

PROJECT MANAGER



JOB DESCRIPTION

Project managers work in a range of industries to ensure that projects are completed on time and to budget. In this role, you will need to draw upon organizational and interpersonal skills to agree the project's goals with your client, draft a plan, identify risks, and assemble a team of consultants and specialists to carry out the work. You then monitor the progress of the project until its goals have been achieved.



SALARY

Project manager ★★☆☆☆
Senior project manager ★★★★★

INDUSTRY PROFILE

Good pay levels • Opportunities in public and private sectors • Key role in a wide range of industries • Size and number of available projects depends on state of economy

▼ RELATED CAREERS

- ▶ **MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT** *see pp. 84–85*
- ▶ **EVENTS MANAGER** *see pp. 88–89*
- ▶ **SYSTEMS ANALYST** *see pp. 120–121*
- ▶ **CONSTRUCTION MANAGER** *see pp. 204–205*

By 2012, the number of project managers awarded Project Management Professional status had reached 470,000 around the world.

AT A GLANCE



YOUR INTERESTS Business Studies • Economics • Management • Accounting • Information Technology (IT) • Mathematics • English • Psychology



ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS A degree in project- or business-management, or in a subject directly relevant to the industry, is required.



LIFESTYLE Project managers generally work longer hours than project staff in order to ensure that the project hits targets and deadlines.



LOCATION Managers often alternate between an office and a project site, which may be outdoors. Local and international travel are common.



THE REALITIES The job may involve changing location, colleagues, and clients for each new project. Inactivity while awaiting a new project can be frustrating.

CAREER PATHS

Most project managers hold a degree related to the sector in which they work, or a certificate in business administration. They usually specialize in managing projects in one sector, such as Information Technology (IT) or construction.

ASSISTANT This role enables you to learn on the job by lending support to project managers.



GRADUATE A bachelor's degree followed by a graduate degree in project management offers you the best way into this career.



PROJECT MANAGER

After gaining experience of supervising and managing projects, you can choose to specialize in one of a number of sectors. You can also seek sponsorship from your employer to study for Project Management Professional status (see left).



CONSERVATION PROJECT MANAGER

Plans, oversees, and delivers projects, such as breeding programs or habitat protection, for wildlife trusts, conservation bodies, or environmental agencies.



ARTS PROJECT MANAGER

Supervises and delivers arts-related ventures, such as community arts projects, installations and exhibitions, and arts-education projects.



IT PROJECT MANAGER

Coordinates IT projects, such as installing or upgrading computer systems, networks, hardware, and software for new or existing businesses and organizations.



CONSTRUCTION PROJECT MANAGER

Oversees the successful delivery of construction projects, such as new housing, highways, airports, or retail parks.



ENGINEERING PROJECT MANAGER

Manages engineering projects, such as the building of railroads, bridges, power stations, telecommunications systems, and energy networks.

SKILLS GUIDE



Strong written and verbal skills for briefing teams and making progress reports.



The ability to coordinate, lead, and monitor a diverse team with different skills and specialties.



Excellent numerical and statistical skills for planning budgets and managing accounts.



Strong computer skills for using project-management planning and monitoring software.



Excellent problem-solving skills to find effective and timely solutions to problems.