

**PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION  
(Taught Postgraduate)**



<b>1</b>	<b>Awarding Institution</b>	Newcastle University
<b>2</b>	<b>Teaching Institution</b>	Newcastle University
<b>3</b>	<b>Final Award</b>	MSc
<b>4</b>	<b>Programme Title</b>	Project Management Project Management (with Study Abroad)
<b>5</b>	<b>Programme Code</b>	5530 F 5533 F
<b>6</b>	<b>Programme Accreditation</b>	Association for Project Management (APM)
<b>7</b>	<b>QAA Subject Benchmark(s)</b>	Masters Awards in Business Management
<b>8</b>	<b>FHEQ Level</b>	Level 7
<b>9</b>	<b>Last updated</b>	November 2024

**10 Programme Aims**

The MSc in Project Management aims to develop students who have the essential skills and knowledge to excel in managing projects across diverse industries and global contexts. The programme provides a robust foundation in project management principles, including the creation of schedules, budget estimations, risk management strategies, and stakeholder management plans. Alongside these technical competencies, students will develop key soft skills such as communication, teamwork, decision-making, project consultancy, and action implementation, which are critical for effective project leadership. The degree is open to graduates from any academic background, offering an inclusive pathway into the field of project management. The curriculum is specifically tailored to prepare aspiring project managers from around the world. Through in-depth exploration of recognised methodologies, tools, and frameworks, the programme ensures that students are adept at navigating the complexities of managing projects in a globalised economy. With a focus on both theoretical understanding and practical application, the course empowers students to approach project challenges with confidence, ensuring they are well-prepared to lead diverse teams, address cross-cultural considerations, and deliver successful outcomes in a wide range of professional settings.

The programme aims are:

- 1 To produce professionals with comprehensive understanding of project management, addressing the global aspect in project management;
- 2 To develop a practical understanding for different project management themes through the project life cycle;
- 3 To provide a systematic understanding of skills required to tackle practical and project management challenges and uncertainties in a range of business domains and applications;
- 4 To develop research and project managerial skills, tools and techniques in project planning, critical assessment, collection and management in order to tackling new problems in the field of project management;
- 5 To develop advanced research skills to identify emerging project management problems and opportunities, devise appropriate methodologies to tackle these problems and develop and implement effective solutions;

- 6 To produce professionals who can be self-directed and able to operate effectively in a variety of team roles and for specific project tasks;
- 7 To produce professionals who have the ability to communicate effectively and solve problems and conflicts in managing projects, and to optimise the use of resources in managing projects;
- 8 To encourage creativity and help develop enterprise skills, in order to facilitate decision making in complex and unpredictable situations.

### **11 Learning Outcomes**

The programme outcomes have references to the benchmark statements for Masters Awards in Business and Management and provides students with opportunities to demonstrate disciplinary competency by developing their knowledge and understanding of the key principles and theories in their subject area and combines theory with the application of skills required to generate solutions within their discipline.

Professional accreditation embedded in this program will be another distinctive outcome that support students future career development.

#### **Knowledge and Understanding**

On completing the programme students should have:

- A1 An in-depth understanding of the fundamental knowledge of project management in different environments, with consideration of social, cultural, and ethical aspects.
- A2 A comprehensive knowledge of the commonly used tools and techniques in project management and their application to practice
- A3 A deep understanding of contemporary issues related to the uncertainty and complexity in managing projects
- A4 Up-to-date knowledge of business context and managing change in organisation
- A5 Advanced knowledge and understanding of how to managing organizations and people in diverse contexts
- A6 The ability to identify subject-related issues, such as in Operations Management and/or Information Systems, and make recommendations for appropriate courses of action
- A7 The ability to define the key components of project management in different industrial contexts, give analysis and report on how environmental components differ across those contexts

