

ACCREDITATION

CASE STUDY



MSc Engineering Project Management

Introduction

Coventry University is an established UK higher education institution with over 20,000 students, more than 150 years of history and has achieved the following awards in recent years:

- Modern University of the Year for 2014, 2015 and 2016 (*Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide*).
- University of the Year 2015 (Annual Times Higher Education).
- In the top 4 per cent of universities worldwide (QS World University Rankings 2013/14).
- A top 40 UK university (*Guardian University Guide 2014*).
- In the Top 10 UK universities for positive student feedback and for added value (*Guardian University Guide 2014*).
- 94 per cent graduate employability or further study rate (*DLHE survey 2011/12*).

Coventry University has an established academic presence, regionally, nationally and internationally, and aims to provide the very best in postgraduate opportunities, particularly tailored to modern industrial and commercial requirements.

The university understands the need to meet and exceed the expectations of existing and future employers, and to that end its faculties and schools work to build effective collaborative partnerships across a range of industry sectors in order to incorporate visiting professors and industry experts into its postgraduate study programmes.

One such postgraduate course is the university's MSc in Engineering Project Management (EPM). This course is part of the university's Faculty of Engineering, Environment and Computing (EEC) in the School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Automotive Engineering (MAAE), itself a committed corporate APM member. Around 55 students per year take this course, and it received academic accreditation from APM in 2014.

The School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Automotive Engineering enjoys a global reputation for excellent teaching, outstanding student experience and exciting research. In particular, the school's innovative Activity-Led Learning (ALL) approach is internationally recognised and has shaped the culture of this forward-facing faculty through its inspirational £55m state-of-the-art building with modern equipment and student facilities. The school is also home to the UK's first 'Faculty on the Factory Floor', the Institute for Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering, which is located within a local industrial partner.

MSc Engineering Project Management, with inputs from our industrial partners, reflects functional and strategic perspectives on effective Project Management needed to deliver successful projects.

Leaders in research

Within the university, the Faculty of Engineering, Environment and Computing has a distinguished record of applied research, with teams working across a broad range of subject areas in research centres and groups. The faculty engages fully with the regional, national and international agenda for research and development. At the most local level, the faculty supports a range of Knowledge Transfer Partnerships, where it can help small and medium-sized enterprises develop their business through technology and management development. At the other end of the scale, it leads multi-million pound European research projects with an international impact.

Delivering expert education informed by world-class research empowers graduates as future global engineering and management professionals. Research expertise at the faculty ranges from Kinetic Energy Recovery Systems (KERS) to Multi-Phase Fluid Flow Systems for oil and gas extraction, to Human Factors in Aviation.



Course benefits

The MSc in Engineering Project Management provides full-time students, both local and international, with a well-recognised qualification which enables them to apply for jobs in engineering organisations. Similarly, employed part-time students can seek promotion within their current employment and expand their overall future employability.

This course is also designed to meet the needs of graduates and professionals who have already acquired expertise in their field of engineering and now wish to develop engineering project management skills to provide leadership and contribute to successful project deliveries. It teaches students the key areas of business management theory, linking these to real-life project practices through the use of research, case studies, project simulations and applied work, exploring different ways that project management can significantly contribute to competitiveness, and to the advancement of society.

The course enhances students' ability to think critically and apply their knowledge to the solution of real-life project management problems, both individually and as part of a team. The unique 'activity-led learning' approach equips students with a wide range of practical skills, analytical tools and research capabilities to prepare them to manage effectively within different operational settings.

Students benefit significantly from the industrial and strategic partnerships which provide industrial project opportunities and industry visits. The strong tradition of business-focused research is reflected in the important relationships developed with companies such as DHL Ltd and SAIC. SAIC Motor Limited (formerly known as MG Rover Group) reviews all the module offerings annually to ensure that it meets industrial standards.

Certifications

Students who successfully complete Global Professional Development module on this course (and meet the CMI evidence requirements), gain a Level 7 Certificate in Strategic Leadership and Management and a Level 7 Award in Professional Consulting. We also offer a module on project management frameworks with Prince2 certification (both Foundation and Practitioner – this is subject to passing the required exams). Our students are provided with the opportunity of sitting for the APM Fundamental Certification in their 1st Semester.

