

Programme Specification

MSc Project Management

MSc Project Management (with Professional Experience)

<i>School:</i>	York Business School
<i>Subject area:</i>	Business Management
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2026-27
<i>in the month(s) of</i>	September, February
<i>Awarding institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Delivery location:</i>	York St John University
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Postgraduate Certificate in Project Management Postgraduate Diploma in Project Management
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	Not applicable
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	Subject Benchmark Statement for Business Management (March 2023) Master's degree characteristics (February 2020)
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Postgraduate periods of study ¹ for full-time / part-time Non-standard period of study as follows: Full-time for 2 years (with Professional Experience)
<i>Language of study:</i>	English
<i>Paired with Foundation Year</i>	No
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	No
<i>Opt-in YSJU Placement Year opportunity:</i>	No
<i>Excluding a year-long placement/professional experience, are there placement/field trip/work experience(s) totalling 20 days or more?</i>	No

Introduction and special features

Project management is fundamental to successful implementation of strategic change in any organisation and can sometimes be the entire way of organising a business structure and delivering value to the customer.

Project Management skills are now considered to be essential for any successful manager in any role within a business. The York Business School's MSc Project Management is designed to develop your academic skills in modelling and evaluating the process of project management, allowing you to develop strategic and practical approaches in a wide variety of business environments. You will gain a broad understanding of the principles and practice of project management, and the tools and techniques required

¹ The standard period of study will apply unless otherwise stated

to contribute to business effectiveness. The programme is designed to provide you with a broad knowledge of strategic and operational processes and techniques associated with project management. The programme offers opportunities to explore and evaluate key theories of project management, bringing together relevant contemporary academic theory, research and concepts as well as encouraging creative and innovative thinking.

You will explore issues that have significant impact within organisations by working with others, building on both personal and individual experiences and comparing with those of other cohort members. You will carry out projects and assignments designed to help you apply the theories, tools and techniques you learn. Much of the learning is developed through the establishment of collaborative learning communities of programme participants and tutors and you will become part of that community of learning. Your understanding will be developed around the key skills, processes and practices of project management. Solutions to real problems will be suggested, discussed and analysed within the learning community with the support of tutors and fellow learners. A prominent focus of the programme is on practically applying your knowledge of the appropriate tools to project problem identification and solving.

The programme is international in its design and engages with themes on an international basis. Many different cultural contexts will be utilised to help provide the setting for discussions. Through the development of an integrated and critically aware understanding of project management in the context of contemporary and international business issues, the programme involves you in the process of deep personal and professional development. To support this, the modules are developed with focus on employment related skills (for example, project planning, risk analysis, decision making, stakeholder management, communications, teamwork) embedded in assignments to enhance students' employment prospects.

Special features of the programme include:

- Flexible approach to enable you to make the best use of your time
- Assessment methods used to mirror organisational based activities
- Provides a supportive platform for critical reflection, through reflecting on the application of academic theories to real work situations
- Participation in active and supportive forums drawing on practical expertise
- Enables you to develop a sound understanding of the skills necessary to undertake a project management role in any organisation
- Reflects the aspirations in the development of responsible and ethical managers
- Supports the development of the skills of project management in order to operate effectively and competently in an international context
- Excellent personal and academic support. You will be allocated an academic tutor to support you throughout the programme
- Focused activities connected with employers and commercial organisations to build expertise and real-world experience
- Opportunity to gain professional experience.

Admissions criteria

You must meet the minimum entry requirements which are published on the programme specific webpage. In addition, you must have:

- A Bachelor's degree or equivalent, achieved at Class 2:2 or above, from an approved university or institution,
or
- Current or recent work experience (within the last two years) appropriate to enable you to contribute to the programme.

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>).

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of [Recognition of prior learning \(RPL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

Programme aim(s)

The overall aim of the programme is to develop your critical understanding and self-awareness of the issues relating to project management. This will allow you to develop your own project leadership skills and knowledge. Thus, developing both your individual and organisational potential. This programme provides an evidence-based approach to project management through the utilisation of analytical skills, observation, synthesis, rationality and logic to develop your perspectives on, and theories of, project management. Critical insights are instrumental in providing a basis for enhanced levels of scrutiny, enquiry and intelligent decision-making. The programme aims to reflect these aspirations in the development of responsible and ethical managers, supporting development in the skills of project leadership in order to operate effectively and competently in an international context.

