

Programme Specification 2017/18

5235 MSc Project Management

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Mode of study	Full time
Duration in years	1 full year (12 months) following standard progression for a FT student. 2 full years (24 months) following standard progression for PT student.
Accreditation details	Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB)
Final Award	Master of Science
Name of award	Project Management
Interim Exit awards	Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma
FHEQ level of final award	7
UCAS code	n/a
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	n/a
Programme Lead	Dr Ramesh Vahidi
Date specification was written	30 January 2013
Date Programme was validated	30 April 2014
Date Specification last updated	Sept 2015

Programme overview

Project management is a fast growing field with more and more private and public organizations moving towards managing their businesses through projects. In the UK, for instance, 95% of the government policies are delivered through major projects. This exciting and pan-sector field has unlimited applications in any industry, discipline and geographical region.

The Project Management MSc at Southampton Business School aims to equip our students with the relevant theoretical and practical knowledge needed for a progressive and successful career in modern project management environments.

This Masters degree analyses the key concepts and various perspectives on the management of projects, with a focus on their strategic value and relevance to the project and programme management practices in the real world.

The Academics at Southampton Business School are world experts in risk management and decision analysis, and are at the forefront of project management, internationally renowned for producing top-quality research founded in real world experiences.

The programme is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), which is an internationally recognised award of excellence in business education.

Brief outline of the programme

The programme is normally completed on a full-time (12 months) basis. The first 9 months of the programme involves taught study, divided into two semesters, each followed by assessment. In the following description, the term "module" is taken to mean a discrete component of the programme with its own aim and objectives, learning outcomes and assessment requirements. All modules are at masters level.

The taught component of the programme consists of modules worth 60 European Credit Transfer Scheme (ECTS) credit points in total. Of those, 30 credits are compulsory modules and 30 credit points are optional modules chosen from a range of modules to suit your individual needs and interests. All optional modules are offered subject to availability and timetabling constraints. Modules are delivered typically over one or two hour lectures per week. The final dissertation project completes the MSc requirement of 90 ECTS points overall.

Your contact hours will vary depending on your module/option choices. Full information about contact hours is provided in individual module profiles.

Special features of the programme

In terms of the entry requirements, there is almost no limitation in your previous disciplines, admission for special cases will be consulted with the programme leader. Hence, we have students from a wide range of disciplines who bring in a variety of perspectives into the teamwork and class discussions, resonating the real environments of modern projects.

A wide range of modules from different disciplines are offered as optional so there is a good chance you could tailor your gained knowledge around your specific backgrounds or interest areas.

Another feature of the module is the frequent presence of nationally and internationally known academics and highly experienced practitioners as guest lecturers or guest speakers. The programme also tries to facilitate or provide opportunities for networking with industries to increase the chances of employability.

In occasions, brief extra curriculum social events are organized at the School to enhance your life as well as educational experience during your stay with us. These will help strengthening the bonds between students as well as between the students and academic staff.

Learning and teaching

Depending on the contents of the modules and the project management knowledge areas they cover, a wide range of teaching methods, such as lectures, class discussions, case studies, real life examples, seminars, guest lecturer sessions, individual and group practical exercises, are embedded in the lectures as appropriate. Such a variety in teaching methods intend to support your individual approach to learning as much as possible. Students are expected to actively participate and engage with the lectures, discussions and class activities besides studying the core and recommended readings within a suggested private study time. To develop in-depth appreciation of the subjects, you are strongly advised to further research and study beyond the introduced resources. The project management lecturers could be approached easily for further support and willingly provide help and feedback as appropriate. It is important that students explore and use the best learning methods compatible with their individual capabilities and requirements.

Assessment

Student's performance against the learning outcomes of each module is assessed through one or a combination of these methods: individual coursework; group coursework; group presentation and examination. You will receive detailed feedback specifically on the assignments of the compulsory modules. This will provide opportunities for you to appreciate your strengths, besides acknowledging the areas which need further development.

Educational aims of the programme

This programme aims to provide you with relevant theoretical and practical knowledge of the core areas of project management. The compulsory modules will provide a foundation in project management concepts, while the wide range of optional modules allows you to enhance your knowledge and understanding in many related disciplines. Further specialisation can be achieved through the dissertation. Successful completion of the MSc will give you the confidence for pursuing a career in the fast growing project management profession.

