

Title of Programme: MSc Project Management

Programme Code: BSPM

# Programme Specification

This programme specification is relevant to students entering:  
01 September 2023

Deputy Associate Dean of School (Academic Quality Assurance):  
Dr. Michaela Cottee on behalf of Veronica Earle



A programme specification is a collection of key information about a programme of study (or course). It identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the programme, lists the modules that make up each stage (or year) of the programme, and the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff. It also describes the structure of the programme, its progression requirements and any programme-specific regulations. This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right programme of study, to current students on the programme, and to staff teaching and administering the programme.

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## Summary of amendments to the programme

Date	Section	Amendment

If you have any queries regarding the changes please email [AQO@herts.ac.uk](mailto:AQO@herts.ac.uk)

## Programme Specification MSc Project Management

This programme specification (PS) is designed for prospective students, enrolled students, academic staff and potential employers. It provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the intended 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 teaching, learning and assessment methods, learning outcomes and content for each module can be found in Definitive Module Documents (DMDs).

## Section 1

<b>Awarding Institution/Body</b>	University of Hertfordshire
<b>Teaching Institution</b>	University of Hertfordshire
<b>University/partner campuses</b>	De Havilland Campus
<b>Programme accredited by</b>	Association for Project Management (APM)
<b>Final Award (Qualification)</b>	MSc
<b>All Final Award titles (Qualification and Subject)</b>	MSc Project Management
<b>FHEQ level of award</b>	7

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### A. Programme Rationale

This programme is to equip themselves with the knowledge, skills and understanding regarded as necessary for a career in Project Management. MSc Project Management provides a variety of opportunities for students with different interests and backgrounds to unite in learning and applying project management theory and methods.

The programme is intentionally designed to cover qualitative and quantitative aspects of project management knowledge areas. The curriculum provides students with hands-on exercises and a range of practical knowledge and skills that could be applied immediately in any project management work environment. This programme also allows students to consider opportunities for further academic development and research in the field of Project Management.

MSc Project Management is based on robust academic content and founded on the thorough understanding of the theoretical basis of project management. This basis is informed by latest research in underlying subject disciplines, professional bodies of knowledge and critical appraisal of emerging practice. It is accredited by the Association for Project Management (APM). This programme builds bridges between the theoretical underpinnings and project management practice. The programme includes critical evaluation and highlights the limitations of theory in its application and the challenges provided by emerging practice.

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### B. Educational Aims of the Programme

The programme has been devised in accordance with the University's graduate attributes of programmes of study as set out in [UPR TL03](#).

**Additionally this programme aims to:**

- provide students with a contemporary, critical and applied programme of study at postgraduate level within the subject area of Project Management;
- develop the academic and practical skills appropriate to the study of Project Management;
- enable students, through a range of modules, to explore and apply knowledge and understanding of Project Management, and to recognise the complexity of any given situation;
- develop students' ability to critically evaluate tools and techniques as applied in project management;
- understand the connection between projects and society in the globalised economy

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### C. Intended Learning Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills and other attributes in the following areas. The programme outcomes are referenced the Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014) and relate to the typical student. Additionally, the SEEC Credit Level Descriptors for Further and Higher Education (2021) have been used as a guiding framework for curriculum design.

Knowledge and Understanding:

