MSc Programme and Project Management
(Revised: October 2010)

The University of Chester offers a unique opportunity to study Programme and Project Management - including PRINCE2®, Management of Risk® and P3O® - with a UK Office of Government Commerce (OGC) Accredited Training Organisation (ATO).

The courses are run by the New Technology Initiative (NTI) - a centre within the University of Chester. The NTI has built an extensive portfolio of Programme and Project Management (PPM) courses and delivered them to over 300 students. These qualifications are validated and rigorously assessed annually by the external body, APMG – an agent of the OGC.

One distinctive feature of our courses is that they are delivered by a University, and not a training company – a fact that has attracted many delegates and has held us in high regard by both APMG & the OGC.

We have had numerous requests, both from overseas and home markets, to provide wider and deeper academic courses in these subjects which will lead to a Masters award, with optional exams in any of the above external qualifications. By combining our own, new, modules with our professional courses, we have designed a programme which has appeal to a broad range of people.

The recent troubles in the banking sector, together with the subsequent economic downturn, have led to a marked increase in people wishing to a) provide a substantial PPM qualification to their CV and b) appreciate the consequences and foundations of project and risk management. These two fundamental subject domains apply to businesses and organisations of all sizes and are now seen to be crucial in providing good management practices.

Further, Quality Management, via “Lean” techniques, is increasing in importance and popularity, as businesses seek to take control of the minutiae of their operations both to improve quality and efficiency, and keep tight control of costs.

Our MSc will take you beyond the OGC qualifications to build your confidence in running complex projects within your organisation, or give you that extra edge when applying for project management posts.

(PTO)
Course Structure

The MSc comprises taking 9 of the following modules in one year of study full-time, or longer if studying part-time.

The modules are based upon our well-established Work-based Integrative Studies (WBIS) framework where your prior experience - and aspirations - can be taken into account. For instance, if you have significant experience as a project manager you will probably be able to take the assessment for the Introduction to Project Management module without attending the course. We call this Accreditation for Prior Experiential Learning (APEL). You can take up to 50% of the MSc in this way.

The program comprises the following modules:-

Introduction to Project Management
PRINCE2® Project Management** and its context
Management of Risk®** and its context
Lean Methodologies and Six Sigma
Finance for Project Managers+
NLP+
PPM Software Skills+
Leading People Through Change+
P3O ** +
Research Methods+
OBASHI (2011)+
Negotiated Learning Module - based upon your work aspirations+
Dissertation (Triple-module)

** Option to include APMG PRINCE2® / Management of Risk Foundation® and Practitioner / P3O courses and examinations and supporting academic modules.
+ Optional module.

There are three steps to the MSc :-

Post-graduate Certificate (PGCert) in Programme and Project Management
Comprises the Introduction to PM, PRINCE2® and an optional module

Post-graduate Diploma (PGDip) in Programme and Project Management
Management of Risk®, Lean Methodologies & 6-sigma and an optional module.

MSc in Programme and Project Management
This comprises solely of the Dissertation, through which you will be guided by your tutor. (Note, Research Methods must be your optional module at Diploma level)

All modules are tightly-integrated into your work practices so that you can immediately apply the benefits of your study
**PGCert in Programme and Project Management**

This layer serves two functions. First, as a foundation layer it provides an introduction to the field of P&PM and prepares students to take the PRINCE2 and Management of Risk Practitioner courses. Since we expect some students to already be project managers, we may suggest that they APEL this first module. The final module of this layer can either be a selection from the list of optional modules or a work-based negotiated-learning project. This latter option is provided at this level for a specific purpose. Delegates on our existing courses frequently say that their main problem, now that they are qualified, will be to get their first project in their work-place underway. We feel there is an opportunity here to support the learner in these first steps, and demonstrate the strength of the University route.

Thus, this PG Certificate can be offered as a package for students who wish to take the PRINCE2 qualification and be helped in getting their first project off the ground.

**PGDip in Programme and Project Management**

**Lean Methodologies and Six Sigma**

Tolerance control and tight financial management are the focus of Quality Management (QM). Using techniques such as Lean, and Six-Sigma, organisations can work at extremely fine levels of detail in order to improve efficiency and productivity. This module is being developed with CEVA Logistics – a worldwide company with extensive experience in implementing Lean & Six Sigma methodologies, as well as employing a large number of project managers. The module also explores the “Kaizen” technique, where staff are actively involved in minute, daily tasks which enable tight control over targets.