The aims of the programme are to enable you to:

- Understand and analyse the key concepts of and various perspectives on the management of projects and their relevance to the real world practices, including the strategic nature of project and/or programme management.
- Be exposed to the considerable expertise in risk management and decision analysis and making within the School.
- Be aware of recent trends in project management based on the latest insights from research and practice.
- Develop knowledge, skills and abilities for managing the projects in organisations regardless of their specific industry or sector, including techniques such as: risk management, decision analysis and making, requirements management, scope management, scheduling, estimating, levelling, monitoring and change control, Earned Value Management, and alternative approaches such as 'Agile'.
- Generate, evaluate, criticise and apply new ideas and concepts in the management of projects.
- Access opportunities for the development of project management skills, including but not limited to: leadership, management, teamwork, conflict resolution, negotiation, decision making, collaboration, communication, problem finding and solving skills, and risk and decision analysis.
- Undertake rigorous, independent research.

Programme learning outcomes

A. Knowledge and understanding

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- A1. The variety of strategies, concepts, skills and techniques applicable in the management of projects and programmes.
- A2. How to deal with the complexities of projects and project-based organisations.
- A3. Different perspectives in the project management discipline and various approaches to the management of projects.

Teaching and learning methods

Depending on the modules' content and the project management knowledge areas they cover, a combination of lectures, discussions, case studies, seminars, computer labs, guest lecturer sessions, individual and group practical exercises and recommended or core readings will be used to facilitate gaining the designated knowledge and understanding.

Assessment methods

Learning outcomes are assessed either through coursework, group presentations, examination, or a combination thereof.

B. Subject specific intellectual and research skills

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to:

- B1. Critically assess the challenges of projects, project management processes, and strategic management of project-based organisations.
- B2. Critically analyse, reflect upon and select appropriate project management tools and techniques depending on the project situation and context.
- B3. Think analytically, logically, reflectively, strategically and creatively drawing on theories, concepts and techniques developed in the fundamental knowledge areas of project management.
- B4. Conduct independent research in project management based on rigorous social scientific research methods most appropriate and applicable to the project context.

Teaching and learning methods

You will learn about various perspectives, theories, concepts, tools and techniques in the fast growing field of project management. This will involve a mixture of lectures, individual and group practical exercises, workshops, case studies, reading and research. Skills associated with reflection and creativity are developed in most modules through exercises, case studies, coursework, and discussion groups. This variety of teaching and learning methods supports your individual approach to learning.

Assessment methods

Your ability to apply the skills you have learnt is assessed by coursework, presentation, and examination or a combination thereof. You may also be supported by receiving formative feedback on your progress throughout the programme based upon your contribution to activities, e.g. case studies and individual and teamwork practical exercises undertaken in class.

C. Transferable and generic skills

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to:

- C1. Collect and critically evaluate information from a range of online and offline sources.
- C2. Communicate ideas and arguments fluently and effectively in a variety of written formats.
- C3. Communicate ideas and arguments orally and through class presentations, or formal presentations as part of the assessment.
- C4. Work effectively in a team and recognise problems and benefits associated with team working;
- C5. Manage your time and resources effectively.
- C6. Use library and other resources effectively, and apply bibliographical skills.
- C7. Understand and, where appropriate, undertake leadership skills.
- C8. Use skills in problem finding and solving; risk analysis and management; and decision making and analysis.

Teaching and learning methods

Most modules develop some combination of the above skills through lectures, individual and group practical exercises, workshops, case studies or reading.

Assessment methods

Some modules will involve an assessed presentation and group work, where you can demonstrate the above skills. Most modules require a written report and the overall award of the MSc requires you to pass a dissertation of 15,000 words. Many modules and the dissertation will require the use of library resources.

Programme structure

Typical course content

Compulsory modules introduce you to the concepts, tools and techniques used in various project management knowledge areas. These are put into the context using case studies, examples and class discussions. Contents of the optional modules vary depending on the field and nature of the subject area they cover.

Include a statement about opportunities within the programme for students to exercise module choice (including opportunities to take Curriculum Innovation modules).

Information about pre and co-requisites is included in individual module profiles.

Programme details

The programme is normally completed on a full-time (12 months) basis. The first 9 months of the programme involves taught study, divided into two semesters, each followed by assessment. In the following description, the term “module” is taken to mean a discrete component of the programme with its own learning outcomes and assessment requirements. All modules are at Masters level.

The taught component of the programme consists of modules worth 60 ECTS/120 CATS points in total. Of those, 30 ECTS/ 60 CATS compulsory modules and 30 ECTS/60 CATS credit points are optional modules chosen from a range of modules to suit your individual needs and interests. All optional modules are offered subject to availability and timetabling constraints. Modules are delivered typically over six half-day sessions. The final dissertation project completes the MSc requirement of 90 ECTS/180 CATS points overall.

