# Solent University Unit Descriptor

## **Unit Code: COM532**

## **Unit title: Work Based IT Project Management**

### **Why is this unit important?**

The link between strategic planning and the implementation of these plans has been an area of considerable concern for many organisations, particularly improving service effectiveness and efficiency through managed processes of change and development. It is also a key consideration in the planning, organisation and delivery of projects. Increasingly this implementation work is conducted as various forms of project; each project having an associated plan, business case and a benefits realisation schedule. The project approach ensures that there is an improved ability to identify, allocate and manage often scarce resources required for the successful completion of the work, and the consequent realisation of the expected benefits. This unit will provide an overview of the project management process and associated methods, tools and techniques.

### **What you will learn on the unit**

This unit develops an understanding of project management in organisations and the IT processes that are involved. An understanding of the requirements of effective project management includes the need for good planning, organisation, leadership, management and communication skills. It also requires the understanding of the implications of cost in terms of resources, time and finances as well as the suitability of skills, qualifications, experience and knowledge to work together in a motivated and integrated team.

This unit will be taught with a consideration of current and emerging industry standards.

### **How you will learn**

Unit delivery is blended using a combination of workshops and work based delivery underpinned by extensive resources on the University’s VLE. The project topic will be agreed through a learning contract between you, the academic and your employer. This will identify a clear aim and associated objectives. Milestones will be identified during the project life cycle and allow the you to self-manage and monitor your own progress. This will be overseen by your unit tutor.

### How much time the unit requires: you are expected to study for 200 hours (which equates to 10 hours per credit).  This total learning time is made up of contact time, directed learning tasks, independent learning and assessment activity.

### **How you will be assessed**

#### **Tasks which help you to learn and prepares you for summative tasks (Formative):**

Throughout the unit you will discuss with tutor your progress on each of the tasks. This will provide formative feedback to allow for reflection, review and improvement.

#### **Tasks which count towards your degree (Summative):**

This unit is formally assessed using a portfolio of tasks consisting of prescribed activities including a small project and a structured report. The self-managed project requires you to identify and document detailed requirements of the IT project proposal. Performance within the individual project is assessed via a report which is completed in line with a template provided by the tutor and in conjunction with the employer. This introduces you to the fundamentals of report writing and presentational skills in a supported way. This is supplemented with a video presentation with supporting narrative.

The blended learning based teaching structure identified above provides a framework that ensures that learning is reviewed at regular points and that you are able to monitor your learning according to clearly defined targets relevant to assessed work. Within this structure the emphasis on applying knowledge in practical tasks ensures that you receive ongoing feedback from your tutor. Meanwhile, the recording of sessions provides a firm point of reference that you can use, not only to review the core techniques and methodologies involved in project work, but to reflect upon your own and others’ engagement with them.

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**When assessment does not go to plan**  
If you are referred in either assessment will be required to revise and resubmit your report in the light of supportive tutor feedback.

### **What you will be able to do after the unit**

1. Identify and analyse a project, and propose methods and strategies for management control.
2. Apply industry standard processes to a project specification
3. Investigate and analyse the application of theory to practice in IT project management systems and processes.
4. Manage and complete a short-term project, fully reflecting against outcomes against aims.
5. Work effectively, both independently and as part of a team.
6. Discuss and present findings using a range of media.

### **How this relates to the dimensions of Solent’s Real-world curriculum framework**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Dimensions** | **How students learn** | **How students are assessed** |
| Students are challenged to think in critical, creative and applied ways | Students will evaluate an IT Project Management proposal. | Portfolio tasks will address |
| Students are inspired to do research through inquiry, curiosity and problem-solving | Discussion Project Management related to IT Projects |
| Students reflect and grow inwardly, social and ethically to be able to confront the challenges of the world | Discussion will aid understanding of Legal, Social and ethical issues concerning IT in the workplace. |
| Students learn from authentic, engaging and programmatic assessment | Creation of portfolio will engage the student on required tasks and reinforce learning |

### **Summative assessment details**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| AE1 | Weighting: | 100% |
|  | Assessment type: | Portfolio task |
|  | Aggregation: | N/A |
|  | Length/duration: | 3000 words |
|  | Online submission: | Yes |
|  | Grade marking: | Yes |
|  | Anonymous marking: | No |

**Unit Author:** Jennifer Muskett

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| Unit Title: Work Based IT Project Management | | | |
| Credit Points: | 20 | Unit Code: | COM532 |
| FHEQ Level: | 5 | School/Service | SMAT |
| Unit Delivery Model: | CD | Max/Min student numbers | N/A |
| Unit Leader: | Jennifer Muskett | | |
| HECOS code | 100360 | | |

### **Unit change history:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Unit Approved/Year Implemented/Code | Jan 2018 | 2018/19 | COM532 |
| Unit modified/Year Implemented/Code |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

Indicative reading list:

Hughes, B. 2012 *Project management for IT-related projects : textbook for the ISEB Foundation Certificate in IS Project Management* . British Computer Society. 2nd ed.

McGannon, B. 2013. *Agile Project Management*. lynda.com (Firm) Carpenteria, CA lynda.com