Career opportunities

As a result, graduates from this programme are employable as project managers after successfully completing their programme. Job satisfaction and remuneration prospects are excellent for students who study MSc Engineering Project Management, with high employer demand in most parts of the world for students who are able to link project management theory and practice through the right blend of underpinning knowledge, skills and capabilities. Building

on their master's degree studies, previous graduates have secured exciting and rewarding positions across a wide variety of industries in leading organisations worldwide.

Many alumni have become directors, senior managers, consultants and business owners, and regularly return to CU to support current students as guest speakers, by hosting visits to their companies and through GLP events. This networking often leads to job and internship opportunities which can jumpstart student's careers and provides valuable work experience.



Leading by successful project delivery

The course content has been assessed and closely aligned with the all APM's FIVE Dimensions of Professionalism. Working closely with APM, the School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Automotive engineering is justifiably proud to be leading the way in producing this relevant, up-to-date and professionally accredited MSc Engineering Project Management course.

The EPM course aims to provide students with an understanding of project management tools and techniques required to deliver very successful projects. This programme takes a high level, critical and evaluative view of project management, emphasising managerial and strategic use of the tools and techniques of project management.

Global opportunities within industry make it essential that engineering project management professionals keep up to date and develop their awareness and capabilities in such key areas as strategic management, supply chain, quality, finance, project management, human resources management and environmental management. It is, therefore, imperative that project managers involved in multi-faceted projects must possess a skill-set that will enable them to operate seamlessly in both local and international industries.

The Engineering Project Management (EPM) MSc degree prepares students for managing organisational change through projects. The course focuses on projects involving major changes and complexities, including issues related to new products and services, new equipment, new operating systems and how they can affect the lives of people both inside and outside the organisation.

Students learn about the human dynamics of project teams, developing their skills in leadership, communication and teamwork, as well as how to plan sophisticated projects by using commercial software packages. Most organisations are now project-based and projects are becoming extensively and increasingly technically complex. This is projected to be the trend in years to come.

Providing balance

The MSc Engineering Project Management course has been able to employ a vast range of delivery methods which include project simulations, lectures and seminars from both experienced academics and experienced professionals; combined with series of engaging activities, project bids, engineering event organisation, field trips and real-life project delivery.

The course balances the technical side of project management with the soft side of project management which focuses on behavioural excellence and people management. Another area of focus is ensuring that students understand and apply quality management, good financial, strategic management and portfolio/programme/project management. In all these areas, APM confirmed that the course met its requirements. Available resources include a VLE (virtual learning environment) facility, Moodle, which is well populated with useful and pertinent information.

What accreditation means to us

In its original application for APM accreditation, the department stated: "APM is the leading professional body for project management in the UK. Alignment of our course with the APM Body of Knowledge ensures our students are equipped to enter the profession with the requisite industry-standard knowledge and understanding."

“ Gaining accreditation has served as a benchmark for continuous improvement and reality check for the university whilst satisfying the ever-demanding needs of the 21st century for university graduates. The students that are able to pass through the MSc Engineering Project Management course gain a lifetime of benefits and a competitive edge. In practice, APM accreditation has informed the contents of the course delivery and team. The students appreciate the benefits closely related to the high level of employability, professionalism, creativity and leadership that the accreditation provides”

Lydia Adigun, assistant lecturer, Project Management



Personal story

James Boynton, ex-student

"Coming from a design engineering background, I initially started the course with the intention of gaining skills to enable me to be in charge of my own design projects, but having the vast number of disciplines available to be taught, I gained a lot more than I ever imagined I would. I saw I could do more and go further with more potential in my future career. I was able to improve my project management skills which could be used in whichever industry I decided to pursue my career.

"I became a Member of the Association for Project Management while studying and that has been of great benefit to me. The course also helped improve my communication skills through my interaction with individuals and groups from different backgrounds and skill sets.