Summary structure of the programme

See Appendix 3

Assessment mapping

See Appendix 2

Additional costs

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. Costs that students registered for this programme typically also have to pay for are included in **Appendix 4**.

Progression requirements

The programme follows the University’s regulations for [Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Standalone Masters programmes](#) as set out in the University Calendar.

Intermediate exit points

You will be eligible for an interim exit award if you complete part of the programme but not all of it, as follows:

Qualification	Minimum overall credit in ECTS/CATS credits	Minimum ECTS/CATS credits required at level of award
Postgraduate Diploma	at least 60/120	45/90
Postgraduate Certificate	at least 30/60	20/40

Support for student learning

There are facilities and services to support your learning some of which are accessible to students across the University and some of which will be geared more particularly to students in your particular Faculty or discipline area.

The University provides:

- library resources, including e-books, on-line journals and databases, which are comprehensive and up-to-date; together with assistance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources
- high speed access to online electronic learning resources on the Internet from dedicated PC Workstations onsite and from your own devices; laptops, smartphones and tablet PCs via the Eduroam wireless network. There is a wide range of application software available from the Student Public Workstations.
- computer accounts which will connect you to a number of learning technologies for example, the Blackboard virtual learning environment (which facilitates online learning and access to specific learning resources)
- standard ICT tools such as Email, secure filestore and calendars.
- access to key information through the MySouthampton Student Mobile Portal which delivers timetables, Module information, Locations, Tutor details, Library account, bus timetables etc. while you are on the move.
- IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online ticketed support and a dedicated helpdesk in the Hartley Library.
- Enabling Services offering support services and resources via a triage model to access crisis management, mental health support and counselling.
- assessment and support (including specialist IT support) facilities if you have a disability, long term health problem or Specific Learning Difficulty (e.g. dyslexia)
- the Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas, ID cards
- Career Destinations, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV
- Other support that includes health services (GPs), chaplaincy (for all faiths) and 'out of hours' support for students in Halls (18.00-08.00)
- A Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.

The Union Southampton provides

- an academic student representation system, consisting of Course Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; Union Southampton provides training and support for all these representatives, whose role is to represent students' views to the University.
- opportunities for extracurricular activities and volunteering
- an Advice Centre offering free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal
- Support for student peer-to-peer groups, such as Nightline.

Associated with your programme you will be able to access:

- A dedicated study skills induction programme for new entrants in their first week, including an introduction to the library.
- A Faculty student office, as a source of general information.
- A personal tutor system for any kind of study-related or personal advice and support.
- Dedicated Teaching and Learning Co-ordinators to aid with study skills issues.
- Comprehensive Programme Handbooks.
- Module support materials (often in online form).
- Online communication between staff and students.
- Staff-student liaison group.

Methods for evaluating the quality of teaching and learning

You will have the opportunity to have your say on the quality of the programme in the following ways:

- Completing student evaluation surveys for each module of the programme
- Acting as a student representative on various committees, e.g. Staff: Student Liaison Committees, Faculty Programmes Committee OR providing comments to your student representative to feedback on your behalf.
- Serving as a student representative on Faculty Scrutiny Groups for programme validation
- Taking part in programme validation meetings by joining a panel of students to meet with the Faculty Scrutiny Group

- You can easily access and communicate your feedback and potential areas of concern with the programme leader who welcomes opportunities for enhancing the student experience.

The ways in which the quality of your programme is checked, both inside and outside the University, are:

- Regular module and programme reports which are monitored by the Faculty
- Programme validation, normally every five years.
- External examiners, who produce an annual report
- A national Research Assessment Exercise (our research activity contributes directly to the quality of your learning experience)
- Higher Education Review by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education

Criteria for admission

The University's Admissions Policy www.southampton.ac.uk/admissions_policy applies equally to all programmes of study. The following are the typical entry criteria to be used for selecting candidates for admission. The University's approved equivalencies for the requirements listed below will also be acceptable. The entry criteria for our programmes are reviewed annually by the Faculty. Those stated below were correct as of August 2016. **Applicants should refer to their specific offer conditions on their offer letter.**

Qualification	Grade/GPA	Subjects requirements
Bachelor's degree	2.1	A wide range of subjects are accepted although the course is mainly essay based so analytical and critical thinking are needed.
Pre-Masters	Pass	You are able to progress to this MSc programme via the University's Pre-Masters programme

