

Programme Specification

MSc Project Management (full-time)	PFTZPRJMANHM
MSc Project Management (flexible-modular)	PPTZPRJMANFM
MSc Project Management with Industry Placement (full-time)	PFTZPMANWYHM

For students entering in 2027/28

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	MSc Project Management (full-time) - 12 months MSc Project Management (flexible-modular) - 24 months MSc Project Management with Industry Placement (full-time) - 24 months
Accreditation	Association for Project Management (APM) Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
Programme Start Dates	September for full-time and flexible-modular February for full-time and flexible modular
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	N/A

Programme information and content

The aim of the programme is to provide a coherent framework for the discipline and practice of project management. The distinctive focus of the programme is on the strategic management of construction projects, programmes and portfolios. A particular emphasis is given to the early stages of construction projects and the interface with complex client systems.

Each module includes sessions delivered by leading practitioners. The programme is continually informed not only by the latest developments in industry, but also by on-going international research. A recurring theme throughout the programme concerns the dynamic nature of construction projects. Not only is it necessary to set clear objectives at the beginning of a project, it is also important for the objectives to appropriately evolve to accommodate fluid project constraints and requirements. A further theme is the need for project managers to provide leadership. This requires a high level of interpersonal skill to motivate diverse team members towards the realisation of project success. Effective project management requires a sound knowledge of technical and process tools and techniques. It also requires an ability to think strategically. Traditional notions of 'command and control' must be matched with an ability to manage 'soft' issues. People management is central to the art of project management.

For the MSc Project Management with Industry placement, the first year of the MSc is the taught modules, which are the same as the standard MSc Project Management. After the first year, once the students met the minimum requirements for pass in the standard MSc (Please see the Classifications in this document for the requirements of Pass (or above)), they will start the placement in November of the second year. Please note that the onus to secure a placement is upon the student but support will be provided by the School, primarily through the Placement module. The aim of the placement year is to apply the knowledge that the students gain in their first year of MSc in a relevant industry role. Students graduating from this programme will have the opportunity to showcase their capabilities and knowledge to the employers for an enhanced chance of securing a permanent position in the industry either within the UK or anywhere else in the world.

Programme Learning Outcomes

-MSc Project Management (full-time)

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

	Learning outcomes
1	Generate, explore and analyse management strategies and operational responses in a project management environment.
2	Evaluate risk and generate value in a project management environment.
3	Understanding of the design process in construction and its implications for on-site production, and the tools and techniques used for its management in a wide range of project contexts.
4	Describe, evaluate and apply the theory and practices of human resource management and their impact on organisational and individual performance.
5	Identify and assess appropriate business systems that effectively integrate management in a project environment.
6	Evaluate the role of contracts in the governance of the project team, the procurement and management of construction projects, methods of procurement for construction work and the role of client organisations.
7	Convey and reflect on the importance of sustainability in terms of key social, environmental and economic pressures and opportunities for action in the built environment.
8	Evaluate how complex projects are effectively managed through the use of valuable transferrable skills in leadership, active listening, organisation and communication; and formulate an approach to communication that co-ordinate, influences and inspires project participants in a cooperative and purposeful manner.
9	The learning outcome for students who study the MSc PM with placement: Application of the knowledge gained in the taught modules of the first year in a relevant industry role in the second year with critical reflections on the challenges associated with the application of theory in practice.

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

Module information

Compulsory modules

Module	Name	Credits	Level
CEM10A	Research Skills	20	M
CEM10B	Research Dissertation	40	M
CEM610	Principles of Sustainable Construction	20	M
CEM620	Managing Construction Projects and the Offsite Interface	20	M
CEM630	Construction Contract Law and Procurement	20	M
CEM680	Infrastructure Development and Appraisal	20	M
CEM690	Advanced Project Management	20	M

The MSc Project Management has one optional module.

Year 2 modules

Module	Name	Credits	Level
CEM500	Industry Placement	180	M

The Year 2 compulsory module CEM500 is only for students who are on the placement version of the programme.

The optional modules for the programme with placement is exactly the same as the standard programme.

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

This programme may be taken on a flexible-modular basis, normally over 24 months for September and February starts up to a maximum of 63 months.

The MSc Programme with placement is offered only on a full-time basis.

Placement opportunities

The standard MSc Programme does not have any formal arrangements for study abroad or placement.

The MSc with Industry Placement has one year of placement in the construction industry within UK.

Study abroad opportunities

There are no formal arrangements for study abroad.

