Project Management: From Theory to Practice (B16)

Credit weighting: 4.0 ECTS credits

Teaching period(s):   3 August 2026 – 14 August 2026 (2 weeks)

Level: Advanced Bachelor

Teaching methods: 105 hours of lectures/group assignments + exam preparation
(including self-study).

Course leader: Gilbert Silvius, PhD MBA

Lecturer(s):   Gilbert Silvius, PhD MBA, Bert Hedeman, MSc, Dagmar Zuchi, PhD MBA

Description

This is one of our most-wanted courses! The applied approach and the PRINCE2®
certification has attracted hundreds of students over the years. Today's dynamic
environment requires organizations to continuously change policies, products, processes or
practices. These changes often organized as projects: unique, temporary efforts, performed
by multi-disciplinary teams. Performing projects successfully is therefore considered a key-
competence for the future and competitive position of organizations. Project management is
becoming increasingly important to execute projects in a controlled way. Designing the right
approach to a project, planning deadlines, working with multi-disciplinary teams, personal
strengths and weaknesses; these are all challenges a project manager needs to deal with.

The course Project Management: From Theory to Practice, prepares you for the role of
project manager by combining knowledge of the PRINCE2® methodology with the practical
application of that knowledge in a project simulation. You will learn about state of the art
project management methods, the agile approach to projects, and work on project
simulations in teams. Part of the assessment is the PRINCE2® Foundation Exam, with which
you can earn the official certificate. PRINCE2® is one of the leading approaches to project
management which describes procedures to coordinate people and activities in a project,
how to design and supervise the project, and what to do if the project has to be adjusted if it
does not develop as planned.

Next to the theoretical background, in the form of the PRINCE2® methodology, the course also offers a practical approach. You will develop your skills in project management in a one week hands-on project simulation in which you will perform various team assignments and will act as a project manager in various settings. This simulation offers a 'learning by applying' project simulation. Participants will experience the dynamics and teamwork that make working in projects so special. During this simulation, the trainers build upon the theoretical knowledge developed in the first week and will provide additional input from the other project management standards, change management and team development.

The content has been developed from the perspective of projects as temporary organizations that realize change in, or between, organizations. The central question is: How can a project manager, together with their project team, successfully and sustainably realise outputs and outcomes of the project? The course follows the logical phasing of a project:

- Project initiating or preparation;

- Project planning and start-up;

- Project executing, monitoring and controlling.

In addition to these project management activities, the participants will engage in peer observation, reflection and feedback in order to enhance the learning experience.

PRINCE2 ® is a registered trademark. For more information, click here.

Please note: The fee also includes participation in the official PRINCE2 ® Foundation examination.

Aim of the course

After successful completion of this programme, you will have a clear focus on project management from both a theoretical as well as a practical (personal) perspective. If you have successfully completed the PRINCE2® Foundation examination, you will obtain a certificate for this. The specific learning outcomes of the programme are:

- An understanding of the role of projects in organizational change and innovation;

- A thorough understanding of the phases and activities of the project life cycle;
- A thorough understanding of the concepts of stakeholders, project outputs vs. project outcomes, business case, work breakdown structure, planning & organising, project governance, risks, scope creep and changes;
- An understanding of the dynamics of organisational change;
- An understanding of team dynamics;
- An understanding of the different approaches (agile versus predictive) to project management.

Study load

105 hours of lectures/group assignments + exam preparation (including self-study).

Please note: You must attend _all_ learning activities (e.g. workshops, fieldwork) to be able to receive the Certificate of Participation and/or the credits for this course, unless absence is officially approved by the teachers and the coordinator of the Utrecht Summer School.

Course calendar

The day to day programme is subject to changes

Week 1

Saturday and Sunday, 1 and 2 August		
Time	Activity	Description
12.00-18.00	Key pick up	You will find the exact key pick up location in the pre-departure information, which becomes available after you have paid the course fee.

Monday, 3 August		
Time	Activity	Description
10.00 – 10.30	Course introduction	
10.30 – 12.30	Introduction to project management	Positioning of projects in organizations What makes a project a project? Success in projects
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch**	
13.30 – 16.30	Introduction to project management (cont.)	Project management approaches and standards

Tuesday, 4 August		
Time	Activity	Description

09.30 – 12.30	Introduction to PRINCE2®	Introduction to the PRINCE2® methodology of project management Projects and Project success
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch	
13.30 – 16.30	PRINCE2® Foundation	PRINCE2® Principles PRINCE2® Themes PRINCE2® Processes Levels of management

Wednesday, 5 August		
Time	Activity	Description
09.30 – 12.30	PRINCE2® Foundation	Starting up the project Project Brief Project Quality Initiating a project Project Initiation Documentation
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch	
13.30 – 16.30	PRINCE2® Foundation	Controls and Progress Reporting Exceptions

Thursday, 6 August		
Time	Activity	Description
09.30 – 12.30	PRINCE2® Foundation	Risks Products / PBS PRINCE2® Processes
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch	
13.30 – 16.30	PRINCE2® Foundation	Directing a project Controlling a project Managing a stage boundary Closing a project Q&A

Friday, 7 August		
Time	Activity	Description
09.30 – 12.30	Project management	The project oriented organization Managing the project landscape Organizational project management maturity
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch	
13.30 – 15.00		Predictive vs adaptive project approaches
15.00 – 16.30	PRINCE2® Foundation	Self study time for Exam preparation

Week 2

Monday, 10 August		
Time	Activity	Description
10.00 – 12.00	Sacred Heart Hospital simulation	Introduction of The 'Sacred Heart Hospital' case - Creating a project vision - Project objectives and goals
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch	
13.30 – 16.30	Sacred Heart Hospital simulation	- Stakeholder analysis - Observation and feedback

Tuesday, 11 August		
Time	Activity	Description
09.30 – 12.30	Sacred Heart Hospital simulation	- Main learnings - Product Breakdown Structure - Work Breakdown Structure
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch	
13.30 – 16.30	Sacred Heart Hospital simulation	- Planning and Scheduling - Resource planning - Project organization

Wednesday, 12 August		
Time	Activity	Description
09.30 – 12.30	Utrecht city walk	For the past decades, the city of Utrecht has developed many large projects and programs for the renovating its main station and downtown areas. The city walk will highlight the backgrounds and future of this CU2030 program.
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch	
13.30 – 16.30	Sacred Heart Hospital simulation	- Project organization continued - Teams and Team development - Budgeting and business case

Thursday, 13 August		
Time	Activity	Description
10.00 – 12.00	PRINCE2® Foundation	Examination
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch	
13.30 – 16.30	Sacred Heart Hospital simulation	- Main learnings - Project controlling and reporting - Social controlling - Change and communication

Friday, 14 August		
Time	Activity	Description

10.00 – 12.00	Sacred Heart Hospital simulation	- The project controlling meeting - Developing the progress report - The project board meeting - The stakeholder meeting
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch	
13.00 – 14.00	Course closure	- Main learnings - Evaluation - Drinks

**Please note: Students must bring/cover their own lunch
The lunch times in the programme can vary, these times are just an indication.