#### **Teaching and Learning Methods**

Fundamental and specialist knowledge are imparted through direct student contact (lectures, tutorials and supervisions), supplemented by seminars and practical sessions that may take the form of group discussions, problem solving and assessed coursework, and project/research work. Students will interact with our industry partners upon enrollment in the program. Their understanding and learning are enriched through hands-on experiences, including industrial case studies, teamwork on problem-solving tasks, and completing a group project. Independent learning is encouraged through the provision of reading lists, the critical analysis of research papers, and ready access to online information resources. Adequate time is provided in all modules for private study for independent learning. (A1-A7)

#### **Assessment Strategy**

A variety of techniques are employed to assess knowledge and understanding (A1–A7) including a large proportion of continuously-assessed material: written reports on practical work and problem solving exercises; presentations; project proposals; and project theses. Some modules include self- and peer-assessed material and problem-based questions. Fundamental knowledge is assessed primarily through the students' abilities to apply the knowledge to relevant problems are assessed through the use of practical exercises and tutorials, group work, problem-solving exercises and reports. The above can be undertaken independently or as part of a group.

#### **Intellectual Skills**

On completing the programme students should be able to:

- B1 Apply knowledge of project management techniques to a range of business domains and applications
- B2 Propose, carry out and write up an extended research project or industrial report involving where appropriate a literature review, problem specification, design, implementation, and analysis.
- B3 Have expertise in the use and applicability of project management models, tools and techniques and solve industrial issues.

#### **Teaching and Learning Methods**

Subject-specific and professional skills are imparted by a combination of lectures, seminars, practical sessions, case studies and an in-depth research project tailored to individual interests. Small group teaching is used to focus on specific research topics in detail, to carry out problem solving exercises and critical analysis of the project management (B1-B3).

#### **Assessment Strategy**

Subject-specific and professional skills related to project management (B1-B3) are continuously assessed through examinations, assignments a group project, oral presentations, a research dissertation and/or an industrial report. The assessment methods aim to evaluate the students' understanding and ability to apply project management in different business and management domains.

#### **Practical Skills**

On completing the programme students should be able to:

- C1 Apply appropriate techniques in order to tackle project management challenges in a number of different business and management domains;
- C2 Solve project management development problems and communicate effectively the findings and recommendations;
- C3 Collect, manage, analyse and visualise data in appropriate and ethical manner as part of managing a project;
- C4 Demonstrate appropriate solutions applied depending on the nature of the business challenged faced.

#### **Teaching and Learning Methods**

Lectures, tutorials and group discussions are used to help students reflect on theory and practice, and explore different options to tackling practical problems. Problem solving

exercises and case studies are used to improve student skills in the application of appropriate solutions of project management in different domains and applications. Critical evaluation of current research is developed through literature searching, through coursework exercises and in the research and industrial projects in particular. The ability to solve analytical problems is acquired through practical sessions and self-directed learning. (C1-C4).

**Assessment Strategy**

Cognitive skills (C1-C4) are primarily assessed through exams, individual essays from practical studies, tutorial exercises and a group project report. Data collection, management, analysis and data visualisation and interpretation are a strong component of many modules. Skills are practiced through problem-solving exercises.

**Transferable/Key Skills**

On completing the programme students should be able to:

- D1 Use appropriate verbal communication to convey project management challenges, findings and recommendations tailored in content style and presentation to the needs of their intended audience;
- D2 Use appropriate theories, techniques, and tools to plan, analyse and management projects in sophisticated societal and global contexts;
- D3 Use data and literary resources;
- D4 Work as part of a team contributing to effectively and appropriately to the team based activity;
- D5 Use creative skills.

**Teaching and Learning Methods**

Formal lectures and practical sessions address the use of data and literary resources and research techniques. These are reinforced through the use of practice exercises. The group project and student-led tutorials are used to develop team skills. Oral presentation skills are exercised by group discussions in small group teaching sessions, by communication during group exercises, and by the preparation of oral presentations on specific research topics. Written communication skills are developed during independent study, the preparation of coursework, project reports and the completion of the research and/or industrial project proposal and the project thesis. (D1-D5).