You will be supported as you:

- Develop critical awareness and understanding of the key concepts of project management, organisational strategy, and national and organisational culture
- Develop the ability to connect theory with practice in creative and innovative ways and reflect upon the learning involved as well as the outcomes
- Develop critical awareness and understanding of the impact of project management, strategy, culture, corporate social responsibility and ethics to help you undertake effective roles in business organisations as responsible managers
- Develop and enhance life-long learning skills and personal development in order to work with self-direction and originality

Programme learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme students will be able to:

Level 7

- 7.1 Demonstrate in-depth, specialist knowledge and mastery of techniques relevant to the study of organisational strategy and project management
- 7.2 Demonstrate an advanced and critical understanding of concepts, information, tools and techniques informed by empirical research and knowledge at the forefront of the study of contemporary project management issues within the context of society
- 7.3 Demonstrate a systematic, integrated and critically aware understanding of project management
- 7.4 Critically reflect and evaluate theoretical knowledge of project management and other approaches to managing change within an organisational setting
- 7.5 Formulate a critical awareness of current issues in project management informed by contemporary research and practice
- 7.6 Demonstrate a deep knowledge and critical understanding of organisations, context and response to changes in the global business environment
- 7.7 Extrapolate information critically and creatively utilising appropriate decision-making techniques in order to extract meaning and understanding, solve problems, and identify and evaluate options in a world of uncertainty and imperfect information
- 7.8 Design, conduct, analyse and disseminate an extended independent piece of research or business related project from inception to completion

Programme structure

Full-time

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X)
MBB7070M	7	1	Global Business Strategy	30	C	X
MBP7007M	7	1	Project Delivery Management	30	C	X
MBB7071M	7	2	Business Ethics and Sustainability	30	C	X
MBP7008M	7	2	Managing People in Projects	30	C	X
MBB7072M	7	All	Capstone Project	60	C	NC

Part-time

Code	Level	Semester	Year	Title	Credits	Module status	
						Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X)
MBP7007M	7	1	1	Project Delivery Management	30	C	X
MBB7071M	7	2	1	Business Ethics and Sustainability	30	C	X
MBB7070M	7	1	2	Global Business Strategy	30	C	X
MBP7008M	7	2	2	Managing People in Projects	30	C	X
MBB7072M	7	All	1-2	Capstone Project	60	C	NC

Full-time (with Professional Experience, 2 years)

Code	Level	Semester	Year	Title	Credits	Module status	
						Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X)
MBB7070M	7	1	1	Global Business Strategy	30	C	X
MBP7007M	7	1	1	Project Delivery Management	30	C	X
MBB7071M	7	2	1	Business Ethics and Sustainability	30	C	X
MBP7008M	7	2	1	Managing People in Projects	30	C	X
MBB7011M	7	All	2	Business Consultancy Project	60	C	NC

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the table above as non-compensable. A non-compensable module is one that must be passed at the relevant level (with a mark of 50) in order to progress.

Learning, teaching and assessment

A key part of the philosophy of the programme is that by bringing together relevant academic theory and practical experience you can enhance understanding of these elements and develop yourself as an individual and as a leader.

All modules are delivered utilising a range of teaching, learning and assessment strategies including lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops and global café style learning activities. Each module has a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) where you and other Master's level students will be encouraged to be involved with online debate and collaborative approaches to learning.

Some participants may not have been engaged in formal education for some time and may never have studied business management at postgraduate level. Support with study skills, conventions of academic analysis and writing will be available for you from the start of the programme and will continue throughout your studies.

All modules are assessed through a programme of work undertaken whilst studying for the award. A range of assessment tools are used including presentations, critical essays and reports, portfolios and reflective journals and case study work. Each module tutor will provide opportunities for formative assessment feedback to inform your work prior to submission.

You will receive detailed feedback on assessment to help you develop and continuously improve your performance whilst on the programme. Advice will be provided in relation to development, further areas for research and guidance on how to enhance your subject knowledge.

You will receive the opportunity for study support including academic writing and research skills to enhance employability and career development in the field of project management.

The MSc Project Management (with Professional Experience)

Students on the MSc Project Management (with Professional Experience) are expected to engage in experiential activity lasting the equivalent of an academic year. There are currently two options available:

Work Placement

The placement is designed to address the demands of the project management profession and give you a competitive edge when it comes to your career. The work placement will provide opportunities to apply knowledge and skills learnt in the taught modules, enhance communication and interpersonal skills and improve employment potential. The placement component is for one academic year in duration, which starts after successfully completing the taught modules. During your placement, you will also work towards and complete the Business Consultancy Project.

It is ultimately your responsibility to secure a placement. The University will offer guidance and support and recommend students to many of our partners that have expressed strong support and interest in the programme.

Venture Creation Lab

The Venture Creation Lab utilises the University's expertise to facilitate the development of entrepreneurial skills and knowledge to foster the development of a new commercial opportunity.

The Venture Creation Lab will provide learners with the opportunity to implement and utilise the information attained through the taught modules in a practical environment, enhance communication and interpersonal skills and improve employment potential. Learners will be located in the Lab for a maximum of one academic year, which will commence after successful completion of the taught modules. Learners will also base the Business Consultancy Project on the commercial opportunity developed in the Lab.

International students on a Tier 4 visa will have a valid CAS for the programme duration of two years, subject to your meeting the UKVI's standard requirements.

During the Professional Experience period, learners will complete the Business Consultancy Project which awards 60 credits of your qualification. The Professional Experience is only available to those students studying towards the award on a full-time basis.

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's [regulations](#) for taught postgraduate awards apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section as non-compensable.

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission, Culture and Values](#)
- [University 2026 Strategy](#)
- [QAA subject benchmark statements](#)
- [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications](#)

Date written / revised: April 2024 /

Programme originally approved: 26/11/2024