



Postgraduate Programme Specification

Session	2025/26	Last Modified	23/03/2025
Named Award Title	MSc Quality Management		
Award Title for Each Award	MSc Quality Management PG Dip Quality Management PG Cert Quality Management		
Date of Approval	February 2025		
Details of Cohort Applies to	All students from 2025-2026		
Awarding Institution	University of the West of Scotland	Teaching Institution(s)	University of the West of Scotland
Language of Instruction & Examination	English		
Award Accredited by			
Maximum Period of Registration			
Duration of Study			
Full-time	Full Time – 2 years	Part-time	Part Time: 3 years;
Placement (compulsory)	No		
Mode of Study	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full-time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part-time		
Campus	<input type="checkbox"/> Ayr <input type="checkbox"/> Dumfries	<input type="checkbox"/> Lanarkshire <input type="checkbox"/> London <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paisley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Online / Distance Learning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)
School	Computing, Engineering and Physical Sciences		
Divisional Programme Board	Engineering Physical Sciences		
Programme Leader	E Viza		

Admissions 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 Qualifications:

Applicants will typically possess a degree or equivalent. In the absence of a degree, where entry requirements do not conform to the general entry requirements, other evidence can be considered on an individual basis in line with Regulations 2.13 – 2.36 (Recognition of Prior Learning – RPL / Recognition of Credit).

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

If applicants possess a bachelor's degree, or an equivalent qualification or less, but appropriate qualification plus relevant industrial experience on a role related to the course, they may also be considered for entry to the Pg Dip.

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.

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.

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) may also be admitted to the postgraduate programme. The Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Guidelines will be followed.

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.

We welcome applications from international students with equivalency of qualifications.

Scholarships may be available on application

General Overview

The Quality Centre at the University of the West of Scotland has developed a responsive approach to meeting the training and CPD needs placed on the professional and also graduates moving through the academic system. It offers a post-graduate programme in Quality Management designed to meet the evolving demands placed on the quality professional. The Postgraduate Diploma/ Master of Science degree programme in Quality Management is a modular programme which is offered both part-time, full-time and by on-

line learning. This programme enables the student to study quality management and other continuous improvement approaches relevant to industry and apply the techniques to all industrial and business sectors from service to manufacturing. The emphasis throughout the programme is on the development and implementation of continuous improvement programmes and quality systems at all levels from strategy development through to implementation of the strategy and systems at the operational level. Integrated into the programme is a Lean Six Sigma Yellow belt accredited by the Institute of Six Sigma Professionals. Our strong links with industry ensure that all graduates are work ready in current up to date thinking. Master classes by industry professionals enhance student learning and placements are encouraged throughout the program of study.

The key academic aims of the programme are to:

- Develop critical problem-based learning skills and transferable skills to prepare the student for employment in a professional position dealing with quality management system development and implementation.
- Enable the student to develop an enquiring, analytical and creative approach to achieving excellence through continuous improvement.
- To develop and encourage independent judgement and critical awareness in the management of quality.
- Assist the student to develop the skills required for both autonomous practice and team-working.
- Guide the student in developing an independent approach to a research topic, investigating a topic and presenting the findings in a form that is suitable to a post-graduate level degree.

Graduates have appropriate qualifications to apply for positions in both the public and private sectors. Students may consider further study to PhD level.

The method of presentation of relevant material will consist of a blend of formal and on-line teaching sessions, industrial seminars, tutor-led taught and on-line tutorials, and group participation sessions. Self-directed learning, problem based learning, international case studies and seminars will form part of this approach.

Full-time students are expected to attend all sessions on campus and participate in class discussions as part of their tutorials. Weekly online reading tasks and preparation for the tutorials is expected as it is a number of self-study hours.

The VLE is critical to the delivery and On-line learning students will have on-line synchronous sessions and forums where they can interact with other students and tutors. Assessment is undertaken through a mixture of written exam papers, challenging and stimulating coursework both as individual and group work, case studies and presentations (available on-line where appropriate and feasible) and student involvement in the industrially related integrative project.

Typical Delivery Method

Each module includes the following items on its AULA site: lecture slides, recordings, tutorials and additional learning information to ensure that students have access to the content and the same information regardless of delivery campus. The consistency of contents across all MSc Quality Management modules helps to manage expectations from students and have a streamlined content in the course as a whole.

This also enables students to catch up with material if they miss a session due to illness or any other reasons and it is in place in order to support students and not to deter attendance.

For Paisley based students, lectures and tutorials are delivered on campus. Where feasible, and subject to certain constraints (staff capacity, room availability, schedule clash with other

modules/programs), we strive to minimise travel time to the campus and have classes over 2 or 3 days.

