COMP8770

Information Systems Project and Risk Management

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2025

School of Computing

Contents

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Convenor
Stephen Smith
stephen.smith@mq.edu.au
Contact via Email
Rm 362, Level 3, 4 RPD
Thursday 2-3pm, or (online via Zoom)

Credit points
10

Prerequisites
COMP6770

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit has three themes: IT project management, agile software development and risk management. Topics covered in the first theme include project definition, roles and responsibilities, resource management, time and cost estimation, project planning, project control and reporting, measuring project success and post-implementation review. Microsoft Project is used to assist with resource allocation, costing and schedule. Hands-on experience is gained using the Rational Unified Process during the second theme. Towards the end of the course we focus on identifying causes of project failure and managing project risk based on the International and Australian Standard, ISO31000.

Learning in this unit enhances student understanding of global challenges identified by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: Apply an understanding of the contextual issues of an IT project to the

identification and management of expectations of the main project stakeholders.

ULO2: Develop, maintain, manage and report against a project plan which defines the critical path and resource requirements, with tool support, such as MS Project 2019.

ULO3: Critically evaluate the concepts of agile methodologies such as the Rational Unified Process, DSDM and DevOps and incorporate appropriate components into the planning for complex software development or off the shelf enterprise system projects.

ULO4: Analyse IT project risks and formulate a risk management plan compliant with the international standard, ISO31000.

ULO5: Critically evaluate the role of the IT project manager and how to handle organization politics, individual and team management

General Assessment Information

Requirements to Pass this Unit

To pass this Unit, you must achieve a total mark equal to or greater than 50%. Please note that there are no hurdles in this Unit.

Late Assessment Submission Penalty

From 1 July 2022, Students enrolled in Session based units with written assessments will have the following university standard late penalty applied. Please see https://students.mq.edu.au/study/assessment-exams/assessments for more information.

The Special Consideration Policy aims to support students who have been impacted by short-term circumstances or events that are serious, unavoidable and significantly disruptive, and which may affect their performance in assessment. If you experience circumstances or events that affect your ability to complete the assessments in this unit on time, please inform the convenor and submit a Special Consideration request through ask.mq.edu.au.

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a grade of '0' will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11:55 pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical concern.

For any late submission of time-sensitive tasks, such as scheduled tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, and/or scheduled practical assessments/labs, students need to submit an application for Special Consideration.

Assessments where Late Submissions will be accepted

In this unit, late submissions will accepted as follows:

• Assignment 1 - YES, Standard Late Penalty applies

• Assignment 2 - YES, Standard Late Penalty applies

Assessment tools and submission

Marking rubrics are used for assignments

Assignments are submitted on iLearn and Turnitin

Assessments are marked as soon as practicable - typically within a couple of weeks.

The exam may take place via a pink paper or online. Where a special consideration for an exam has been submitted and accepted a supplementary exam is available some weeks after the initial exam.

To pass this unit you must:

- Achieve a total mark equal to or greater than 50%.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Assignment 1	20%	No	Week 5
Assignment 2A - Group Project	20%	No	Week 11
Assignment 2B - Presentation	10%	No	Week 12
Final examination	50%	No	Exam. Period

Assignment 1

Assessment Type [1]: Modelling task
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 20 hours
Due: **Week 5**
Weighting: **20%**

Identify resource requirements, critical path, schedule, and costs associated with projects, as well as risks and possible mitigation strategies.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply an understanding of the contextual issues of an IT project to the identification and management of expectations of the main project stakeholders.
- Develop, maintain, manage and report against a project plan which defines the critical path and resource requirements, with tool support, such as MS Project 2019.

Assignment 2A - Group Project

Assessment Type [1]: Project
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 20 hours
Due: **Week 11**
Weighting: **20%**

Project component: Making project recommendations and addressing risk strategies to secure a go-ahead from the client organization, focusing on the project process and risk management plan.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Apply an understanding of the contextual issues of an IT project to the identification and management of expectations of the main project stakeholders.
- Develop, maintain, manage and report against a project plan which defines the critical path and resource requirements, with tool support, such as MS Project 2019.
- Critically evaluate the concepts of agile methodologies such as the Rational Unified Process, DSDM and DevOps and incorporate appropriate components into the planning for complex software development or off the shelf enterprise system projects.
- Analyse IT project risks and formulate a risk management plan compliant with the international standard, ISO31000.
- Critically evaluate the role of the IT project manager and how to handle organization politics, individual and team management

Assignment 2B - Presentation

Assessment Type [1]: Presentation
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 10 hours
Due: **Week 12**
Weighting: **10%**

Presentation component: Making project recommendations and addressing risk strategies to secure a go-ahead from the client organization, focusing on the project process and risk management plan.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply an understanding of the contextual issues of an IT project to the identification and management of expectations of the main project stakeholders.
- Develop, maintain, manage and report against a project plan which defines the critical path and resource requirements, with tool support, such as MS Project 2019.
- Critically evaluate the concepts of agile methodologies such as the Rational Unified Process, DSDM and DevOps and incorporate appropriate components into the planning for complex software development or off the shelf enterprise system projects.
- Analyse IT project risks and formulate a risk management plan compliant with the international standard, ISO31000.
- Critically evaluate the role of the IT project manager and how to handle organization politics, individual and team management

Final examination

Assessment Type [1]: Examination
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 40 hours
Due: **Exam. Period**
Weighting: **50%**

A formal examination covering all the course work material.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Apply an understanding of the contextual issues of an IT project to the identification and management of expectations of the main project stakeholders.
- Develop, maintain, manage and report against a project plan which defines the critical path and resource requirements, with tool support, such as MS Project 2019.
- Critically evaluate the concepts of agile methodologies such as the Rational Unified Process, DSDM and DevOps and incorporate appropriate components into the planning for complex software development or off the shelf enterprise system projects.
- Analyse IT project risks and formulate a risk management plan compliant with the international standard, ISO31000.
- Critically evaluate the role of the IT project manager and how to handle organization politics, individual and team management

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[1] If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the Writing Centre for academic skills support.

