

# Royal Holloway, University of London

## Course specification for a postgraduate award

### MSc Software Project Management

#### Section 1 – Introduction to your course

This course specification is a formal document, which provides a summary of the main features of your course and the learning outcomes that you might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if you take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. Further information is contained in the College prospectus, and in various handbooks, all of which you will be able to access online. Alternatively, further information on the College's academic regulations and policies can be found [here](#). Further information on the College's Admissions Policy can be found [here](#).

The MSc Software Project Management Course will recruit students with a first degree in Science, Engineering, Technology or Management fields of study, who wish to find employment in a range of management roles within the fast growing technology sector, particularly in those markets which are or are likely to experience rapid expansion over the coming years. The course provides students with essential knowledge, skills and tools to enter into and build successful senior management careers in software project management, right across the fast growing digital and technology sectors.

The MSc Software Project Management course has been developed from our successful MSc Project Management course. The course is focussed on the software and digital industries ensuring that students are given a great base knowledge in Project Management before being given a comprehensive view of the methods of product creation and delivery, vital to managing digital projects in a fast changing environment.

The course is delivered over one year of full-time study (52 weeks) or up to five years of part-time study (260 weeks). Teaching takes place during the day over two terms from September to April. The dissertation is submitted in September. Whilst being a self-contained degree in its own right, each module provides suitable and recognised qualifications for entry to PhD study in the same or a closely related field.

While Royal Holloway keeps all the information made available under review, courses and the availability of individual modules, especially optional modules are necessarily subject to change at any time, and you are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect your decision to follow a specific course. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform you as soon as is practicable of any significant changes which might affect your studies.

The following is brief description for some of the most important terminology for understanding the content of this document:

*Degree course* – Also referred to as 'course', this term refers to the qualification you will be awarded upon successful completion of your studies. 'Courses' were formerly known as 'programmes' at Royal Holloway.

*Module* – This refers to the credits you will study each year to complete your degree course. . Postgraduate taught degrees at Royal Holloway comprise 180 credits. On some degree courses a certain number of optional modules must be passed for a particular degree title. 'Modules' were formerly known as 'course units' at Royal Holloway.

Section 2 – Course details			
Date of specification update	October 2021	Location of study	Egham
Course award and title	MSc Software Project Management	Level of study	Postgraduate
Course code	3604	Year of entry	2022/23
Awarding body	Royal Holloway, University of London		
Department/ School	Electronic Engineering, School of Engineering, Physical and Mathematical Sciences	Other departments or schools involved in teaching the course	Computer Science, School of Engineering, Physical and Mathematical Sciences
Mode(s) of attendance	Full Time and Part Time	Duration of the course	One year (52 weeks) full-time Two to five years (104 - -260 weeks) part-time
Accrediting Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body requirement(s)	N/A	For queries on admissions:	<a href="mailto:study@royalholloway.ac.uk">study@royalholloway.ac.uk</a> .
Link to Coursefinder for further information:	<a href="https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/">https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/</a>		

Section 3 – Degree course structure				
3.1 Mandatory module information				
The following table summarises the mandatory modules which students must take in each year of study				
Module code	Module title	Credits	FHEQ level	Module status
PM5001	Introduction to Project Management	10	7	MNC
PM5003	Information Technology Project Management	10	7	MC
PM5004	International Strategic and Technology Management	20	7	MNC
PM5010	Business Research Methods	10	7	MC
PM5005	Advanced Applied Project Management and Planning	10	7	MC
PM5041	Information Systems and IT Governance	20	7	MNC
CS5504	Business Intelligence Systems, Infrastructures and Technologies	20	7	MC
PM5042	Software Engineering	20	7	MNC
PM5018	Dissertation project	60	7	MNC
<p>This table sets out the most important information for the mandatory modules on your degree course. These modules are central to achieving your learning outcomes, so they are compulsory, and all students on your degree course will be required to take them. You will be automatically registered for these modules. Mandatory modules fall into two categories; 'condonable' or 'non-condonable'.</p> <p>In the case of mandatory 'non-condonable' (MNC) modules, you must pass the module to successfully graduate with a particular degree title, or before you can proceed to the next year of your course where studying part-time. In the case of mandatory 'condonable' (MC) modules, these must be taken but you can still progress or graduate even if you do not pass them (see <a href="#">Academic Regulations</a> on condonable fails). Please note that although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, changes to your degree course may be made where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events. For example; where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies have changed and course requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of external advisors, to enhance academic provision.</p>				

<b>3.2 Optional modules</b>			
<p>In addition to mandatory modules, there will be a number of optional modules available during the course of your degree. The following table lists a selection of optional modules that are likely to be available. However, not all may be available every year. Although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, new options may be offered or existing ones may be withdrawn. For example; where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events, where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs) have changed and course requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of External Advisors, to enhance academic provision. There may be additional requirements around option selection, please contact the department of <a href="#">Electronic Engineering</a> and department of <a href="#">Computer Science</a> for further information.</p>			
<b>Optional modules.</b>			
<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>
N/A			
<b>3.3 Optional module requirements</b>			
There are no optional modules on this degree course.			

#### Section 4 - Progressing through each year of your degree course

Progression throughout the year/s is monitored through performance in oral presentations, contributions to seminar discussion and coursework. Students will automatically progress onto the dissertation project but may still be awarded an exit award should they fail to achieve a pass/condonable pass across all of the modules in the taught phase.

For further information on the progression and award requirements for your degree, please refer to Royal Holloway's [Academic Regulations](#).

Please note that if you hold a Tier 4 (General) Student Visa and you choose to leave (or are required to leave because of non-progression) or complete early (before the course end date stated on your CAS), then this will be reported to UKVI.

