

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION (Preview)

Master of Science in Project Management

Awarding institution	LJMU
Teaching institution	Oryx Universal College WLL
JACS Code	
Programme Duration	Full-Time: 1 Year
Language of Programme	All LJMU programmes are delivered and assessed in English
Subject benchmark statement	Masters Level in Business and Management (2008)
Programme accredited by	
Description of accreditation	
Validated target and alternative exit awards	Master of Science in Project Management Postgraduate Diploma in Project Management Postgraduate Certificate in Project Management
Link Tutor	Alison Cotgrave

Educational aims of the programme

The overall aim of the programme is to develop knowledge, understanding and intellectual and practical skills appropriate to a wide range of project management roles in the global marketplace.

The intention is to provide a stimulating and challenging programme of study resulting in the development of self-reliant, versatile, enterprising and competent project managers.

The programme will offer the appropriate type and level of support as students build their knowledge, understanding and skills to become independent learners for the future. The programme will offer opportunities for individual students to exercise some choice as to what they study in relation to their own background, interests or career aspirations.

The specific aims of the programme are to:

1. develop and/or extend students' exposure to the current and emerging theories and practice of project management
2. encourage a risk management approach to problem solving
3. provide opportunities for collaborative and individual student-centred study in order to develop analytical, critical, problem solving and research skills appropriate to the role of project manager
4. provide clear career development opportunities to aspiring project managers
5. provide a dynamic learning environment to facilitate an appreciation of multi-cultural and interdisciplinary project teams
6. provide a focused understanding of the application of project management theories and strategies to organisations and projects in a global market place.

Alternative Exit/ Interim Award Learning Outcomes - Postgraduate Certificate

A student who is eligible for this award will be able to:

Engage with advanced levels of theories and practice in relation to the academic discipline of project management. Students will be able to explore and evaluate appropriate research methodologies and they will be able to demonstrate appropriate levels of critical analysis, reflection and contextual awareness in focused areas of study.

Alternative Exit/ Interim Award Learning Outcomes - Postgraduate Diploma

A student who is eligible for this award will be able to:

In addition to the outcomes for the PG Certificate, students will be capable of taking an innovative and informed position in relation to the academic discipline and field of study of project management. They will be able to devise and synthesise appropriate research methodologies. Students will also be able to demonstrate creativity in critical analysis, reflection and contextual awareness in a wide range of modules associated with the field of study.

Target award Learning Outcomes - Master of Science

A student successfully completing the programme of study will have acquired the following subject knowledge and understanding as well as skills and other attributes.

A student who is eligible for this award will be able to:

1. To demonstrate an appreciation of the roles and responsibilities of the project manager and appropriate means of ensuring successful project delivery.
2. To have a comprehensive understanding of the strategic aspects of project management through all the project phases: definition, planning, execution, control and closure.
3. To demonstrate a critical awareness of the project process and the development of appropriate strategies in the context of the internal and external project environment.
4. To have a comprehensive understanding of the concepts, tools and techniques of project management together with the confidence to apply them in a practical and testing environment.
5. To demonstrate an indepth appreciation of strategic project organisation management, including: organisational theory and design; culture; change management; management of dynamic project organisations and people.
6. To conduct a major piece of independent research, establishing the fundamental issues and displaying well developed research methodology skills.
7. Undertake the critical evaluation of a project strategy and synthesise or model appropriate responses in the context of the project environment.
8. Articulate and demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the empirical and qualitative aspects of the theories of risk and their implications for the management of projects.
9. Understand and apply the tools to critically analyse the organisations involved in projects with a view to improving individual and collective performance in executing the project.
10. Synthesize information from various sources in order to acquire a coherent understanding of project management theory and professional practice.
11. Analyse, evaluate and interpret current project management professional practice applied to various industry sectors and in a global context.
12. Critically reflect upon their own problem-solving performance in order to evaluate and adopt appropriate approaches to new scenarios.
13. Use appropriate data capture techniques to investigate a constrained research proposition or hypothesis.
14. To be able to demonstrate the applicability of particular methods and methodologies to individual circumstances during the project phases.
15. Effectively work with people within a team environment.
16. Conduct organisational reviews and explore the strengths and weaknesses of existing business processes.
17. Undertake skilled, competent, evaluative and reflective project management practice.
18. Formulate and solve management problems within and across the functional areas of project-based organizations.
19. Propose, design and execute a substantive piece of research using appropriate research methodologies and data analysis techniques.
20. Identify the objectives and overall business case for a project and prepare a cogent strategy and project management plan identifying how these may be achieved.
21. Exercise initiative and personal responsibility.
22. Develop personal and team competencies to the good of the project including the ability to reflect on decisions and outcomes and take positive decisions to effect change.
23. Solve problems in creative and innovative ways.

24. Make decisions in challenging and unpredictable situations.
25. Participate effectively in multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural teams.
26. Use Information technology and quantitative methods for numerical data analysis and reporting.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

The methods used to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated are as follows:

Core knowledge and understanding will be acquired through conventional approaches to module delivery and these will be employed throughout the programme. This will include formal keynote lectures, coursework tasks and guided independent study.

Additionally, a variety of learning strategies and interventions will be employed which will require students to take an active role in their learning. This will include critical analysis of research literature and dissemination of ideas through seminars, debates and student presentations.

Knowledge and understanding of the research process will be developed in a specific taught Research Methods module in which students will be inculcated with the fundamentals of a variety of research methodologies and strategies. The module culminates in a research proposal referenced to journal publications and development of a data collection instrument development identifying data analysis strategies. In all modules, students will be given written and verbal feedback on their work.