[2] Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

Lectures and Practicals:

Each week you should register for the 2 hours of lectures and 1 hour SGTA. For details of days, times and rooms consult your MQ Timetable

Note: Practicals commence in week 3

Resources to Assist your Learning

Digital Recordings of the Lectures would be available via Macquarie University's Echo360 Active Learning Platform.

Required and Recommended Texts:

Students are expected to purchase and read the following textbook:

Erik Larson and Clifford Gray, 'Project Management: The Managerial Process' 8th Edition (2021), McGraw Hill. This book is available an eBook - ISE Project Management: The Managerial Process (mheducation.com.au)

The following text book is suggested as recommended reading. Copies are available from the references and general sections of the library.

Rob Thomsett, Radical Project Management, Prentice Hall, 2002, not available as an eBook. However, it is available online.

The class Web site will have copies of lecture handouts and additional recommended reading material: https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/ You will need to use the user name and password issued to you by the University Administration when you enrolled for the unit.

Technology to be used and required:

We are using Project Libre, MS Project 2016 or later.

Other technology required is MS Word and MS PowerPoint.

Final Examination

The Final Examination would focus on the content covered in the Lectures throughout the Semester. Please see the Assessments Section for details pertinent to the Final Examination.

Methods of Communication

We will communicate with you via your Macquarie University's Email or through Announcements on iLearn. Queries to Convenor can either be placed on the iLearn Discussion Board or sent to

mailto:stephen.smith@mq.edu.au from your University Email Address.

COVID Information

For the latest information on the University's response to COVID-19, please refer to the Coronavirus infection page on the Macquarie University's website, https://www.mq.edu.au/about/coronavirus-faqs. Remember to check this page regularly in case the information and requirements change during the Semester. If there are any changes to this Unit in relation to COVID, these will be communicated via iLearn.

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Unit Schedule

Week	Lecturer	Lecture	References	Practicals	Assignments
1	Steve	Course Structure Types of Projects, Role of the Project Manager, IS/IT Projects are Different	Unit Outline Larson 1, Readings		
2	Steve	Project Definition Introduction to MS Project	Larson 3 Larson 4		Assignment 1 (Individual Assignment) Released
3	Steve	Project Selection and Success Criteria Estimating Project Times and Costs Sponsors and Other Stakeholders	Larson 2 Larson 5 Larson 10	Workshops start MS Project	
4	Steve	DSDM Introduction Hand out Assignment Two (Group Assignment) 'IS Project Management Plan'	DSDM Handbook		
5	Steve	Reducing Project Duration Assignment One Due	Larson 9		**Assignment 1** **Due**
6	Steve	Risk Management Part 1 - Managing Risk	Larson 7		Assignment 2 (Group Assignment) Released
7	Steve	Risk Management Part 2 - Managing Risk	ISO31000		
Mid Semester Break / Recess April 12-27th					

8	Guest Lecture	Leadership / Communication Team Management	Larson 10 Larson 11, Thomsett articles		
9	Steve	Virtual Teams and Outsourcing Project Audit and Closure	Larson 12 Larson 14		
10	Steve	Project Plan Structure Progress Management and Evaluation Organisational Politics	Larson 6, 10, 12, 13		
11	Steve	Group Assignment Review Workshop (in the Lecture)			**Assignment 2** **Due**
12	Steve	Group Presentations			**Group Presentations**
13	Steve	Exam Revision + Group Presentations (cont if necessary)			

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (https://policies.mq.edu.au). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- Academic Appeals Policy
- Academic Integrity Policy
- Academic Progression Policy
- Assessment Policy
- Fitness to Practice Procedure
- Assessment Procedure
- Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public
- Special Consideration Policy

Students seeking more policy resources can visit Student Policies (https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit Policy Central (https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the search tool.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of

Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct

Results

Results published on platform other than eStudent, (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in eStudent. For more information visit connect.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe academic integrity – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free online writing an d maths support, academic skills development and wellbeing consultations.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit http://students.mq.edu.au/support/

Academic Success

Academic Success provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- Workshops
- Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader
- Access StudyWISE
- Upload an assignment to Studiosity
- Complete the Academic Integrity Module

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- Subject and Research Guides
- Ask a Librarian

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of Student Support Services including:

- IT Support
- Accessibility and disability support with study
- Mental health support
- Safety support to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual

assault

- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)

- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Changes from Previous Offering

We always value student feedback to be able to continually improve the way we offer our units. As such we encourage students to provide constructive feedback via student surveys, to the teaching staff directly, or via the FSE Student. Last semester students provided extensive positive feeback.

Experience & Feedback link in the iLearn page.

Student feedback from the previous offering of this unit was very positive overall, with students pleased with the clarity around assessment requirements and the level of support from teaching staff. The level of student satisfaction and their results was also noted at the Exam. Meeting

As such, no change to the delivery of the unit is planned, however we will continue to strive to improve the level of support and the level of student engagement.

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
18/02/2025	Change week 6 and week 8 class to accommodate to Guest Lecturer

Unit information based on version 2025.04 of the [Handbook](#)