"I now work for Jaguar Land Rover as 'visual prototype scheduling analyst'. I am in charge of scheduling and overseeing the manufacture and assembly of all prototype vehicles at various Jaguar Land Rover sites. I am extremely proud to have studied MSc Engineering Project Management Programme, mainly due to the fact I would not have got to where I have today without this programme on my CV."

Testimonials

"The course offers itself as a platform into the world of projects; by encompassing a balance of both theoretical and practical experience, it provided substance to my project management abilities and offered my current employer an insight in to my potential. I absolutely believe that without this course I would probably be battling my way through admin type roles at the very bottom of an organisation. Instead, I am currently working as a scheme project manager in Network Rail within Track Renewals, thanks to MSc EPM programme."

Jennifer Slater, ex-student



"The collaboration between SAIC Motor UK Technical Centre (SMTC UK) and Coventry University on the MSc Engineering Project Management course has brought benefits in both directions. For the university, the input from SMTC UK brings contemporary, real-life relevance to the course through review of the course content, presentation of lectures and joint development of project management case studies. Over the past four years SMTC UK has also hosted groups of students visiting the Technical Centre, adding substance to the academic input. For SMTC UK, the collaboration allows the company to 'connect' with academia, gaining access to up-to-date academic thinking in the field, and also to raise its profile amongst the student population of prospective future employees."

Alan Anderson CEng FIMechE,

Vehicle chief engineer

SAIC Motor UK Technical Centre Limited



Dr Anthony Olomolaiye,
MSc Engineering Project Management
Course Director

APM and Coventry University

The MSc in Engineering Project Management is accredited by the Association for Project Management (APM), having fulfilled the requirements stipulated by APM. This means students on this course will be studying a programme accredited by the UK's leading project management professional body. The course content has been assessed and closely aligned with APM's FIVE Dimensions of Professionalism. Students who study this course are strongly encouraged to become members of APM and develop their competences – using the APM Competence Framework – relevant to becoming project management professionals. EPM students are also encouraged to seek out opportunities to engage with industry, through events provided by the local APM branch.

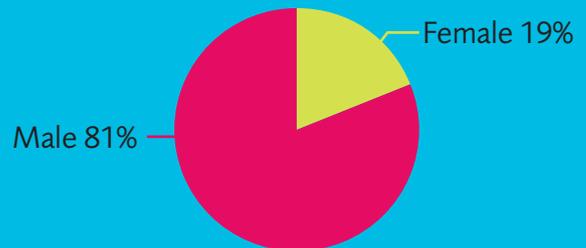
MSc EPM statistics Sept 2008 – Sept 2015

Started: **30 September 2008**

No of ex-students: **390**

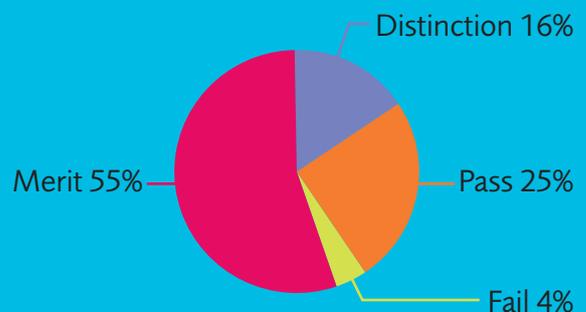
No of current students **52**

Gender: Male: **357**
Female: **85**



Top Nationalities: Nigerian: **131** Pakistani: **14**
Chinese: **44** Polish: **10**
Libyan: **35** Thai: **7**
Indian: **33** Jordanians: **6**
British: **18**

Award: Distinction: **64**
Merit: **213**
Pass: **98**
Fail: **15**



Age range: **March 1957 – December 1993**

Association for Project Management

Ibis House, Regent Park
Summerleys Road
Princes Risborough
Buckinghamshire HP27 9LE

Tel. (UK) 0845 458 1944
Tel. (Int.) +44 1844 271 640
Email info@apm.org.uk
Web apm.org.uk



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.