

PROJECT MANAGER

Degree Apprenticeship

Level 5 Entry

Online Delivery

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OVERVIEW

Welcome to this introduction to the University of Cumbria Online Project Manager Degree Apprenticeship.

The University of Cumbria and Provek have worked in partnership to guarantee direct entry to Level 5 of the Project Manager Degree Apprenticeship for applicants who have successfully completed the Level 4 Associate Project Manager Apprenticeship with Provek and meet the University entry requirements. Through this route applicants will be able to join directly into Level 5.

The educational components of the programme are designed specifically to be delivered entirely online and will enable learners to complete the Project Manager Degree Apprenticeship. It maps directly onto the knowledge, skills and behaviours identified in this apprenticeship standard and is also designed to cover the entirety of the Association for Project Management's (APM) Body of Knowledge (7th Ed). The Association for Project Management is the only chartered body for this profession with over 30,000 individual members and more than 500 organisations participating.

Learners will be provided with everything they need to know to successfully deliver projects in a range of business sectors and subject areas. Learners who successfully complete the programme will be eligible for membership status of the Association for Project Management.

The course content and structure are informed by contemporary research into project management as a discipline in its own right as well as incorporating advice and guidance from employers and the professional body for project management (the APM). The course teaching team were also closely involved in the development of the Degree Apprenticeship standard and thus understand the journey that learners will take from joining the programme to successfully graduating as a qualified Project Manager.

The programme has been successfully running at our Carlisle and Furness campuses, for Sellafield Ltd, their supply chain, and BAE Submarines respectively, and for Rolls Royce in Derby, since January 2019. Our first National Online cohorts started in September 2020.

BSc (Hons) PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Our Integrated Degree Apprenticeship allows learners to achieve a BSc (Hons) in Project Management and complete a Higher Level Apprenticeship at the same time, allowing them to develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to be a successful and accredited Project Manager. The programme covers areas such as:

- Development of robust business cases
- Governance of projects
- Project planning and control
- Stakeholder and communications management
- Schedule development and management
- Procurement and contract management
- Scope identification and management
- Risk identification and management
- Quality management
- Leading and managing teams

We will deliver a sound academic programme which will give apprentices, of all abilities and backgrounds, the opportunity to attain a degree level education. We'll provide learners with the theoretical knowledge and understanding of project management. This will help them develop as critical, reflective thinkers and life-long learners with the ability to recognise the value and place of both and their role in applying principles to practice.

Apprentices will be encouraged to see the links between theory and practice in the workplace, and develop knowledge, skills and behaviours progressively in line with the Project Manager Degree Apprenticeship Standard.

Please see <https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/courses/apprenticeships/project-management/> for further details on our programme, including a downloadable copy of the detailed Programme Specification.

CASE STUDY

Katie Powell, Project Manager Degree Apprentice

How long have you been studying at the University of Cumbria?

I have been studying at the University of Cumbria since September 2018 as part of my degree apprenticeship. My degree and apprenticeship qualification takes 4 years to complete. During my qualification, I learn the academic theory from the university and at the same time, I gain practical work experience with Sellafield Ltd.

How do you feel about your learning experience so far at the University of Cumbria?

I think studying with the university has definitely benefitted me. I always hoped to study towards a degree but the traditional university route didn't really appeal to me.

Personally, I learn much better when I can understand theory and apply it in the work place – so an apprenticeship was perfect for my learning style. I was able to work whilst studying and apply my knowledge in a real project environment.

The course is really well structured and clearly aligned to the Association for Project Management approach and Body of Knowledge – which is the key to project management theory.

Any final thoughts or guidance for anyone thinking about studying here at the University of Cumbria?

I would recommend studying with the University of Cumbria to anyone – the tutors are incredibly supportive and the project management qualification is a great mix of theory and practical experience.

PROGRAMME DESIGN

Our programme is designed to enable completion of the apprenticeship within the typical duration of 30-36 months approved for the Standard. Arrangements for part-time apprentices to take the course over a longer time can be planned on an individual basis.

Level 5

Project Performance Management	Develop appreciation of the tools and techniques of performance management with a specific focus on project management, the measurement of its performance and ways this can be improved.
Project Management Professionalism	Develop appreciation of project management as a profession, and of a professional body of knowledge and practice; explore the concepts of governance and corporate social responsibility.
Project Management Methodologies	Develop understanding of a range of project management methodologies.
Ensuring Project Quality	Explore and discuss the concept of quality, quality processes and what these mean in the context of projects and project management.
Professional Development II (40 credits)	Develop and reflect upon achievement of identified knowledge, skills and behaviours against a defined standard.