**Risk Management (RM)** is a fundamental part of every project, and one that is often only paid lip-service. The recent economic crisis has highlighted the need for RM to be taken seriously, and given more rigorous evaluation. The OGC Management of Risk (MoR) qualification becomes the centre piece of this second layer.

**Research Methods (WBIS)**

Since the final year of a full MSc is taken up with the standard WBIS MSc Dissertation, the Research Methods module will complete the second year for those student heading towards the MSc.

**Optional Modules**

**PPM Software Skills**

A new module which will focus on the assistance to PPM that software tools can provide. There are a great many software packages in use, notably Microsoft Project and various open-source packages. All are complex tools that need be studied in depth, along with an overview of other popular tools and how they can be best integrated into a project.

**P3O – Portfolio, Programme and Project Office**

A new qualification from the OGC. P3O is a formalisation of guidance regarding support offices in organisations using Programme and Project Management to deliver business change. It is based on current Best Management Practice thinking.
Finance management.
Clearly, financial control is key to managing the flow of a project. Experienced financial managers may be able to APEL this module. This is an existing module, to be delivered by the School of Leadership & Management.

Management of Change
An existing module, to be delivered by the School of Leadership & Management. One definition of a project can be “Not Business as Usual”. This indicates change has taken place, All too often the effects of these changes can have an undesirable effect if not managed properly. This module will study these processes and advise on their correct handling.

Neuro-linguistic Programming
A successful project manager needs to inspire the confidence of those they work with. This can be vital in situations where difficult negotiations are required. NLP encompasses the processes of thought, communication and behaviour, and is a highly-regarded methodology world-wide.

OBASHI (2011)
OBASHI is based around a core principle: that IT exists for one reason, namely, to manage the flow of data between business assets. Business resources (which include people) and IT assets are either providers of data, consumers of data or provide the conduit through which the data can flow. The role of IT is to support, process and optimise the flow of data to maximise business/organisational performance. This module will study the OBASHI model in depth and link it both to PRINCE2 and Management of Risk practices.

Attendance
The modules will generally be run over a weekend (Friday afternoon-Sunday afternoon), in Chester. These will be spaced throughout the year to give plenty of opportunity for attendance. You will then do your self-study and assessment at home/work. There will be full support via the University's Virtual Learning Environment, where you will find access to on-line journals, library catalogue, supporting notes, lecture transcripts & handouts etc. You will also be able to correspond with the course tutor via email.
Scenario

George has been a project manager within his organisation for 10 years. He took his PRINCE2 Practitioner examination 4 years ago and has implemented various aspects of it, but needs to work harder at team initiatives. George also needs to add depth to his Risk Management skills & knowledge.

Regarding the MSc route, George will seek APEL for the Introduction to Project Management module. Here the tutor will also take the opportunity to guide George through a self-review of his skills and select the modules which best fulfill his needs. For the PRINCE2 assessment we will work with George in producing a report which will outline ways in which the organisation could enhance its approach to programme and project management, which will form the basis of the module assessment.

For optional module, George opts for NLP for Project Managers to develop his people skills.

At the Diploma stage, George will take the OGC Management of Risk course as an external add-on, and then take the IS7220 module where he will comment upon the current attitude to Risk within his organisation, as well as make suggestions for its enhancement. Finally, George will take the Lean Methodologies and Six-Sigma module. This is a new area for him and the assessment will require him to investigate his organisation’s current approach (if any) to this important area.

The remainder of the MSc comprises research methods and the dissertation.

Course Fees :-
(as at October 2010)

UK Students
£385 per module
£205 per module via APEL

Overseas Students
£842 per module
£tbc per module via APEL

Additional course fees for PRINCE2, MoR and P3O:-
£1095 per course, including all exams, books etc

For more details, please contact :- Phil Harmes, 01244 513197

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The New Technology Initiative (NTI), is a department of the University of Chester and is an Accredited Training Organisation for PRINCE2 and M_o_R, accredited by APMG on behalf of the Office of Government Commerce to deliver approved training courses for those methods.