Details concerning assessment arrangements and the testing of specific learning outcomes are included in the module pro-formas. Modules are examined by a variety of methods including reports, online tests, group presentations and which can include evidence of peer assessment, individual presentations/discussions. This is showed on the module proforma as a Portfolio.

At various points in the programme of study, students will undertake tests using the Classroom Performance System. This will test their knowledge and understanding and provide instant feedback on their progress to date.

Practical case studies will be used in order to develop relevant skills and the confidence to use them.

These will be carried out in small groups or individually in a workshop/seminar environment.

The dissertation is a self-managed project with the support of academic staff acting as supervisors. The only formal teaching sessions will be introduction to the module, structure and format of a research thesis and support classes on data analysis.

Assessment of a student's intellectual skills will be undertaken by a variety of means. This will include informal assessment of the ability to critically analyse relevant research literature and debate issues within confined peer groups together with the formal assessment of the dissertation submitted at the end of the programme.

The acquisition of practical skills will be encouraged and developed within individual modules via workshops using relevant case studies from industry as the teaching vehicle. Modules will utilise scenario projects to allow students to use practical skills and extend their ability to apply relevant project management tools and techniques in a quasi-live work environment.

These practical skills will be taught and developed within the Research Methods module and applied within the Dissertation through supervision from a selected member of the academic staff of the School.

Students' practical skills will be assessed within discrete modules via formal coursework assignments linked to a variety of case study material. The Integrated project and the work based project will allow the application of these skills to be assessed through peer review and group or individual presentations/discussions.

Key skills are developed throughout the programme which aims to provide students with an appropriate environment in which to acquire and develop the necessary attributes of a project manager and the confidence to apply them in a challenging but protective environment.

Students will be interviewed and questioned on their submission and their ability to 'think on their feet' will be tested in conjunction with the project management skills acquired during the programme of study.

Programme structure - programme rules and modules

The programme is offered in full-time mode.

The Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate are alternative exit awards and do not recruit directly. A total of 60 credits is required for a PG Certificate and 120 credits for a PG Diploma (excluding the dissertation).

For all Masters students 7500BEQR Research Methods must be studied prior to the submission of the Dissertation (7501BEQR Dissertation).

Level 7	Potential Awards on completion	Master of Science
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Core	Option	Award Requirements
7500BEQR RESEARCH METHODS (10 credits) 7501BEQR DISSERTATION (60 credits) 7503BEQR PROJECT MANAGEMENT FUNDAMENTALS (20 credits) 7504BEQR PROJECT PLANNING, EXECUTING, CONTROLLING AND CLOSURE (20 credits) 7506BEQR STRATEGIC PROJECT ENVIRONMENT (20 credits) 7507BEQR LEADERSHIP FOR STRATEGIC EXECUTION (20 credits) 7508BEQR ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE (20 credits) 7511BEQR PRINCE2® (10 credits)		180 core credits at level 7 0 option credits at level 7

Information about assessment regulations

All programmes leading to LJMU awards operate within the University's Academic Framework.
<https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/about-us/public-information/academic-quality-and-regulations/academic-framework>

Opportunities for work-related learning (location and nature of activities)

To put the students' learning into appropriate vocational contexts, project modules are based on real projects.

Criteria for admission

Overseas qualifications

An Honours degree in a relevant subject with a minimum 2:2 classification. Exceptionally, entry may be granted if an applicant can demonstrate that they hold a professional qualification of equivalent standing and/or such relevant professional experience which is deemed to be equivalent to a 2:2 honours degree.

External Quality Benchmarks

All programmes leading to LJMU awards have been designed and approved in accordance with the UK Quality Code for Higher Education, including the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in the UK (FHEQ) and subject benchmark statements where applicable.

The University is subject to periodic review of its quality and standards by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA). Published review reports are available on the QAA website at www.qaa.ac.uk

Programmes which are professionally accredited are reviewed by professional, statutory and regulatory bodies (PSRBs) and such programmes must meet the competencies/standards of those PSRBs.

Support for students and their learning

The University aims to provide students with access to appropriate and timely information, support and guidance to ensure that they are able to benefit fully from their time at LJMU. All students are assigned a Personal Tutor to provide academic support and when necessary signpost students to the appropriate University support services.

Students are able to access a range of professional services including:

- Advice on practical aspects of study and how to use these opportunities to support and enhance their personal and academic development. This includes support for placements and careers guidance.
- Student Advice and Wellbeing Services provide students with advice, support and information, particularly in the areas of: student funding and financial matters, disability, advice and support to international students, study support, accommodation, health, wellbeing and counselling.
- Students studying for an LJMU award at a partner organisation will have access to local support services

Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning

Student Feedback and Evaluation

The University uses the results of student feedback from internal and external student surveys (such as module evaluations, the NSS and PTES), module evaluation questionnaires and meetings with student representatives to improve the quality of programmes.

Staff development

The quality of teaching is assured through staff review and staff development in learning, teaching and assessment.

Internal Review

All programmes are reviewed annually and periodically, informed by a range of data and feedback, to ensure quality and standards of programmes and to make improvements to programmes.

External Examining

External examiners are appointed to programmes to assess whether:

- the University is maintaining the threshold academic standards set for awards in accordance with the FHEQ and applicable subject benchmark statements
- the assessment process measures student achievement rigorously and fairly against the intended outcomes of the programme(s) and is conducted in line with University policies and regulations
- the academic standards are comparable with those in other UK higher education institutions of which external examiners have experience
- the achievement of students are comparable with those in other UK higher education institutions of which the external examiners have experience

and to provide informative comment and recommendations on:

- good practice and innovation relating to learning, teaching and assessment observed by external examiners
- opportunities to enhance the quality of the learning opportunities provided to students

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 he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in module and programme guides.