Mature applicants

Work experience in the field of Finance, insurance or risk management is not a requirement but can be used to compensate for unrelated degree subjects

Recognition of prior learning (RPL)

If you have professional experience, or credit through prior learning at another institution, you may be eligible to use this experience against some of the programme requirements for period of study. You will need to present evidence that you have met the learning outcomes of the programme. The University's Recognition of Prior Learning Policy can be accessed via the link below:

http://www.southampton.ac.uk/quality/assessment/prior_learning.page

English Language Proficiency (IELTS)

Overall	Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking
6.5	6.0	6.5	6.5	6.0

For a full list of English language tests accepted can be viewed here:

<http://www.southampton.ac.uk/studentadmin/admissions/admissions-policies/language.page>

Career opportunities

Due to the pan-sector nature of projects and project management and their vital and inevitable applications in any industry, discipline and company, there are very wide and unlimited opportunities for postgraduate jobs whether you have already acquired some work experience before your studies or you look for your first graduate job right after your degree. Industries have started to realise the impacts and significance of recruiting educated project managers versus randomly assigning untrained employees to manage their projects.

Just in the first year of the programme, a good number of students were offered part time positions in companies besides opportunities for doing their dissertations for some companies. Major employers frequently make contacts to introduce and offer their employment opportunities to the graduates of this programme.

External Examiner(s) for the programme

Name Dr Simon Ashby **Institution.** Plymouth University

Students must not contact External Examiner(s) directly, and external examiners have been advised to refer any such communications back to the University. Students should raise any general queries about the assessment and examination process for the programme with their Course Representative, for consideration through Staff: Student Liaison Committee in the first instance, and Student representatives on Staff: Student Liaison Committees will have the opportunity to consider external examiners' reports as part of the University's quality assurance process.

External examiners do not have a direct role in determining results for individual students, and students wishing to discuss their own performance in assessment should contact their personal tutor in the first instance.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the programme handbook (or other appropriate guide) or online at <https://www.sbs.ac.uk/>.

Please note: As a research-led University, we undertake a continuous review of our programmes to ensure quality enhancement and to manage our resources. As a result, this programme may be revised during a student's period of registration; however, any revision will be balanced against the requirement that the student should receive the educational service expected. Please read our [Disclaimer](#) to see why, when and how changes may be made to a student's programme.

Programmes and major changes to programmes are approved through the University's programme [validation process](#) which is described in the University's Quality handbook.

Revision History

1. Validated 30 April 2014
2. Transferred to new template 19/09/15
3. Transferred to new programme specification template 14/03/2017

Appendix 1

5235 MSc Project Management learning outcomes mapping document

Core = (Cr), Optional Core = (OCr), Compulsory = (Cm)

Module Code	Module Title	Knowledge and Understanding			Subject Specific Intellectual Skills				Transferable/Key Skills							
		A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8
MANG6310	Project Management – Processes (Cm)	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•	•	•
MANG6311	Project Management – People (Cm)	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
ENTR6033	Enterprise, Entrepreneurship and New Business Venturing	•	•		•		•		•	•		•	•	•	•	•
MANG6037	Systems Thinking	•	•			•	•		•	•		•	•	•		•
MANG6045	Consultancy Skills	•	•		•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•		•
MANG6049	Problem Structuring	•	•		•	•	•		•	•			•	•		•
MANG6079	Accounting and Control	•	•		•	•			•	•		•	•	•		•
MANG6091	Business Ethics		•		•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•	•	•
MANG6273	Managing within a Global Context	•	•		•	•	•		•	•			•	•	•	•
MANG6143	Project Risk Management (Cm)	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•			•	•	•	•
MANG6312	Decision Making in Projects (Cm)	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•			•	•	•	•
MANG6038	Knowledge Management and Business Intelligence	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•	•	•
MANG6129	Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•		•
MANG6179	International and Comparative Human Resource Management	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•
MANG6095	Dissertation (Cr)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•		•

Appendix 2

5235 MSc Project Management assessment mapping document

Core = (Cr), Optional Core = (OCr), Compulsory = (Cm)

