

Unit 26: Manage a Project

Unit reference number: R/506/1999

QCF level: 4

Credit value: 7

Guided learning hours: 38

Unit type: Competence

Unit summary

In this unit, you will learn how to plan and manage a project and evaluate its effectiveness. You will gain an understanding of project management principles, methodologies and tools and techniques that may be used in any business.

You will develop an understanding of what constitutes a project, the skills needed to plan the activities needed to carry out the project, including how to carry out a cost-benefit analysis and risk assessment, and how to conduct project reviews. You will also understand how the project fits into the organisational environment.

Learning outcomes and assessment criteria

To pass this unit, the learner needs to demonstrate that they can meet all the learning outcomes for the unit. The assessment criteria outline the requirements the learner is expected to meet to achieve the unit.

Learning outcomes	Assessment criteria
<p>1 Understand the management of a project</p>	<p>1.1 Explain how to carry out a cost-benefit analysis for a project</p> <p>1.2 Evaluate the use of risk analysis techniques</p> <p>1.3 Evaluate project planning and management tools and techniques</p> <p>1.4 Evaluate the impact of changes to project scope, schedule, finance, risk, quality and resources</p> <p>1.5 Analyse the requirements of project governance arrangements</p>
<p>2 Be able to plan a project</p>	<p>2.1 Analyse how a project fits with an organisation's overall vision, objectives, plans and programmes of work</p> <p>2.2 Agree the objectives and scope of proposed projects with stakeholders</p> <p>2.3 Assess the interdependencies and potential risks within a project</p> <p>2.4 Develop a project plan with specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound (SMART) objectives, key performance indicators (KPIs) and evaluations mechanisms appropriate to the plan</p> <p>2.5 Develop proportionate and targeted plans to manage identified risks and contingencies</p> <p>2.6 Apply project lifecycle approaches to the progress of a project</p>

Learning outcomes	Assessment criteria
<p>3 Be able to manage a project</p>	<p>3.1 Allocate resources in accordance with the project plan</p> <p>3.2 Brief project team members on their roles and responsibilities</p> <p>3.3 Implement plans within agreed budgets and timescales</p> <p>3.4 Communicate the requirements of the plans to those who will be affected</p> <p>3.5 Revise plans in the light of changing circumstances in accordance with project objectives and identified risks</p> <p>3.6 Keep stakeholders up to date with developments and problems</p> <p>3.7 Complete close-out actions in accordance with project plans</p> <p>3.8 Adhere to organisational policies and procedures, legal and ethical requirements when managing a project</p>
<p>4 Be able to evaluate the effectiveness of a project</p>	<p>4.1 Conduct periodic reviews of the progress and effectiveness of a project using information from a range of sources</p> <p>4.2 Evaluate the effectiveness of capturing and managing project-related knowledge</p> <p>4.3 Report on the effectiveness of plans</p>

Unit amplification

AC1.1: Explain how to carry out a cost-benefit analysis for a project

- *Project management*: business case; stages in project life cycle, i.e. initiation, planning, execution, closure and evaluation; roles and responsibilities, e.g. project manager, project sponsor, project team members
- *Cost-benefit analysis*: definition (appraisal technique); purpose, e.g. assessing costs and benefits to determine the rate of return, evaluate project outcomes; analysis process including, identifying costs (physical and human resources, time) and benefits (tangible and intangible revenues) over project lifetime, allocating monetary value to costs and benefits, comparing value of costs and benefits; breakeven points; payback period

AC1.2: Evaluate the use of risk analysis techniques

- *Risk analysis*: qualitative techniques, e.g. probability and impact matrix (low, high rating), risk urgency assessment, risk categorisation, expert judgement; quantitative techniques, e.g. schedule risk analysis, sensitivity analysis, severity assessment, modelling and simulation; use of documentation, e.g. risk log

AC1.3: Evaluate project planning and management tools and techniques

- *Project management tools and techniques*: e.g. checklists/activity lists; project work plans; charting, e.g. Gantt Load; analysis, e.g. PERT, critical paths; risk management logs; dependencies, responsibilities

AC1.4: Evaluate the impact of changes to project scope, schedule, finance, risk, quality and resources

- *Impact of changes*: contingency plans e.g. increase resources, change methods; degree to which critical success factors are met; achievement of performance measures; positive outcomes; negative outcomes; implications i.e. internal, external; potential future developments, e.g. short term, long term