For Distance Learning students, there is no set timetable. The students are expected to learn on their own pace given that all relevant material is available in the VLE. It has become a consistent feature however in the program that distance learning students have a schedule of optional drop in sessions every 2/3 weeks, to ask questions and do group exercises on line

Any additional costs

It is not anticipated that students will incur any additional costs as part of the course. Access to learning materials is part of the UWS library services. Software required for the courses is available through the school ICT services and available on campus' devices and in certain cases on the UWS network (subject to licence requirements). Assignments are submitted online so there is no printing cost. Any travel for industrial visits is organised by the UWS and using UWS vehicles.

Graduate Attributes, Employability & Personal Development Planning

On completion of the Quality 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 quality management challenges.

Our strong industry links make available work based learning opportunities, industrial mentors and industry and professional body seminars. Built into the programme is a Lean Six Sigma Yellow belt with opportunity to further undertake a Lean Six Sigma Green belt as an CPD module (cost associated). Both are certified by the Institute of Six Sigma Professionals. The module Interpersonal Skills and Change Management is core to developing transferable and professional development skills encouraging the student to engage in reflective practice. This module is core to PDP which is introduced during induction and embedded throughout all modules via coursework and feedback to students.

Students will gain a wide range of skills and abilities in assessing process conditions, auditing quality systems and managing change in the implementation of solutions. Business and industry examples are referred to in all modules and students are encouraged to explore current business needs on a national and international basis and reflect upon their own skills and abilities with respect to those needs

Work Based Learning/Placement Details

While there is no specific programme of industrial placement, students will have access to business and industry and there is potential for them to carry out research with case studies taken from local companies.

The incorporation of current quality management examples provides the students with opportunities to contact businesses and to independently enquire about potential for involvement. Students can choose to undertake their project within industry. This is of particular relevance to students that combine their studies while in employment.

Attendance and Engagement

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 programme, academic engagement equates to the following:

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.

DL students are expected to engage through the VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) and video conferences 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.

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, all modules in this programme support 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 and manipulation 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).

Programme structures and requirements, SCQF level, term, module name and code, credits and awards ([Chapter 1, Regulatory Framework](#))

Learning Outcomes

SCQF LEVEL 11 - Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert)	
Learning Outcomes	
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Develop a critical understanding and breadth of knowledge in quality related management concepts, disciplines and techniques.
A2	Develop a deep knowledge of the approaches and methodologies used to achieve continuous improvement, assurance, governance and leadership in quality.
A3	N/A
A4	N/A
A5	N/A
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Apply specialised audit skills to undertake viable quality management audits.
B2	Design and implement and critically evaluate Quality systems.
B3	Critically evaluate approaches to continuous improvement.
B4	Select and apply tools and techniques to case scenarios.
B5	N/A
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Communicate using appropriate written and oral methods to audiences of varying backgrounds, experience and expertise.
C2	Apply statistical techniques for quality improvement and decision making.
C3	Use and evaluate the appropriate IT tools and systems for improving quality.
C4	N/A
C5	N/A
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	Develop original and creative responses to problems and issues in quality management
D2	N/A
D3	N/A
D4	N/A
D5	N/A
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	
E1	Understand and develop Teamwork and leadership skills.
E2	Develop independent learning skills.
E3	N/A
E4	N/A
E5	N/A

Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) Modules

CORE

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	QUAL11020	Managing Quality	20	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Footnotes for Core Modules							

Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	QUAL11001	Operations Management for Sustainability	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
11	QUAL11008	Service Quality	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11	QUAL11026	Post Graduate Research Methods	20	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
11	QUAL11002	Statistical Quality Control	20	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11	QUAL11025	Risk Management	10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11	QUAL11003	Interpersonal Skills and Change Management	10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Footnotes for Option Modules							
N/A							

Level 11- Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert)

Criteria for Award

Please refer to [UWS Regulatory Framework](#) for related regulations

Students who achieve 60 credits from the programme above, including all core modules, will be eligible for the award of Pg Cert Quality Management.

SCQF LEVEL 11 - Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) Learning Outcomes	
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Critically evaluate statistical approaches to achieving operational excellence.
A2	Develop a critical understand of change management at the strategic level.
A3	Develop a critical awareness of the role of operations in the organisation
A4	N/A
A5	N/A
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Apply techniques for managing the change involved in implementing Quality Management Systems.
B2	Design, develop and apply strategies and policies for the implementation of Quality.
B3	Critically evaluate and apply statistical methods and measurement in quality control for management decisions.
B4	Employ techniques to modify employee behaviour in changing the organisation.
B5	N/A
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Critically evaluate and demonstrate the most effective means of communication in given situations.
C2	Analyse, critically evaluate and apply statistical methods for improving quality.
C3	Apply computer-based tools for the analysis of quality management data.
C4	N/A
C5	N/A
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	Develop problem solving and decision-making skills through the analysis and evaluation of case studies in quality management.
D2	Undertake evaluation of quality data and information.
D3	N/A
D4	N/A
D5	N/A
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	
E1	Develop a critical self-reflection and improvement approach to the effect of Interpersonal skills including communications, motivation, leadership and team building.
E2	Demonstrate leadership and make an identifiable contribution to change and development.
E3	Critically evaluate and apply the best techniques for independent learning skills and establish study patterns for life-long learning.
E4	N/A
E5	N/A

Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) Modules

CORE

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	QUAL11020	Managing Quality	20	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11	QUAL11002	Statistical Quality Control	20	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Footnotes for Core Modules							
N/A							

Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	QUAL11008	Service Quality	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11	QUAL11001	Operations Management for Sustainability	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
11	QUAL11003	Interpersonal Skills & Change Management	10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11	QUAL11025	Risk Management	10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11	QUAL11026	Post Graduate Research Methods	20	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Footnotes for Option Modules							

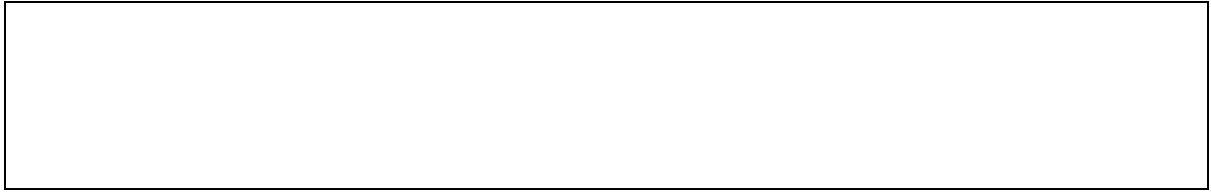
Level 11- Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip)

Criteria for Award

Please refer to [UWS Regulatory Framework](#) for related regulations

1. Students who achieve 120 credits from the programme above, including all core modules, will be eligible for the award of Pg Dip Project Management.
2. Distinction will be awarded in line with University Regulations, no imported credit can be used. (Regulations 3.25 & 3.26).

Note: Another module can be selected where there is up to a 20-credit deficit of optional modules and where the programme learning outcomes can be met. This must be done in discussion with the programme leader.



SCQF LEVEL 11 – Masters	
Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)	
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Critically evaluate evidence from a variety of topics.
A2	Develop a critical awareness of current issues in quality management and appropriate research
A3	Synthesise information from a number of sources in order to gain a coherent understanding of theory and practice
A4	N/A
A5	N/A
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Consolidate and integrate knowledge gained from the taught modules and provide practical experience in applying effective strategies in quality management.
B2	Apply a range of research methods and techniques to a specialised area of quality management.
B3	Undertake skilled, competent, safe, evaluative and reflective sampling and analysis for quality improvement.
B4	N/A
B5	N/A
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Present a clear concise written report.
C2	Formulate and present a written volume of work on quality management or related area.
C3	Communicate effectively to expert and non-expert audiences.
C4	N/A
C5	N/A
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	Critically review, consolidate and extend knowledge and thinking in quality management or associated areas
D2	N/A
D3	N/A
D4	N/A
D5	N/A
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	
E1	Manage time, prioritise workloads and recognise and manage personal emotions and stress.
E2	Take responsibility for personal and professional learning and development.
E3	N/A
E4	N/A
E5	N/A

Masters Modules

CORE

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	QUAL11020	Managing Quality	20	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11	QUAL11002	Statistical Quality Control	20	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11	QUAL11012	MSc Project	60	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Footnotes for Core Modules							
N/A							

Masters Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	QUAL11001	Operations Management for Sustainability	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
11	QUAL11008	Service Quality	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11	QUAL11025	Risk Management	10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11	QUAL11003	Interpersonal Skills and Change Management	10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11	QUAL11026	Post-Graduate Research Methods	20	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Footnotes for Option Modules							

Level 11- Masters

Criteria for Award

Please refer to [UWS Regulatory Framework](#) for related regulations

1. Students who achieve 180 credits from the programme above, including all core modules, will be eligible for the award of MSc Project Management.

2. Distinction will be awarded in line with University Regulations, no imported credit can be used. (Regulations 3.25 & 3.26).

Note: Another module can be selected where there is up to a 20-credit deficit of optional modules and where the programme learning outcomes can be met. This must be done in discussion with the programme leader.

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Regulations of Assessment
<p>Candidates will be bound by the general assessment regulations of the University as specified in the University Regulatory Framework.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

Combined Studies
<p>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.</p> <p>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 a Combined Studies award (please see Regulation 1.61).</p> <p>For students studying at Level 11, they will normally be eligible for an exit award of PgCert / PgDip / Masters in Combined Studies.</p>

Version no: 1

Change/Version Control

What	When	Who
Following ILR in 2025, Award and Equality and Diversity sections updated.	24/03/25	T Leslie
Professional Practice degree titles and module has been removed from the program specification	December 2024	E Viza