

APM Academic

ACCREDITATION

CASE STUDY



**Anglia Ruskin
University**

Cambridge Chelmsford Peterborough

Introduction

In 1858, John Ruskin opened a School of Art in Sidney Street, Cambridge, laying the foundation for the institution, which grew to become Anglia Polytechnic, and latterly the modern Anglia Ruskin University (ARU), which was awarded university status in 1992.

Today, with a student population of 31,000 in the UK and abroad, it is one of the largest universities in the East of England and a major provider of part-time education, delivering courses that provide relevant work-based skills, developing state of the art teaching and learning environments and embarking on world-leading research.

They run undergraduate and postgraduate degrees as well as to a range of professional qualifications and offer an ever-expanding range of contemporary courses designed

to meet the needs of the individual and the requirements of a knowledge-based economy.

Their main campuses at Cambridge, Chelmsford and Peterborough attract students not only from the East of England but also in increasing numbers from mainland Europe and from further afield. ARU also has an extensive network of contacts with institutions throughout the world, delivering courses in countries as far removed as Malaysia and Trinidad.

ARU's vision sets out its passion for the advancement of knowledge and the education of students, to take that education in imaginative new directions and to be viewed in the UK and internationally as exceptional.

Building knowledge and skills for success

The Faculty of Science & Technology is one of the largest faculties at ARU, offering high quality undergraduate and postgraduate courses, research and professional support for both the public and private sectors in the local regional and national economy. The faculty brings together a wide range of applied scientific and technological interests in six major departments.

The multidisciplinary Department of Engineering and the Built Environment boasts the most comprehensive built environment portfolio in Eastern England, with degree qualifications in civil engineering, construction, construction project management, surveying, sustainable construction, mechanical engineering, architecture and town planning.

The MSc Project Management degree was introduced in 2013 to complement the department's MSc Portfolio and has been designed for students from any discipline who seek to develop or progress their career in project management or in a project-based environment. Its purpose is to prepare and equip them with the skills and knowledge needed to successfully manage projects in a wide range of organisations that demand increasingly sophisticated management.

ARU already ran successful Masters courses in Construction Project Management and in Construction

Management, which received many applications from individuals looking for a more generic MSc in Project Management that would be applicable across a wide range of industries and situations in addition to construction.

Students came from a variety of disciplines, industries and first degrees, but all needed to be able to manage projects effectively. The stimulus to develop a generic course in project management with an emphasis on developing the student's ability to manage projects was provided by the recognition that project management had evolved into a mainstream management activity across all sectors of industry and government – both in the UK and internationally.

"The rationale recognises that successful project management requires good managerial and organisational skills, therefore the course is built upon a strong foundation of management knowledge and skills, supplemented with specialist project management modules," said Dr Michael Coffey, APM, Director of Postgraduate Studies and Course Leader for the MSc Project Management

"It is based on the philosophy that every manager develops their own unique approach to management, so our course is designed to enable students to develop their individual approach, which will provide the basis for the life-long development of their management skills and career."



A professional experience

ARU's MSc Project Management has been designed to not only develop a thorough understanding of the knowledge, principles and techniques but also to put that theory into practice through a broad range of activities and situations in a stimulating and challenging learning environment.

These include developing industry and professional standard project management solutions to typical project management applications and situations, the use of scenario-based problems, together with the provision of a range of project documentation and advice to clients.

Prospective students are expected to already hold a good honours degree or equivalent qualification and/or appropriate work experience at a suitable level within an organisation and can choose to study either full time over a year or part time over two years.

ARU recognises that students wishing to develop a career in project management actively seek APM accredited courses because of the association's national standing as a leading professional body for qualifications, standards and the development of project management. Graduates also regard professional membership of the APM as an important part in the development of their career as a project manager and value the prestige that professional qualification provides.

To meet these aspirations, ARU's MSc course fully embraces the *APM Body of Knowledge*, mapping and benchmarking the modules against the topics. APM's FIVE Dimensions of Professionalism are also built into and supported through the course content, ensuring that the knowledge and skills gained are transferable across all sectors.

The content is also benchmarked against the QAA specialist Masters' degrees in business and management and draws on the extensive experience gained from the development and operation of ARU's established MSc in Construction Project Management.

The curriculum, course content and materials are deliberately assessed against the project management requirements and usage in a number of industries. The deliberate inclusion of examples of best practice from a range of industries also ensures the applicability of the course.

The course provides a firm foundation for a career in or to further develop an existing career, in project management. Emphasis is placed on the development of problem-solving skills, together with critical, analytical, interpersonal, leadership and computational skills, which are directly applicable to their area of expertise as well as being transferable to other situations. It also recognises the growing importance of environmental influences on the built environment and the demands of health and safety.

Teaching is delivered through lectures, seminars, tutorials and workshops, supported by the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) which provides access to teaching materials, additional sources of information and allows



Personal story

Chidi Chigozie Obele graduated from Anglia Ruskin with his MSc in Project Management after studying at the university from January 2013 to February 2014

"Having a desire to brighten my career prospects and further my Intellectual capabilities in a discipline that is dynamic and instrumental, not just career-wise but in everyday living, I decided to enrol for the MSc Project Management course at ARU.