Module Code	Module Title	Assessment 1	Assessment 2
MANG6310	Project Management – Processes (Cm)	Group Assignment (3,000 words) 60%	Individual Assignment (2,000 words) 40%
MANG6311	Project Management – People (Cm)	Presentation (15 minutes) 20%	Individual Assignment (3,000 words) 80%
ENTR6033	Enterprise, Entrepreneurship and New Business Venturing	Group Presentation (30 minutes) 25%	Individual Case Study (3,000 words) 75%
MANG6037	Systems Thinking	Group Assignment (2,500 words) 60%	Individual Assignment (1,000 words) 40%
MANG6045	Consultancy Skills	Group Assignment (2,500 words) 100%	
MANG6049	Problem Structuring	Exam (2 hours) 100%	
MANG6079	Accounting and Control	Group Assignment (continuous assessment) (2,500 words) 30%	Exam (2 hours) 70%
MANG6091	Business Ethics	Group Presentation in Class (15 minute) 30%	Individual Assignment (2,400 words) 70%
MANG6273	Managing within a Global Context	Individual Assignment (2,500 Words) 50%	Exam, Closed Book (2 hours) 50%
MANG6143	Project Risk Management (Cm)	Individual Assignment (3,000 words) 100%	
MANG6312	Decision Making in Projects (Cm)	Individual Assignment (3,000 words) 100%	
MANG6038	Knowledge Management and Business Intelligence	Group Case Study (6,000 words) 100%	
MANG6129	Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods	Individual Assignment (3,000 words) 100%	
MANG6179	International and Comparative Human Resource Management	Individual Assignment (2,000 words) 40%	Exam (2 hours) 60%
MANG6095	Dissertation (Cr)	Individual Assignment (15,000 words) 100%	

Appendix 3

5235 MSc Project Management programme structure

All Core and Compulsory modules must be taken.

You must choose 15 ECTS/30 CATS of Option modules in Semester 1 and 15 ECTS/30 CATS of Option modules in Semester 2. All option modules are offered subject to availability and timetabling constraints.

MANG6095 Dissertation supervision starts in Semester 2 and should be submitted in September 2018.

Semester 1				Semester 2			
Modules	ECTS	CATS	Core, Compulsory or Option	Modules	ECTS	CATS	Core, Compulsory or Option
MANG6310 Project Management - Processes	7.5	15	Comp	MANG6095 Dissertation	30	60	Core
MANG6311 Project Management - People	7.5	15	Comp	MANG6143 Project Risk Management	7.5	15	Comp
ENTR6033 Enterprise, Entrepreneurship and New Business Venturing	7.5	15	Option	MANG6312 Decision Making in Projects	7.5	15	Comp
MANG6037 Systems Thinking	3.75	7.5	Option	MANG6038 Knowledge Management and Business Intelligence	7.5	15	Option
MANG6045 Consultancy Skills	3.75	7.5	Option	MANG6129 Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods	7.5	15	Option
MANG6049 Problem Structuring	3.75	7.5	Option	MANG6179 International and Comparative Human Resource Management	7.5	15	Option
MANG6079 Accounting and Control	7.5	15	Option				
MANG6091 Business Ethics	3.75	7.5	Option				
MANG6273 Managing within a Global Context	7.5	15	Option				

Appendix 4

5235 MSc Project Management additional costs

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. In addition to this, students registered for this programme typically also have to pay for the items listed in the table below.

In some cases you will be able to choose modules (which may have different costs associated with that module) which will change the overall cost of a programme to you. Details of such costs will be listed in the Module Profile. Please also ensure you read the section on additional costs in the University's Fees, Charges and Expenses Regulations in the University Calendar available at www.calendar.soton.ac.uk.

Main Item	Sub-section	PROGRAMME SPECIFIC COSTS
Approved Calculators		Candidates may use calculators in the examination room only as specified by the University and as permitted by the rubric of individual examination papers. The University approved models are Casio FX-570 and Casio FX-85GT Plus. These may be purchased from any source and no longer need to carry the University logo.
Stationery		You will be expected to provide your own day-to-day stationary items, e.g. pens, pencils, notebooks, etc). Any specialist stationery items will be specified under the Additional Costs tab of the relevant module profile.
Textbooks		Where a module specifies core texts these should generally be available on the reserve list in the library. However due to demand, students may prefer to buy their own copies. These can be purchased from any source. Some modules suggest reading texts as optional background reading. The library may hold copies of such texts, or alternatively you may wish to purchase your own copies. Although not essential reading, you may benefit from the additional reading materials for the module.
Printing and Photocopying Costs		In most cases, written coursework such as essays; projects; dissertations are submitted online and by hard copy. The costs of printing a hard copy for submission of such coursework will be the responsibility of the student. The cost of photocopying will also be the responsibility of the student. http://www.southampton.ac.uk/isolutions/students/printing/ .