Optional modules

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

The optional modules for the programme with placement is exactly the same as the standard programme.

Teaching and learning delivery

The programme is delivered face-to-face on campus through a combination of instructor-led and student-led learning and teaching approaches including lectures (by both University staff and guest speakers from industry), site visits, seminars, tutorials, group work and interactive sessions depending on the modules chosen.

In the MSc with industry placement, the students will be visited in their place of work during their placement by the Placement module convenor once per semester to ensure the processes are meeting the quality standards and they students are given the opportunity to make the most of their placement.

Elements of your programme will be delivered in conjunction with the use of University's online learning and teaching platforms (i.e. Blackboard).

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

The MSc Project Management programme is accredited by the Chartered Institute of Building, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and the APM's Chartered Project Professional (ChPP) Recognised Assessment via route 1 (for assessments meeting the requirements for technical knowledge).

For the MSc with Placement, accreditation is to be sought from the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB), Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and Association for Project Management (APM)

Assessment

The general assessment pattern for the programme is by coursework. There are no written examinations in this programme. Each 20-credit module will typically have two major assignments. Assessment is through a combination of written reports, essays, class tests, group projects, oral examinations, digital deliverables, and the research dissertation. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

The assessment of the MSc with Industry placement during the first year is exactly the same as the standard MSc. The assessment of the placement year is based on a report that is graded as fail or pass.

Progression

The students on the MSc with Industry placement need to meet the minimum requirements of the pass in their first year (from taught modules and the dissertation) to be eligible to start the placement. Should the students fail to meet the minimum requirements of Pass, they will be reverted to the standard programme to have the opportunity to graduate with either a Postgraduate Diploma or a Postgraduate Certificate. If the student meets the minimum requirements and proceed with the placement year but fail the Industry Placement module, they will revert to the programme without the Industry Placement module and will be awarded the main programme without 'with Industry Placement' in the title.

Classification

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

Mark Interpretation

70 - 100% Distinction

60 - 69% Merit

50 - 59% Good standard (Pass)

Failing categories:

40 - 49% Work below threshold standard

0 - 39% Unsatisfactory Work

For Master's Degree

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Master's degree:

Award of a Master's degree

- (i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 180 credits
- (ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 120 credits

- (iii) no credits with a mark below 40%
- (iv) a mark of 50% or more for the Dissertation

Students on the placement version of the programme: (v) must achieve a pass in the Industry Placement module (CEM500).

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Master's degree, the following **further** conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction

An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 180 credits

OR

an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 180 credits and marks of 70% in at least 90 credits

AND

Where the dissertation is included in the conditions for the award of a Master's degree, a mark of at least 60% in the dissertation

AND

No marks below 40%.

Merit

An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 180 credits

OR

an overall average of 58% or more over 180 credits and marks of 60% in at least 90 credits

AND

No marks below 40%.

For Postgraduate Diploma

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma:

Award of a Postgraduate Diploma

- (i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 120 credits
- (ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 80 credits
- (iii) no credits with a mark below 40%

The qualification of PG Diploma excludes CEM10A and CEM10B. Where the conditions for a higher class have been met, the higher class should be awarded.

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma, the following further conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction

An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 120 credits

OR

an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 120 credits and marks of 70% in at least 60 credits

AND

No marks below 40%.

Merit

An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 120 credits

OR

an overall average of 58% or more over 120 credits and marks of 60% in at least 60 credits

AND

No marks below 40%.

For Postgraduate Certificate

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate:

Award of a Postgraduate Certificate

(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 60 credits

(ii) No credits with a mark below 40%.

The qualification of PG Certificate excludes CEM10A and CEM10B.

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the [Assessment Handbook](#) under:

- Section 19: Awards: Postgraduate Master's, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate

Please note that there may be a specific version for your year of entry.

Additional costs of the programme

Students need to purchase a pair of safety boots with steel toe caps for construction site visits which cost around £50.

Where applicable, core textbooks recommended for student purchase may cost around £15 to £25 per module; there may be other books/resources which you would find it convenient to buy. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A wide range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks, more specialist studies, and electronic resources, are available through the library.

For the MSc with Industry placement, the costs of commute to the placement are not included in here. This may vary depending on its location. Some firms might reimburse the travel expenses but that is not guaranteed.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2026.

Students may consider purchasing a laptop to help support their learning. Information on recommended device specifications can be found on the [DTS Student Hub](#).

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

MSc Project Management (full-time) for students entering in session 2027/28

23 July 2026

© The University of Reading 2026