"I was at first sceptical of the challenges involved but was overwhelmed with the positive and supportive attitude of members of staff. With state of the art facilities and brilliant tutors that are professionals and pioneers in their fields, the learning process and experience was impeccable and exciting.

"From the start of the course to its completion, the delivery of the learning process was intriguing and well-organised, allowing me to acquire the practical and technical knowledge required to meet the challenges of providing and managing projects successfully.

"The array of modules enabled me to acquire in-depth understanding of the management processes and best practices involved in the development and operation of projects, allowing me to develop the broad range of knowledge and applicable skills to successfully manage projects.

The course has allowed me to be able to utilise the systematic working knowledge of the practices involved in project management, broadening my knowledge base and increasing my career prospects in a competitive and rewarding sector.

I am glad I took the course at ARU, it has increased my employability and my knowledge base – with potential employers knocking on my door, the sky's the limit!"



communication with students and to provide support feedback.

In addition to full-time staff, specialist and visiting lecturers and practitioners deliver specific topics and provide contemporary knowledge, especially in the applicational aspects of the subjects.

The broad learning outcomes provide graduates with an intellectually demanding educational experience that will develop them appropriately towards becoming a project manager. On successful completion, they will be able to:

- Use the language, knowledge, theories, principles and practical skills demanded by the discipline of management and project management
- Demonstrate a systematic working knowledge of the practices undertaken by project managers
- Critically analyse, evaluate and apply procedures, systems and techniques used in project management
- Apply aspects of the scientific, social, environmental, legal, technical, economic, health and safety, and political dimension to project management
- Solve organisational, technical, economic and legal problems in the context of project management
- Demonstrate a critical awareness of the role and application of developing technologies
- Demonstrate a critical perspective of current practice and future developments

- Analyse and evaluate the influence of the environment and be aware of their ethical and professional responsibilities towards society
- Demonstrate knowledge of a specialised area relating to project management

A two-fold assessment process looks at the student's critical understanding of the subject matter, and evaluates their ability to discriminate, operationalise and apply their project management knowledge. Assessment methods are specific to each module, reflecting the subject matter of the module and the most effective method to assess the learning objectives. A range of methods is used, including examinations, written assignments, presentations, portfolios and dissertation.

The course and all module content are constantly reviewed to ensure that developments in project management practice and research are incorporated so that it remains current. Student feedback is given at a number of points in the course and within individual modules and their experience forms an important part of the learning undertaken on the course.

The department also maintains close links with employers through employers' advisory forums whilst guest lecturers provide contemporary project management knowledge.

The MSc in Project Management has now become an important part of the Masters portfolio offered by the department.

What APM accreditation means to us

"Accreditation from APM is highly valued by Anglia Ruskin. As the leading professional body for qualifications, standards and the development of project management, APM accreditation provides an internationally recognised mark of quality that provides assurance to students seeking to develop a career in project management."

Professor Eamon Strain,

Pro Vice Chancellor and Dean of Faculty



Association for Project Management and Anglia Ruskin University

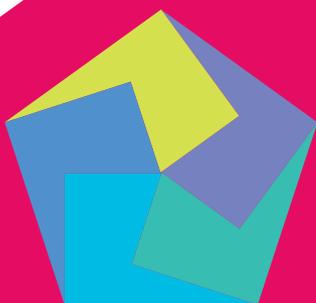
Anglia Ruskin University is a corporate member of APM and has taken the *APM Body of Knowledge* and FIVE Dimensions of Professionalism as the core references in building the content for and delivery of the MSc in Project Management, and the APM Rules of Conduct are specifically referred to in the course content.

Their course strongly emphasises the value of APM membership, tutors actively encourage students to become members of the APM and to recognise the value of professional membership as a mark of their abilities and as an important contributor to their life-long career development.

Association for Project Management

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FIVEDimensions of Professionalism

APM Corporate Accreditation

APM Corporate Accreditation will help you stand out as an exemplar in the development of project management professionals. It provides assurances to your customers and suppliers and allows you to attract and retain the best project management talent in the country.

APM Corporate Accreditation recognises the commitment of organisations and professional development services to the defined, APM FIVE Dimensions of Professionalism, each of which is supported by an APM standard:

Breadth

The *APM Body of Knowledge* defines the knowledge needed to manage any kind of project. It underpins many project management standards and methods including the National Occupational Standard in Project Management.

Depth

The *APM Competence Framework* provides a guide to project management competences. It is part of your professional toolkit; mapping levels of knowledge and experience to help you progress your skills and abilities.

Achievement

APM qualifications take your career in new and exciting directions. They are recognised across the profession and aligned with IPMA's 4 level Certification Program.

Commitment

Continuing Professional Development helps develop your project management practice. A targeted development plan will enhance your project management career.

Accountability

The APM Code of Professional Conduct outlines the ethical practice expected of a professional. Becoming an APM member shows your commitment to the Code and sets you apart from others.