AC1.5: Analyse the requirements of project governance arrangements

- *Governance*: definition - set of policies, regulations, functions, processes, procedures and responsibilities that define establishment, management and control of projects, programmes and portfolios; principles of project governance
- *Three pillars of project governance*: structure (committee or steering group structure including stakeholder and user groups); people (role of sponsor relating to project manager and stakeholders); information (reports, issues, risks); roles and responsibilities

Information for tutors

Suggested resources

Books

Horine, G. – *Project Management Absolute Beginner's Guide (3rd edition)* (QUE Publishing, 2012) ISBN 9780789750105

Nokes, S., Kelly, S. – *The Definitive Guide to Project Management: The Fast Track to Getting the Job Done on Time and on Budget (3rd edition)* (FT Publishing International, 2014) ISBN 9780273756378

Williams, M. – *The Principles of Project Management* (SitePoint, 2008) ISBN 9780980285864

Websites

www.apm.org.uk – the Association for Project Management website, providing articles on project management and information for practitioners on training and qualifications

Assessment

This unit is internally assessed. To pass this unit the evidence that the learner presents for assessment must demonstrate that they have met the required standard specified in the learning outcomes and assessment criteria and the requirements of the Assessment Strategy.

To ensure that the assessment tasks and activities enable learners to produce valid, sufficient, authentic and appropriate evidence that meets the assessment criteria, centres should apply the *Unit Assessment guidance* and the requirements of the Assessment Strategy below.

Wherever possible, centres should adopt a holistic approach to assessing the units in the qualification. This gives the assessment process greater rigour and minimises repetition, time and the burden of assessment on all parties involved in the process.

Unit assessment requirements

This unit must be assessed in the workplace in accordance with the Skills CFA Assessment Strategy for Business Administration, Customer Service and Management and Leadership, in *Annexe A*. Simulation is not allowed for this unit.

All evidence of occupational competence should be generated through performance under workplace conditions; this includes evidence of achievement for knowledge-based learning outcomes and associated assessment criteria.

This unit is a barred combination with unit F/506/1934 Participate in a Project.

Unit assessment guidance

This guidance supports assessors in making decisions about how best to assess each unit and the evidence needed to meet the assessment requirements of the unit. Centres can adapt the guidance for learners and the particular assessment context, as appropriate.

There are opportunities to assess this unit holistically with the following unit: *Principles of Leadership and Management (learning outcome 1)*.

Evidence to achieve this unit should come from the learner's work activities in managing projects.

Evidence to demonstrate achievement of learning outcomes 2, 3 and 4 is likely to come from a combination of reviewing of learner's work products, witness testimony and professional discussion or reflective account. The learner's work products could include a project plan and related documentation which they have developed that clearly shows agreed SMART objectives and KPIs, project members' roles and responsibilities, governance structure, tasks and activities to be completed, reporting structure and format, flow of activities and dependencies, evaluation mechanisms and risk mitigation plans. Product evidence could also include minutes from project meetings, relevant communications to project team members, risk logs and reports detailing the effectiveness of plans (AC2.2 – AC2.4, AC3.2 and AC4.3). The assessor should review the work products and use them to support the professional discussion to evidence the knowledge and understanding underpinning the learner's performance. Within the professional discussion the learner could discuss how they agreed the objectives and scope of the projects with stakeholders and the importance of doing this, the process for assessing the interdependencies and identifying potential risks and the rationale for the targeted mitigation plans for these risks (AC2.2, AC2.3 and AC2.5). Alternatively, a reflective account could be used in a similar manner to assess the underpinning knowledge and understanding. Witness testimony from colleagues and the line manager should also be used to confirm that the learner has consistently met the organisational requirements and that the project planning and management was effective, appropriate and aligned to organisational strategies and priorities, (AC2.1, AC3.6 and AC3.8).

Evidence to demonstrate achievement of learning outcome 1, would best come from a reflective account due to the cognitive demand of the assessment criteria. If a reflective account is used for learning outcomes 2, 3 and 4, then it would be best to integrate the assessment of this learning outcome, giving the learner the opportunity to link and apply their knowledge to workplace activities. For example, the learner could reflect on how they carried out a cost-benefit analysis for a project, risk analysis techniques which they have used and the advantages and limitations of these and an evaluation of how changes impacted upon project scope, schedule, finance, risk, quality and resources of the project they were managing (AC1.1, AC1.2 and AC1.4). The learner's reflective account must be in sufficient depth and breadth to meet the requirements of the operative command verbs in AC1.1 to AC1.5.

Evidence of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) can also be used within the unit to confirm competence. Wherever possible, the learning outcomes in this unit should be assessed holistically across the qualification.