

Programme Specification

Project Management (2020- 21)

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
Accreditation details	Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB)
Final award	Master of Science (MSc)
Name of Award	Project Management
Interim Exit awards	Postgraduate Certificate Postgraduate Diploma
FHEQ level of final award	Level 7
UCAS code	
Programme Code	5235
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	
Programme Lead	Ramesh Vahidi

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

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.

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 master's 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 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.

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.

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

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](#).

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

Knowledge and Understanding

On successful completion of this programme you will have 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.

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

On successful completion of 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.

Transferable and Generic Skills

On successful completion of 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

The programme structure table is below:

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

Where optional modules have been specified, the following is an indicative list of available optional modules, which are subject to change each academic year. Please note in some instances modules have limited spaces available.

Pathway

Part I

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 three to twelve weeks. The final dissertation project completes the MSc requirement of 90 ECTS/180 CATS points overall.

Part I Compulsory (must take) Semester 1

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
MANG6311	Project Management - People and Organisations	7.5	Compulsory
MANG6310	Project Management - Processes	7.5	Compulsory

Part I Compulsory (must take) Semester 2

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
MANG6312	Decision Making and Analysis in Projects	7.5	Compulsory

MANG6143	Project Risk Management	7.5	Compulsory
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Part I Core (must take and pass) Semester 2

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
MANG6095	Dissertation	30	Core

Part I Optional Semester 1

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

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
MANG6079	Accounting and Control	7.5	Optional
MANG6091	Business Ethics	3.75	Optional
MANG6045	Consultancy Skills	3.75	Optional
ENTR6033	Enterprise, Entrepreneurship and New Business Venturing	7.5	Optional
MANG6273	Managing within a Global Context	7.5	Optional
MANG6049	Problem Structuring	3.75	Optional
MANG6037	Systems Thinking	3.75	Optional

Part I Optional Semester 2

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

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
MANG6038	Data and Knowledge Management	7.5	Optional
MANG6179	International and Comparative Human Resource Management	7.5	Optional
MANG6129	Quantitative and Qualitative Research (DDAR)	7.5	Optional

Progression Requirements

The programme follows the University's regulations for [*Progression, Determination and Classification of Results : Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes*](#) or [*Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Postgraduate Master's Programmes*](#). Any exemptions or variations to the University regulations, approved by AQSC are located in [*section VI of the University Calendar*](#).

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. Support includes daily Drop In at Highfield campus at 13.00 –

15.00 (Monday, Wednesday and Friday out of term-time) or via on-line chat on weekdays from 14.00 – 16.00. Arrangements can also be made for meetings via Skype.

- 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 and Employability services, 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 and in the local community (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 Students' Union provides

- an academic student representation system, consisting of Course Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; SUSU 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.

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 questionnaires for each module of the programme.
- Acting as a student representative on various committees, e.g. Staff/Student Liaison Committees, School 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.

Further details on the University's quality assurance processes are given in the [Quality handbook](#).

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.

Students of the programme are increasingly offered part time positions in companies each year besides opportunities for doing their dissertations for local or international companies/organizations (such as consultancy companies or city councils). Major employers frequently make contacts to introduce and offer their employment opportunities to the graduates of the programme. Graduates have secured various positions including consultant, project manager and analyst positions, some with well-known companies.

External Examiner(s) for the programme

Name: Dr Simon Ashby - Vlerick Business School

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 Academic 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 they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the programme handbook.

Appendix 1:

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 also have to pay for:

Additional Costs

Type	Details
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.
Printing and Photocopying Costs	<p>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.</p> <p>The cost of photocopying will also be the responsibility of the student.</p> <p>http://www.southampton.ac.uk/isolutions/students/printing/.</p>
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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

In some cases you'll 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.