Teaching/learning methods & strategies

Assessment

<p>A1- Critically examine the role of Project Management and its interrelationship with other fields of study</p> <p>A2- Apply Project Management to a range of project environments, and within broader programme, organisational and social contexts.</p> <p>A3- Analyse the role of the project manager and the key success factors in leading projects and managing key stakeholder relationships</p> <p>A4- Apply appropriate methods, tools and techniques for decision making and problem solving in projects.</p>	<p>Acquisition of knowledge and understanding is through a combination of (but is not limited to) lectures, seminars, tutorials and workshops, project or dissertation work, group work, student's presentations and case studies throughout the programme as a whole. The choice of method will depend upon the nature and format of specific modules and their learning outcomes.</p> <p>Additional support is provided by one to one sessions with a research project supervisor.</p> <p>Throughout, the learner is encouraged to undertake independent study both to supplement and consolidate what is being taught/learnt and to broaden their individual knowledge and understanding of the subject.</p>	<p>Knowledge and understanding are assessed through a combination of (not limited to) time constrained assessment, class tests, presentations (individual and group), group work, reports and essays.</p>
Intellectual skills:	Teaching/learning methods & strategies	Assessment
<p>B1- Critically evaluate project management theory, acknowledging the practical limitations encountered, and emerging practice.</p> <p>B2- Conduct research into project management issues that require familiarity with a range of relevant data, research sources and methodologies.</p> <p>B3- Evaluate the rigour and validity of published research and assess its relevance to new situations.</p> <p>B4- Adopt an appropriate, independent approach to problem-solving in the project environment.</p>	<p>Intellectual skills are developed through the programme by the methods and strategies outlined in section A, above.</p> <p>Throughout, the learner is encouraged to develop intellectual skills further by independent study</p>	<p>Intellectual skills are assessed through a combination of (although not limited to) time constrained assessment, class tests, presentations (individual and group), group work, individual reports and essays.</p>
Practical skills:	Teaching/learning methods & strategies	Assessment
C1- Use project management techniques to plan and evaluate the	Practical skills are developed through a variety of teaching and learning methods including,	Practical skills are assessed through a range of assignments built into the

performance of projects and use of resources.	seminars, workshops, project/dissertation work, and group work, learning logs, student presentations and case studies. The choice of method will depend upon the nature and format of each specific module and the desired learning outcomes.	curriculum as outlined at A and B above.
C2- Plan, design and execute a sustained piece of research using appropriate research methods.		
C3- Identify sources of relevant data and information.		
C4- Gather and process data and information		
C5- Plan and manage time and learning.		
Transferable skills:	Teaching/learning methods & strategies	Assessment
D1- Communicate effectively arguments, ideas and information in writing and by oral presentation.	Transferable skills are developed throughout the programme by teaching and learning methods, which may include seminars, workshops, project/dissertation work, and group work, learning logs, student presentations, role play, computer applications and case studies.  Throughout, the learner is encouraged to develop transferable skills by maintaining a record of evidence and completing a personal development plan.	Transferable skills are assessed through course work, oral presentation, case studies, project reports, seminars and group based coursework.
D2- Work effectively with others as team members or leaders.		
D3- Reflect on practice.		
D4- Exercise initiative and responsibility, taking responsibility for their learning and continuing professional development, and incorporating an ethical dimension to their practice.		
D5- Use project management related IT effectively		

## D. Programme Structures, Features, Levels, Modules, and Credits

The programme is offered in full-time (1 year) mode and leads to the award of an MSc Project Management. Entry is normally at Masters (7) with an honours degree of at least 2:2 classification, or at least one year's work experience in a project management role, supported by an HE qualification or equivalent qualification. Intake is in semester A (September).

Entry is only offered at MSc Postgraduate level with Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma being interim awards. The Programme Leader or Deputy will counsel students considering transferring routes, the arrangements based on the following structure, and transferring before the enrolment dates for the relevant academic year and semester

Please note that the Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma are not routinely available to students.

### Professional and Statutory Regulatory Bodies

This is an Association of Project Management (APM) accredited programme.

### Work-Based Learning, including Sandwich Programmes

N/A

### Programme Structure

The programme structure and progression information below (Table 1a and 1b) is provided for the award. Any interim awards are identified in Table 1b. The Programme Learning Outcomes detailed above are developed and assessed through the constituent modules. Table 2 identifies where each learning outcome is assessed.

### Table 1a Outline Programme Structure

**Mode of study** Full-Time **MSc Project Management**

**Entry point** Semester A

Compulsory Modules Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Principles of Project Management	7BSP0333	15	0	100	0	A
Project Scheduling and Budgeting	7BSP0334	15	0	100	0	A
Project Risk and Commercial Management	7BSP1350	15	0	100	0	A
Project Leadership and Communications	7BSP0338	15	0	100	0	A
Project Management Simulation	7BSP0337	15	0	100	0	B
Projects and Society	7BSP1354	15	0	100	0	B
Dissertation – Project Management	7BSP1266	60	0	100	0	ABC
Agile Development for Managers	7BSP1352	15	0	100	0	B
Systems Approaches to Managing Change	7BSP1353	15	0	100	0	B

Coursework assessment may include the following activities:

Report, Essay, Poster, Video, Debate, Blog, Reflection, Portfolio, Test, Presentation

The award of an MA Degree requires 180 credit points passed at level 7.

