



**UNIVERSITY OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH  
CARIBBEAN**  
*Fostering Leadership & Innovation*

# **MBA Project Management Specialisation**

Programme Information  
Document



# MBA Project Management Specialisation

## Programme Information Document

University of the Commonwealth Caribbean

**This specialisation consists of four specialist courses, each carrying 3 credits, for a total of 12 credits.**

The specialisation is structured to build sequentially across the programme. Participants are encouraged to take the courses in the following order: MGT641, MGT642, MGT643, and MGT644. It is recommended that participants begin with Project Management (MGT641) and submit the Final Project Document at the end of Project Closing and Final Project Document (MGT644).

## Specialist Course Overview

Course Code	Course Title	Credits
MGT641	Project Management	3
MGT642	Project Planning: Strategies and Systems	3
MGT643	Project Execution: Tools and Techniques	3
MGT644	Project Closing and Final Project Document	3
<b>Total Specialisation Credits</b>		<b>12</b>

## Course Summaries

### PROJECT MANAGEMENT

**MGT641**

#### Rationale

Most organisations are not project-based operations and have to consistently make decisions on which aspects of business development should be segregated into a project focus. The course will provide students with the factors which influence those decisions and the subsequent interrelationship of projects within the organisation.

This course focuses on the key concerns project professionals face today. These men and women operate in an environment dominated by chaos and uncertainty. Their jobs are undergoing tremendous transformation as companies and organisations undertake radical efforts at corporate engineering under pressure to make the leap towards greater productivity, provide more with less, create superior customer value, and implement new and innovative processes supported by modern information systems.

To help project managers function effectively in the new environment, this course will equip participants to clearly define projects and to align results with the goals of the organisation, manage project resources to ensure success, use basic project management tools and techniques to successfully complete projects, and create and maintain a comprehensive project plan with the assistance of project application software.

#### Course Description

The course addresses the principles which govern the practice of Project Management and the application of these principles to case studies drawn from actual implemented projects. While focus is appropriately placed on the quantitative aspects of Project Management practices, the influence of qualitative factors too often receives less focus; this course will place appropriate emphasis on these qualitative factors, including Leadership, Human Resource Management, and the issues of Power in the process of managing Projects.

The course commences with an environmental context, exposing the traditional framework of Projects and Project types before exploring the knowledge areas of Project Management and their application. All areas of Project Management covered in the course will be referenced to the respective case studies for discussion and a view of the diverse approaches to project development and management. The course completes the knowledge base with the use of Project application software in demonstrating this tool in the management of a project. Upon successful completion of this course, learners would have moved beyond the traditional concern with time, budget and specifications and developed broader core competencies of effective project professionals, including scope management, time management, human resource management, cost management, quality management, contract/procurement management, communication management and risk management.

#### General Objectives

To demonstrate an advanced understanding of and successfully apply project management topics and concepts to improve project success.

At the end of the course, the students will be able to:

- Explain the conceptual relationships between Project Cycle, Project Phases and Project Processes and the strategic relevance of each in the Project Management Framework.
- Apply the major principles which guide the practice of Project Management and demonstrate how these principles are integrated and interrelated in the Project Cycle.

- Examine the internal and external impact of variables within organisations and explain how these impact Project Management.
- Discuss the importance of Project Management as a tool of organisational strategy.
- Explain the impact of qualitative factors on Project Management success.
- Utilise Project application software in Project Management.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the limitations of Project Management in guaranteeing success.

## PROJECT PLANNING: STRATEGIES AND SYSTEMS

MGT642

### Rationale

This course builds knowledge and skills in the planning and management of projects and programmes. It is designed to deepen critical understanding of the strategies, processes, techniques and issues involved in taking ideas for development and turning them into practical realities with identifiable outcomes and benefits.

The course provides an excellent basis for career enhancement or conversion for those with interest and experience in projects management and planning. The focus of the course is on projects planning and allows individuals working in both public and private organisations to be able to lead the planning process for all types of projects, including those for commercial benefit.

