

Project Management ‘Pathways’

Project Management is an exciting and growing profession. There is widespread demand from organisations who need to implement change in an increasingly complex and uncertain business environment.

Digital transformation has only increased volatility in all organisations and how to deal with this uncertainty is one of the key drivers for a growing demand for agile project delivery skills. With multiple project management qualifications on offer, it can be difficult to know which route to take. An understanding of the main qualification streams on offer can help you come to an informed decision and perhaps you will realise that it is not necessarily an ‘either/or’ decision. Each of the main qualifications has a different focus and complement each other, ultimately resulting in the development of a well-rounded project professional.

Which route should you take?

Your personal needs and objectives will help you determine which route is best for you (or which has priority).

Considerations may include:

- What is your present level of project management experience?
- Is your organisation considering implementing (or updating) a new project management method?
- Do you wish to understand more about the generic skills and knowledge that a project manager must possess?
- Which qualification appears to be most popular with your peers and superiors?
- Does your organisation deliver projects incrementally and iteratively (or does it intend to)?



The three primary project management qualification streams within the UK are outlined below.

			
Description:	A structured method that is used in multiple organisations across the public and private sectors. Initially used in major IT projects, PRINCE2(R) consists of a number of principles, themes and processes which help to deliver change in a structured fashion. The focus is on what should be done when working on a PRINCE2(R) project.	The APM Body of Knowledge is not method specific and covers a wider range of project management knowledge and skills (including planning, cost management and interpersonal skills). The primary focus is on <u>how</u> projects should be managed.	Agile projects are delivered in an emergent fashion and project outputs are delivered iteratively and incrementally. Originating in the software development industry, agile is being implemented in a number of public and private sector organisations who need to cope with fluctuating stakeholder requirements and an evolving business environment.
Suitable for:	Project managers and team members who are working (or intend to work) in a PRINCE2(R) organisation. The qualification is widely valued by employers.	Project managers and team member who wish to understand the tools, techniques, processes and skills that are necessary to deliver projects successfully.	Managers and team members who use (or intend to use) agile delivery techniques.
Introductory: Knowledge-based certifications that do not require prior project management	PRINCE2(R) Foundation (QAP2F) Exam: 60 minutes, 60 questions multiple-choice	PFQ-Project Fundamentals Qualification (PMAPMIC; FPM-3) Exam: 60 minutes, 60 questions multiple-choice	AgilePM Foundation (PPMAGF) Exam: 40 minutes, 50 questions multiple-choice
Practitioner: A candidates' ability to apply knowledge is examined and typically requires a minimum of 2 years project management experience	PRINCE2(R) Foundation (QAP2F) Exam: 60 minutes, 60 questions multiple-choice	PMQ – Project Management Qualification (APMP-5) Exam: 180 minutes, 10 essay-style answers from 16 questions	AgilePM Practitioner (PPMAGP) Exam: 150 minutes, 4 x 20 mark questions complex multiple-choice
Further information:	https://www.qa.com/training-courses/project-and-programme-management-training/prince2-training	https://www.qa.com/hot-topics/project-management/project-management QA also provides PMI® training that covers a similar curriculum to the APM certifications.	https://www.qa.com/hot-topics/agile QA provides a wide suite of certified and non-certified learning in the agile arena including SCRUM, SAFe, JIRA etc.

Whatever route you decide to take, QA can support you on your project management journey.

Full details of our project and programme management portfolio can be found at:
<https://www.qa.com/training-courses/project-and-programme-management-training>

