

Guide to Project Management Qualifications




What different project management qualifications and certifications exist?

Which is the most appropriate for your organisation or just for you as an individual?

This document provides guidance to help you answer these questions, and to choose the most appropriate pathway. You can also contact Provek to discuss further your qualification or certification questions or to discuss your training needs for either attending one of our open public examination courses or to organise an in-house single client examination course.

What recognised project management qualifications are available?

The figure below summarizes the core project management qualifications available and indicates the job roles most appropriate for each qualification.

Roles relevant for each qualification or certification	APM 	Axelos 	PMI 
Project team member New project manager Project office staff Project co-ordinator Project planner (project experience not required except for PMI, but advantageous)	APM Project Fundamentals Qualification (PFQ)	PRINCE2® Foundation	CAPM (Certified Associate in Project Management) 1,500 hours experience
IPMA Level D Project Management Associate Junior project manager Work package manager Project office manager (typically min. 2-3 years project experience)	APM Project Management Qualification (PMQ)	PRINCE2® Practitioner	PMP (Certified Project Management Professional)
IPMA Level C Project Manager Project office manager (min. 3 years experience of managing non-complex projects)	APM Project Professional Qualification (PPQ) APM Practitioner Qualification (PQ)	None practically, although PRINCE2® Professional exists in theory	
IPMA Level B Senior project manager (typically min. 5 years managing complex projects)	Chartered Project Professional (ChPP)	None	None
IPMA Level A Project director Programme manager Programme director	Chartered Project Professional (ChPP)	MSP™ (Managing Successful Programmes)	PgMP (Certified Programme Management Professional)

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In addition to the above broad based project management qualifications and certifications, both the APM and APMG-International offer project risk management qualifications. Provek provide public and in-house risk management certification courses which includes the examination.

What are the benefits of achieving a qualification or certification?

Both an individual and the organisation they work for should benefit from an individual achieving a project management qualification or certification. Dependent upon the nature of the organisation and its business, some of the key potential benefits are as follows:

Benefits to the organisation:

- Best-practice knowledge, skills, tools and techniques acquired through the training necessary to achieve a qualification are deployed back in the work place.
- Improved capability and competence to deliver an organisation's programmes or projects, resulting in increasing customer satisfaction and reputation, saving costs, utilising resources more effectively and positively impacting morale.
- Supports individuals with their personal and career development planning. This in turn can result in increased appreciation of, and commitment to the organisation, by the individual.
- Catalyses improvements to an organisation's own project or programme management methods and processes through gaining an understanding of best-practice.
- Enhances the credibility of the organisation to own clients and customers through having project or programme staff that have achieved externally recognised certification or qualification.
- External recognition of an individual's project management knowledge and capabilities indicating a core level of embedded understanding, which is then likely to be applied back in the work place.

Benefits to the individual:

- Provides the individual with additional and portable knowledge, skills, tools and techniques in order to be more successful in managing and delivering projects or programmes.
- Enhances career development prospects through having achieved an externally recognized qualification or certification
- Demonstrates to the employer, the individual's desire, commitment and capabilities to learn and improve themselves, and thus improving an individual's reputation within the organisation.
- Provides an external industry-wide benchmark of an individual's project management knowledge and competence.

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How do I choose between APM or PRINCE or PMI qualifications?

The figure below is to assist in considering which qualification or certification awarding body to follow:

Factors to consider	APM 	Axelos 	PMI 
Syllabus based upon	APM Body of Knowledge 6 th Edition 2006	PRINCE2 Manual 2017 Edition MSP Manual 2011 Edition	PMIBOK 6 th Edition 2017
Geography	Mainly UK	UK and worldwide	US predominantly and worldwide
Professional membership available	Yes, but is not linked to qualifications	No	Yes, and requires PMP certification
Best-practice sharing and forums amongst members	Yes, through branch meetings, special interest groups (SIGs) and conferences	Online mostly	Yes, through regional chapter events
Other factors to consider	Qualifications fully aligned with the IPMA (International Project Management Association) Levels A to D APM has achieved Chartered Status and register of Chartered Project Professionals will be created (ChPP) in 2018	No longer requires re-registration exam to maintain Practitioner	Eligibility requirements to satisfy prior to sitting any exams based on education attainment, relevant training hours and project experience hours To retain certification status requires evidence of continuous professional development

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In addition to the above factors, also consider the relevance to your own organisation or industry sector:

- Consider if any of APM, PRINCE, MSP or PMI are already being deployed in own organisation.
- Consider project management approach or method most common for own clients and to lesser degree own suppliers.
- APM's BoK provides broadest range of project management topics including both soft and hard skills. Provides framework, principles and rationale for each critical area of project management, but not a prescribed method.
- PMI's PMBOK provides core processes for project management and also incorporates professional responsibility of practitioners.
- PRINCE2 provides a process-driven structured method for project management.
- MSP manual provides a framework for managing programmes.