### Course Description

The course addresses the principles which govern the practice of Project Management Planning. The course takes a holistic approach to determine how to plan projects and the various strategies that are used to effectively plan projects. The course also assesses case studies, outlining various systems within which projects must be effectively and efficiently planned through their life cycles and within their scopes and contexts. This course provides students with several project management techniques, tools and approaches to apply when planning projects. Appropriate emphasis is also placed on qualitative factors, including Leadership, Human Resource Management, and the issues of Power in the process of Planning Projects.

### General Objectives

On completion of the course, students will demonstrate an advanced understanding of and critically examine:

- The discipline of project and programme management, within an overall appreciation of the nature and purpose of projects.
- The principles and practice of project planning, design, preparation, and appraisal techniques for projects in a development context.
- The theory and practice of management skills for project and programme management, focusing particularly on hard and soft skills for successful project implementation.

## PROJECT EXECUTION: TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES

**MGT643**

### Rationale

Most organisations are not project-based operations and have to consistently make decisions on which aspects of business development should be segregated into a project focus. The course will provide students with knowledge, skills, tools and techniques for the effective execution of projects. It is designed to deepen critical understanding of the strategies, processes, techniques and issues involved in taking ideas for development and turning them into practical realities with identifiable outcomes and benefits.

The course provides an excellent basis for career enhancement or conversion for those with interest and experience in projects management. The focus of the course is on projects execution and the techniques and tools that may be used to efficiently and effectively execute projects.

### Course Description

The course addresses the principles which govern the practice of Project Management and the application of these principles to case studies and other real-world scenarios to enhance the students' learning experience. While the course provides a high-level review of the entire project management domain, the focus of this course is the execution phase or process of project management. The course is designed to equip students with vital skills and knowledge for successful project execution, monitoring, control, and to some extent the closing out of the project. Practical strategies and engaging exercises support a dynamic learning experience.

By actively participating in this dynamic learning experience, students gain a deeper understanding of project execution and learn effective techniques for monitoring and controlling project progress. The course also explores essential aspects of project close-out, ensuring that projects are concluded efficiently and in alignment with organisational goals.

Upon successful completion of this course, learners would have moved beyond the traditional concern with time, budget and specifications, and developed broader core competencies focused on the effective and efficient execution of projects leading to successful close out and the meeting of the overall project objectives.

### General Objectives

To understand and successfully apply project management topics and concepts to improve project success.

At the end of the course, the students will be able to:

- Explain what aspects of a project require tracking and the tools and techniques that may be applied to track various aspects or phases of a project.
- Demonstrate understanding of what is required to effectively manage project dependencies, changes and risks and how to communicate critical risks to stakeholders.
- Explain the conceptual relationships between the Project Life-Cycle and the Project Execution Phase and its relationship with other Project Processes.
- Explain the strategic importance of projects and the project execution phase in supporting business objectives.
- Apply different tools of project management, both computerised and manual.
- Monitor, assess, and evaluate project outcomes.

## PROJECT CLOSING AND FINAL PROJECT DOCUMENT

**MGT644**

### Rationale

This course builds knowledge and skills in the closing and management of projects and programmes. It is designed to deepen critical understanding of the strategies, processes, techniques and issues involved in ensuring that a project is properly closed out and the objectives of the project are met.

The course provides an excellent basis for career enhancement or conversion for those with interest and experience in projects management. The focus of the course is on project closing and allows individuals working in both public and private organisations to be able to lead the closing-out process for all types of projects, including those for commercial benefit.

### Course Description

The course addresses the principles which govern the practice of Project Management and the Project Close-Out Phase. The course takes a holistic approach to determine how to close projects and the various strategies that are used to effectively close projects. The course also assesses case studies, outlining various systems within which projects must be effectively and efficiently closed out at the end of the life cycle and within their scope and context. This course provides students with several project management techniques, tools and approaches to apply when closing projects.

### General Objectives

On completion of the course, students will understand and examine critically:

- The discipline of project and programme management, within an overall appreciation of the nature and purpose of projects.
- The principles and practice of project closing and the documentation required to close a project whether it has met its objectives fully or not.
- The theory and practice of management skills for project closing, focusing particularly on hard and soft skills for successful project closure.