level 11 UWS module on discussion with programme leader up to 20 credits.

Footnote 2

The QUAL11024 Professional Practice module may be taken by Paisley and London students as additional credit and can be carried out through a work placement.

Students undertaking this module will be eligible for the Pg Dip in Project Management (Professional Practice) [Note that this module is offered subject to availability of suitable placement opportunities and cannot be guaranteed]

Criteria for Progression and Award

Students may exit with a Postgraduate (PG) Diploma in Project Management on successful completion of the core and optional 120 credits not including Professional Practice.

To exit with a Postgraduate (PG) Diploma in Project Management (Professional Practice), the core and optional 180 credits must be successfully completed.

C. Masters

Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)

Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Develop a critical awareness of current issues in project management.
A2	Critically evaluate evidence from a variety of sources.
A3	Synthesise information from a number of sources in order to gain a coherent understanding of theory and practice.
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Demonstrate originality and creativity in the application of project management knowledge.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Formulate and present a written volume of work on project management.
C2	Communicate with a range of people to research a topic.
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	Critically review, consolidate and extend knowledge, skills, practices and thinking in areas of project management.
D2	Make informed judgements in situations in the absence of complete or consistent data.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working With Others	
E1	Deal effectively with complex ethical and professional issues in managing projects.

Core Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	QUAL11012	MSc Project	60	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11	QUAL11013	Project Management Fundamentals	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

* Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Footnotes

Optional Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	QUAL11019	Project Risk Management	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
11	QUAL11015	Change Management and Leadership	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
11	QUAL11016	Case Studies in Project Management	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
11	QUALxxxxx	Strategic Management & Sustainability	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
11	QUAL11021	Projects in Practice	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
11	QUALxxxxx	Postgraduate Research Methods	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
		20 credits from a level 11 UWS module					1
11	QUAL11024	Professional Practice	60	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2 Not available for LUBM

* Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Footnotes

Footnote 1. Students must select 100 credits from the following options
 QUAL11019 Project Risk Management (recommended)

QUAL11015 Change Management and Leadership

QUALxxxxx Strategic Management and Sustainability

QUAL11021 Projects in Practice

QUALxxxxx Postgraduate Research Methods

Any level 11 UWS module on discussion with programme leader up to 20 credits.

Footnote 2

The QUAL11024 Professional Practice module may be taken by Paisley and London students as additional credit and can be carried out through a work placement. Students undertaking this module will be eligible for the Pg Dip in Project Management (Professional Practice) [Note that this module is offered subject to availability of suitable placement opportunities and cannot be guaranteed]

Professional Practice is available for Paisley and London students only as an extra credit option. Students undertaking Professional Practice module in addition to the others will be eligible for the Pg Dip in Project Management (Professional Practice). [Note that this module is offered subject to availability of suitable placement opportunities and cannot be guaranteed]

Criteria for Award

The MSc Project Management will be awarded on successful completion of 180 credits excluding QUAL11024 professional practice.

The MSc Project Management (Professional Practice) will be awarded on successful completion of 240 credits including QUAL11024.

Regulations of Assessment
Candidates will be bound by the general assessment regulations of the University as specified in the University Regulatory Framework . An overview of the assessment details is provided in the Student Handbook and the assessment criteria for each module is provided in the module descriptor which forms part of the module pack issued to students. For further details on assessment please refer to Chapter 3 of the Regulatory Framework. To qualify for an award of the University, students must complete all the programme requirements and must meet the credit minima detailed in Chapter 1 of the Regulatory Framework.
Combined Studies
There may be instances where a student has been unsuccessful in meeting the award criteria for the named award and for other more generic named awards existing within the School. Provided that they have met the credit requirements in line with the SCQF credit minima (please see Regulation 1.21), they will be eligible for an exit award of PgCert/ PgDip in Combined Studies.

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