PROGRAMME DESIGN

Level 6

Programme and Portfolio Management	Develop ability to critically evaluate organisational approaches to the formation, management and control of programmes and portfolios and their relationship and interdependencies with projects.
Project Leadership	Develop ability to identify, evaluate and apply leadership styles taking into account aspects such as teams, project complexity, roles, organisational structure and internal and external stakeholders.
Governance, Change and Risk Management	Develop ability to critically evaluate project governance processes e.g. as used to develop standard project management practice, manage changes to scope and identify and manage risk.
Management and Control of Projects	Develop understanding of methods for managing activities and measuring and reporting progress.
Project Manager Degree Apprenticeship End Point Assessment (40 credits)	Complete the end-point assessment for the Project Manager Degree Apprenticeship standard.

All modules listed must be taken. All modules are worth 20 credits unless stated otherwise.

ONLINE LEARNING

Online learning at the University of Cumbria is an interactive experience that makes use of a range of technologies and media types to provide a rich learning environment.

The course will be delivered on a fixed day each week (similar to day-release provision) during which apprentices will engage with tutors and the other learners on the course. As far as possible we aim to replicate the physical classroom experience but with the advantage of being in any location. Apprentices can study anywhere with reliable access to the Internet and will benefit from sharing learning with others who are on a similar journey.

A typical day would begin with a tutor led introduction where learners will be told what is planned for the day. Following this apprentices will be directed into a range of learning activities depending upon the subject they are studying that day, typical activities include:

- Directed reading followed by Q&A sessions or formative tests
- Group discussions, sometimes with an expectation that learners will present back to the wider group
- Individual skills development sessions
- Using library resources (journals, e-books) for subject specific research and learning
- Preparation for assessments
- Viewing pre-prepared 'lectures' or slide-based content
- Using bespoke e-learning materials

Developing generic study skills to enable progress through the course and develop as a learner. Each day will include additional organised sessions with tutors, often around lunchtime to either report back on the morning's activities or to introduce the afternoon's activities and then usually a final Q&A session at the end of the day.

Each year of study will involve a series of modules that focus on particular aspects of Project Management. Each module is typically taught on its own (approximately 6 weeks), to enable study to be focussed on a single subject and one set of assessments. At level 5 there will also be a year-long Portfolio building module that sits alongside the main subjects.

The University of Cumbria makes extensive use of Blackboard Collaborate that will enable and enrich the learning experience.

ADMISSIONS

This programme has been designed to enable direct entry into Level 5 of the Project Manager Degree Apprenticeship, for candidates that have successfully completed a Level 4 Associate Project Manager Apprenticeship with Provek. In addition, candidates must meet the University's normal requirements for entry to the academic programme and should have 96 UCAS points plus Maths and English at GCSE C/4 or above.

More information about UCAS tariff points can be found at <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/entry-requirements/ucas-tariff-points>. Individual employers will set the selection criteria for their apprenticeships.

Most candidates will have A levels (or equivalent) or existing relevant Level 3 qualifications, and English, Maths and ICT at Level 2. Other relevant qualifications or prior experience may also be considered as an alternative.

As part of admission processes, prospective apprentices complete an Individual Learning Needs Assessment (ILNA), rating themselves against the requirements of the standard to ensure that their programme is tailored to their learning needs. For example, some learners may have already completed their APM Project Management Qualification (or equivalent) and need not attend this part of the course.

EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITIES

The employer is responsible for providing the apprentice with the opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours (KSBs) from the standard in the workplace. The taught content provides most of the knowledge, together with opportunities for discussion with tutors and the basis of portfolio building.

However, it is the workplace learning that provides the opportunity to build and evidence the knowledge, skills and behaviours. Consequently, the employer must ensure that the apprentice has sufficient off the job time in the workplace for this – at least half of the 20% off the job learning will take place in the workplace – as well as placement opportunities to allow the learner to develop and evidence the KSBs across all areas of the standard.

The apprentice will need to have an appointed mentor in the workplace who guides them in development of the knowledge, skills and behaviours, ensures they have the opportunity to progress, and who will participate in the quarterly review meetings with the apprentice and our apprentice tutor. The employer is responsible for the Gateway assessment, determining whether the apprentice is ready to progress to End Point Assessment.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Our website

<https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/courses/apprenticeships/project-management/>

Email us

ibil@cumbria.ac.uk

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