

Career Profile: Project Manager

A project manager is responsible for starting a project and taking it to its end. In doing so s/he is expected to meet agreed goals within specific constraints of time, resources and quality. Project management in engineering and construction is receiving a lot of attention at the moment because of the pressure to get ready for the 2010 Football World Cup. But project management is used in a wide variety of disciplines and organizations in the private and public sectors.

Project managers are expected to apply their knowledge, skills, tools and techniques to achieve specified project goals. There are a number of software packages available to assist project managers to keep an eye on all the elements of their projects.

Education Requirements

National Senior Certificate (NSC)

For a career in project management students are advised to select Mathematics and to add to this a selection from the designated subjects. These are subjects that are particularly suitable for tertiary study.

Bachelor Degree

Project management is an integral part of engineering and information technology. You will find relevant courses under those disciplines.

Bachelor of Commerce – BCom (3 years) is a degree programme that develops good financial skills, analysis and problem solving to prepare the graduate to be able to function effectively in the fast-paced, competitive environment of retail.

Offered at:

- [University of Johannesburg](#)¹ (Faculty of Management)
- [University of Limpopo](#)² (School of Economics and Management)
- [University of Pretoria](#)³ (Department of Business Management)
- [University of the Witwatersrand](#)⁴ (Faculty of Commerce, Law and Management)
- [University of Venda](#)⁵ (Management Sciences)
- [UNISA](#)⁶ (College of Economic and Management Sciences)

¹ <http://www.uj.ac.za/Default.aspx?alias=www.uj.ac.za/management>

² http://www.ul.ac.za/index.php?Entity=sch_eco_man_aca

³ <http://web.up.ac.za/default.asp?ipkCategoryID=1055>

⁴ <http://web.wits.ac.za/Academic/CLM/>

⁵ http://www.univen.ac.za/management_sciences/index.html

⁶ <http://www.unisa.ac.za/Default.asp?Cmd=ViewContent&ContentID=32>

Specializations offered:

The most relevant BCom would be a general degree or one specializing in Management.

National Diploma / BTech

Students who prefer a more practical approach can enrol for programmes to qualify in retailing at BTechnology and Diploma levels. Specializations are offered in these programmes.

The National Diploma is a three year course which includes guided practical experience. The diploma is a pre-requisite for admission to a Bachelor of Technology - BTech

Offered at:

- [Tshwane University of Technology](#)⁷ (Faculty of Management Sciences)
- [Vaal University of Technology](#)⁸ (Management Science Department)

Specializations offered:

Tshwane University of Technology

National Diploma: Management services, Operations management

BTech: Project management

Admission requirements

As admission requirements vary from one institution to another, find out what the specific requirements are by checking on the website and contacting the university if you have any queries.

Possible Employers

- Big companies, e.g. construction firms
- Engineering consultancies
- Manufacturers of computers and communication equipment
- Government departments
- Regional government
- Mining groups

⁷ <http://www.tut.ac.za/Students/facultiesdepartments/managementsciences/Pages/default.aspx>

⁸ http://www.vut.ac.za/new/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=836&Itemid=1023

Find out more

Find out more about project management, bursaries and jobs:

- [A blog](#)⁹ with some interesting and amusing information on project management.
- [Project Management South Africa](#).¹⁰ The frequently asked questions column provides useful information.
- [ProjectPro](#) is a South African-based organization that specializes in training for project management. Their website contains useful information about project management.
- [GIBS article](#)¹¹ on the new challenges facing project management
- [Best project management jobs](#).¹²
- [Centre for Public Administration and Management](#)¹³ at UNISA offers some short courses in project management.
- [Centre for Software Engineering](#)¹⁴ at UNISA offers an applied project management for the information technology environment.
- [Centre for Business Management](#)¹⁵ at UNISA offers a six month course in the basics of project management.
- [University of Pretoria](#)¹⁶ also runs a programme in Project Management (PPM) including an advanced version of the programme.

⁹ <http://dotnet.org.za/projman/>

¹⁰ <http://www.pmisa.co.za/>

¹¹ <http://www.mba.co.za/article.aspx?rootid=6&subdirectoryid=1108>

¹² <http://www.best-project-management-jobs.com/project-management-employers.html>

¹³ <http://www.unisa.ac.za/Default.asp?Cmd=ViewContent&ContentID=16720>

¹⁴ http://osprey.unisa.ac.za/unisa/cert/index2.html?course_name=Applied%20Project%20Management%20In%20An%20Information%20Technology%20Environment

¹⁵ http://www.unisa.ac.za/_cmsys/default.asp?Cmd=ViewContent&ContentID=19519

¹⁶ <http://scarlacc.up.ac.za/CEatUP/Documents/Courses/P000058/P000058-CourseBrochure.pdf>

Are you suited to this career?

This quick quiz can help you to identify whether you are suited for this occupation.

Quiz	Yes	No
Are you a person who likes to get on with things and not waste time putting things off?		
Are you able to cope with risk and its accompanying stress?		
Are you well organized?		
Are you self confident?		
Are you good at negotiating to gain something you want?		
Are you able to assess people's potential accurately?		
Do you get satisfaction out of accomplishing targets?		
Would you describe yourself as persuasive and persevering?		
Are you comfortable dealing with conflict?		
Do you welcome a tough challenge?		

If you have mainly yes answers it may be an indication that this is an occupation to consider.