### Table 1b Final and interim awards available

The programme provides the following final and interim awards:

Final Award	Award Title	Minimum requirements	Available at end of (normally):	Programme Learning Outcomes developed (see above)
Masters	Project Management	180 credit points including at least 150 at level 7	3 Semesters	All programme learning outcomes (see Table 2)

Interim Award	Award Title	Minimum requirements	Available at end of Level	Programme Learning Outcomes developed (see above)
Postgraduate Certificate	Untitled	60 credit points, including at least 45 at level 7	1-2 Semesters	See UPR AS11, section 13: <a href="http://sitem.herts.ac.uk/secreg/upr/AS11.htm">http://sitem.herts.ac.uk/secreg/upr/AS11.htm</a>
Postgraduate Diploma	Project Management	120 credit points, including at least 90 at level 7	2, 3 Semesters	List all relevant learning outcomes, e.g. A1, A3, A4, A5, B1, B2, B6, C1, C2, C3, C5, D1-D6

Masters and Diploma awards can be made "with Distinction" or "with Commendation" where criteria as described in [UPR AS14](#), Section D and the students' handbook are met.

## Programme-specific assessment regulations

The programme is compliant with the University's academic regulations (in particular, [UPR AS11](#), [UPR AS12/UPR AS13](#) and [UPR AS14](#)) with the exception of those listed below, which have been specifically approved by the University: None

Further points of clarification and interpretation relevant to this specific programme are given below: None

## E. Management of Programme & Support for student learning

### Management

The programme is managed and administered through:

- The Programme Leader, who is responsible for advising students on the programme as a whole and chairing the programme committee
- Student representatives on programme committees
- Module Leaders
- A designated administrative team to deal with day-to-day administration associated with the modules within the programme.
- The Dean and Deputy Dean of Hertfordshire Business School
- The Associate Dean (PG Student Experience), who has delegated authority for postgraduate programmes in the Hertfordshire Business School
- The Associate Dean (Academic Quality Assurance) and Associate Dean (Learning and Teaching), who have responsibility for academic quality and learning and teaching in the Hertfordshire Business School
- Head of Business Analytics and Systems Subject Group
- An Admission Tutor, with specific responsibility for open days and recruitment
- An International Admissions Tutor, with specific responsibility for recruitment of overseas students
- A Programme Committee, the membership of which includes student representatives from each level of study and key members of Hertfordshire Business School staff.

### Support

Students are supported by:

- An induction week at the beginning of each new academic session
- Overseas Orientation
- A Programme Leader to help students understand the course/programme structure
- You will have a Personal Tutor who will be an important point of contact, able to help you gain a good understanding of the School and programme you are studying.
- A substantial Student Centre that provides advice on issues such as finance, University regulations, legal matters, accommodation, international student support, etc
- Office of Dean of Students, Student Wellbeing (incorporating Counselling, Mental Health and Disability Support), Chaplaincy, and Day Nursery
- Canvas, a versatile on-line inter-active intranet and learning environment

- Guided student-centred learning through the use of Canvas
- Access to extensive digital and print collections of information resources
- Attractive modern study environments in two Learning Resources Centres
- Academic Skills Centres
- Medical Centre
- University Disability Advisors
- Careers and Employment
- Hertfordshire Student's Union
- The Hertfordshire Business School Information Point
- Centre for Academic Skills Enhancement (CASE)
- Student representatives on programme committees
- A designated administration team
- Access to extensive digital and print collections of information resources
- English support classes, including Business Communications sessions aligned with a core module
- Student Success Hubs, which include a Mathematics Drop-in Centre
- An Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Office
- Dedicated programme site

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## F. Other sources of information

In addition to this Programme Specification, the University publishes guidance to registered students on the programme and its constituent modules:

- A Programme (or Student) Handbook;
- A Definitive Module Document (DMD) for each constituent module.

The [Ask Herts](#) website provides information on a wide range of resources and services available at the University of Hertfordshire including academic support, accommodation, fees, funding, visas, wellbeing services and student societies.

As a condition of registration, all students of the University of Hertfordshire are required to comply with the University's rules, regulations and procedures. These are published in a series of documents called 'University Policies and Regulations' (UPRs). The University requires that all students consult these documents which are available on-line, on the UPR web site, at: <http://www.herts.ac.uk/secreg/upr/>. In particular, [UPR SA07](#) 'Regulations and Advice for Students' Particular Attention - Index' provides information on the UPRs that contain the academic regulations of particular relevance for undergraduate and taught postgraduate students.