**Assessment Strategy**

Written communication skills are assessed by examinations, assignments, and the research dissertation or industrial report. Oral communication skills are assessed through presentations. Independent work is assessed in examinations, assignments, reports and research projects. Creativity is assessed through assignments based on problem-solving exercises as part of project management. (D1-D5).

**12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features**

**Basic structure of the programme**

This is a one-year, full-time, intensive modular programme. The programme consists of two parts: a **taught component** that runs during the first and second semesters and a **research/industrial project** that runs during the third semester, for which a thesis is submitted. The taught component of the course accounts for 120 credits, while the dissertation module accounts for the remaining 60 credits.

The programme is structured around four interconnected building blocks.

- Semester 1: Development of knowledge, skills and competencies in project management.
- Semester 1: A critical managerial perspective of managing uncertainty and complexity in organisations.
- Semester 2: Application and critical evaluation of different tools and techniques in various business contexts and industrial cases.
- Semester 3: In-depth application of project management in the context of an individual research or consultancy project.

#### **Key features of the programme (including what makes the programme distinctive)**

The Project Management programme aims to prepare graduates with project management skills to tackle issues in a range of business domains and applications. The programme provides an opportunity to develop project management competencies that students can then apply to different areas of business and management. This balanced perspective aims to enhance employability prospects by not focusing solely on developing technical knowledge and skills, but also by ensuring that these are applied effectively. Students will develop a critical appreciation of the value of key components in managing projects when it comes to business decision making. The key features of the programme include (a) development of project management skills and competencies that are applied in different domains (b) exposure to a wide set of managerial tools, models and critical perspectives in business decision making (c) opportunity to work and manage real-life industrial projects and (d) experiential learning that is based on application and engagement with practice.

#### **Programme regulations (link to on-line version)**

[Programme Regulations 26-27](#)

### **13 Support for Student Learning**

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.

[Generic Information](#)

### **14 Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning**

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.

[Generic Information](#)

*Accreditation reports*

None

*Additional mechanisms*

None

**15 Regulation of assessment**

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.

[Generic Information](#)

In addition, information relating to the programme is provided in:

The University Prospectus: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/>

Degree Programme and University Regulations: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/docs/>

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

## Annex

Module	Type	Intended Learning Outcomes			
		A	B	C	D
NBS8234 Project Management	Core	1, 2, 3, 7	1,3	1, 2	1, 2, 3
NBS8326 Managing Organizations and People	Compulsory	1, 2, 5,	2	1, 2	2, 3
ISO8001 Managing Project uncertainty and complexity	Core	1, 2, 3	1, 2,	1, 2,	2, 3
NBS8401 Business Context and operations	Compulsory	1, 4,	1, 2	1, 2,	2, 3
NBS8372 Research methods	Compulsory	2,	1, 2	1, 3, 4	2, 3
NBS8229 Quality Management, Tools and Techniques	Compulsory	2,	1	1, 3,	2, 3
ISO8002 Group Consultancy Project Management	Compulsory	1, 2, 3, 4, 5,6, 7	1, 3	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2, 3, 4,5
NBS8300 Dissertation	Compulsory	1, 2, 4, 5,6, 7	1, 2, 3	1, 2, 3, 4,	1, 2, 3, 4,5
NBS8341 Strategic Service Management	Optional	1, 2, 5, 6	1, 3	1, 4	2, 3
NBS8265 Managing change in organisation	Optional	1, 3, 4	1, 3	1, 3,	2, 3
NBS8342 Sustainable SCM	Optional	3, 5, 6	1, 3	1, 3, 4	2, 3
NBS8665 Artificial Intelligence in Business	Optional	1, 2, 6	1, 3	1, 3, 4	2, 3
NBS8295 Data Analytics for Managers	Optional	1, 2, 6	1, 2, 3	1, 3, 4	2, 3
NBS8263 Realising value from IS	Optional	1, 6	1	3, 4	2, 3