The MSc Software Project Management Course can be taken as a part time course which can run over two to five years (104 - 260 weeks). The exact timescale for a part time applicants study will be agreed between the applicant and the Course Director prior to the start of the applicants study.

## Section 5 – Educational aims of the course

The aims of this course are to:

- To provide students with a knowledge of different project management frameworks, with a focus on the agile software methodology, which will allow students to go on to manage various projects in a real world setting.
- To provide students with a holistic understanding of fundamental concepts and interrelationships between the business function, operating environment, key governance processes and software systems.
- To foster an independent learning ability and an enquiring mind required for continuing professional development.
- To equip students with an impressive range of sector-specific practical tools and skills that are applicable in industry alongside wider transferable skills.
- To provide training in business research techniques and methods in the field of study.

Section 6 – Course learning outcomes	
In general terms, the courses provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes. ( <i>Categories – Knowledge and understanding (K), Skills and other attributes (S), and Transferable skills (*)</i> )	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Comprehensive understanding of a range of project management tools and frameworks, with a focus on software based agile methodology. (K)(S)(*)</li> <li>2. Fully understand the disruptive technology analytical framework, and the strategic implications of disruptive technologies for the leading incumbent corporations and new entrants in all engineering, technology and manufacturing sectors and consumer goods industries; (K)</li> <li>3. Fully understand the methods and tools of technology integration R&amp;D teams integrating rapid technological advance, new product development and the ability to enter markets on time with products robust to market context; (K)</li> <li>4. Understand the fundamentals of the Prince 2 professional qualification and apply this methodology to Software Project Management; (*) (k)</li> <li>5. Gain an advanced knowledge of a variety of tools, techniques and new technology approaches applicable to the specific field of project management; (*) (K)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. The articulation of knowledge and the understanding of tools, concepts and theories relating to the chosen area of Project Management at an advanced level; (K) (S)</li> <li>7. Obtain an in-depth understanding of the fundamental concepts of development and software engineering and some of the managerial aspects of the discipline. (K)</li> <li>8. Understand the role and processes of software design theory and be able to apply the relevant concepts at a small scale. (S) (*)</li> <li>9. To comprehend the various characteristics of software systems and their relationships from different perspectives, namely business, functional, architectural and technological.(S)(K)</li> <li>10. Learn to apply logical thinking and judgement to solve problems and make decisions based on available fact. (S) (*)</li> <li>11. Understand and evaluate the concepts, terminology and architectures of Data Warehouses and BI solutions and have hands-on experience with industrial business intelligence tools.(K)</li> <li>12. Gain knowledge and understanding from the use of a range of subject specific case studies including examples from companies and organisations from across the world and not limited to examples from “western” cultures.</li> </ol>

Section 7 - Teaching, learning and assessment	
Teaching and learning in the courses are closely informed by a mix of active academic research staff and experienced practitioners working in the related industries. In general terms, the courses provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge of both core subject material and specialised practice areas, and for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes. Teaching and learning is mostly by means of lectures, seminars, supervised laboratory work, group projects, coursework assignments, a supervised individual project, and guided independent study. Assessment of knowledge and understanding is typically by coursework assignments, examinations, and a dissertation. Details of the assessments for individual courses can be obtained from the <a href="#">Module Catalogue</a> .	

Section 8 – Additional costs	
These estimated costs relate to studying this particular degree course at Royal Holloway. General costs such as accommodation, food, books and other learning materials and printing etc., have not been included, but further information is available on our <a href="#">website</a> .	

Section 9 – Indicators of quality and standards	
<b>QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level</b>	7
Your course is designed in accordance with the FHEQ to ensure your qualification is awarded on the basis of nationally established standards of achievement, for both outcomes and attainment. The qualification descriptors within the FHEQ set out the generic outcomes and attributes expected for the award of individual qualifications. The qualification descriptors contained in the FHEQ exemplify the outcomes and attributes expected of learning that results in the award of higher education qualifications. These outcomes represent the integration of various learning experiences resulting from designated and coherent courses of study.	
<b>QAA Characteristics Statement (Master’s Degrees) – September 2015</b>	<a href="https://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/quality-code/supporting-resources">https://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/quality-code/supporting-resources</a>
Subject benchmark statements provide a means for the academic community to describe the nature and characteristics of courses in a specific subject or subject area. They also represent general expectations about standards for the award of qualifications at a given level in terms of the attributes and capabilities that those possessing qualifications should have demonstrated.	



## Section 10 – Further information

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate when taking full advantage of the learning opportunities that are available. More detailed information on modules, including teaching and learning methods, and methods of assessment, can be found via the online module catalogue. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed regularly by the university, and may also be checked routinely by external agencies.

Your course will be reviewed regularly, both by the university as part of its cyclical quality enhancement processes, and/or by your department or school, who may wish to make improvements to the curriculum, or in response to resource planning. As such, your course may be revised during the course of your study at Royal Holloway. However, your department or school will take reasonable steps to consult with students via appropriate channels when considering changes. All continuing students will be routinely informed of any significant changes.

## Section 11 – Intermediate exit awards (where available)

You may be eligible for an intermediate exit award if you complete part of the course as detailed in this document. Any additional criteria (e.g. mandatory modules, credit requirements) for intermediate awards is outlined in the sections below.

Award	Criteria	Awarding body
PG Diploma	Passes in at least 120 credits, with fails of between 40% to 49% for up to 40 credits condonable (with the exception of any course specific requirements).	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College
PG Certificate	Passes in at least 60 credits with no condonable fails	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College

## Section 12 - Associated award(s) with Banner Codes

MSc Software Project Management (3604)	
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PGDip Software Project Management (exit award) (3605)	
PGCert Software Project Management (exit award) (3606)	