In accordance with section 4(5) of the Higher Education and Research Act 2017 (HERA), the UK Office for Students (OfS) has registered the University of Hertfordshire in the register of English higher education providers. The Register can be viewed at: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/the-register/the-ofs-register/>.

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## G. Entry requirements

The normal entry requirements for the programme are:

For current entry tariff point requirements, please refer to the relevant page for the Course on the University website or on the online prospectus.

The programme is subject to the University's Principles, Policies and Regulations for the Admission of Students to Undergraduate and Taught Postgraduate Programmes (in [UPR SA03](#)), along with associated procedures. These will take account of University policy and guidelines for assessing accredited prior certificated learning (APCL) and accredited prior experiential learning (APEL).

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If you would like this information in an alternative format please contact:  
[dhaq@herts.ac.uk](mailto:dhaq@herts.ac.uk)

If you wish to receive a copy of the latest External Examiner's Report for the programme, please email a request to [aqo@herts.ac.uk](mailto:aqo@herts.ac.uk)



## MSc Project Management

**Table 2: Development of Intended Programme Learning Outcomes in the Constituent Modules**

This map identifies where the programme learning outcomes are assessed in the constituent modules. It provides (i) an aid to academic staff in understanding how individual modules contribute to the programme aims (ii) a checklist for quality control purposes and (iii) a means to help students monitor their own learning, personal and professional development as the programme progresses.

		Programme Learning Outcomes (as identified in section 1 and the following page)																	
		Knowledge & Understanding					Intellectual Skills				Practical Skills					Transferable Skills			
Module Title	Module Code	A1	A2	A3	A4	B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5
Principles of Project Management	7BSP0333	X	X	X		X		X		X		X	X		X	X	X	X	
Project Scheduling and Budgeting	7BSP0334	X			X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Project Risk and Commercial Management	7BSP1350	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Project Management Simulation	7BSP0337	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Project Leadership and Communications	7BSP0338	X	X			X		X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Projects and Society	7BSP1354		X			X	X	X									X	X	
Dissertation – Project Management	7BSP1266	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
Agile Development for Managers	7BSP1352	X	X	X		X	X	X		X					X	X	X		X
Systems Approaches to Managing Change	7BSP1353	X	X		X		X					X	X	X	X	X			

## KEY TO PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

### Knowledge and Understanding

- A1. Critically examine the role of Project Management and its interrelationship with other fields of study
- A2. Apply Project Management to a range of project environments, and within broader programme, organisational and social contexts
- A3. Analyse the role of the project manager and the key success factors in leading projects and managing key stakeholder relationships
- A4. Apply appropriate methods, tools and techniques for decision making and problem solving in projects

### Intellectual Skills

- B1. Critically evaluate project management theory, acknowledging the practical limitations encountered, and emerging practice
- B2. Conduct research into project management issues that require familiarity with a range of relevant data, research sources and methodologies
- B3. Evaluate the rigour and validity of published research and assess its relevance to new situations
- B4. Adopt an appropriate, independent approach to problem-solving in the project environment

### Practical Skills

- C1. Use project management techniques to plan the project and appropriate tools to schedule resources
- C2. Plan, design and execute a sustained piece of research using appropriate research methods
- C3. Identify sources of relevant data and information
- C4. Gather and process data and information
- C5. Plan and manage time and learning

### Transferable Skills

- D1. Communicate effectively arguments, ideas and information in writing and by oral presentation
- D2. Demonstrate interactive and group skills
- D3. Reflect on practice
- D4. Exercise initiative and responsibility, taking responsibility for their learning and continuing professional development, and incorporating an ethical dimension to their practice.
- D5. Use project management related information technology effectively

## Section 2

### Programme management

**Relevant QAA subject benchmarking statements**

**Type of programme**

**Date of validation/last periodic review**

**Date of production/ last revision of PS**

**Relevant to level/cohort**

**Administrative School**

**Language of Delivery**

Specialist Masters awards in Business and Management 2015

Taught Postgraduate

October 18

March 2023

Level 7 entering September 2023

Hertfordshire Business School

English

**Table 4 Course structure**

Course details			
Course Code	Course Description	HECOS	UCAS
BSPM	MSc Project Management	100812	N/A