

# MSP<sup>®</sup> Programme Management



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# What is programme management?

*“The coordinated management of related projects, which may include related business-as-usual activities, that together achieve a beneficial change of a strategic nature for an organization.”*

Programme managers:

- Accelerate, decelerate, redefine, terminate and initiate projects within the programme
- Manage interdependencies between projects, and between projects and business as usual activities
- Identify and plan for changes to business as usual
- Source and manage available programme resources and resource conflicts
- Define and realise strategic benefits for the programme

# What does MSP® offer?

- Has seven principles of effective programme management which provide a framework for the behaviour of those managing programmes
- Has governance themes that control how a programme is run:
  - Creation of the vision of what the programme will deliver
  - Creation of the plans and strategies that will ensure that all projects within the programme are managed on the same basis
  - Roles and responsibilities for those working within the programme (programme and project team members) and those that are impacted by what it delivers (business change managers and change teams)
- Has six processes that form the programme lifecycle, taking the work from initial idea to successful business change and realisation of benefits

MSP® is a Registered Trade Mark of the Office of Government Commerce in the United Kingdom and other countries

# What are the benefits of MSP®?

- Provides an easy to understand, robust structure for translating strategic objectives into actions, plans and resource needs
- Ensures changes that result from the programme are managed as carefully as the projects that deliver the changes
- Enables co-ordinated management of multiple projects and business changes to ensure:
  - Resource requirements are known for the whole programme and resources can be shared and transferred according to need
  - Risks and issues impacting more than one project can be clearly understood and communicated to other projects for analysis and action
  - Projects that provide the foundation for other project deliverables but do not deliver benefits in their own right can still be undertaken as they deliver benefits for the programme
- Provides a governance structure that clearly defines at what points decisions will be need to be taken, by whom and provides an escalation process to higher levels of management for exceptional situations

# What will I learn on the course?

- Understand how programme management contrasts with project management, and the different skill set that is required for effective programme management
- Understand the structure, terminology and documents associated with programme management
- Clearly define roles and responsibilities of everyone involved in the programme including project teams, change teams and those sponsoring the programme and its projects
- Identify the information needed to translate strategic objectives into the programme vision, and how to further define this vision into a detailed map of project deliverables and business changes
- Understand how to identify, measure and realise benefits throughout the programme lifecycle
- Understand how to delegate work to the project teams and engage senior management in the championing of the programme

# MSP<sup>®</sup> Qualifications

## Foundation

- Checks your understanding of the terminology, structure, documentation and roles and responsibilities within MSP
  - 50 question multiple-choice examination in 40 minutes
  - Must get 30 or more marks to pass

## Practitioner

- Checks your ability to apply MSP to a variety of project situations including how to evaluate risks and issues, how to assess benefits and how to select project team members
  - eight questions per paper in 2 ½ hours
  - 40 marks required to pass - 50%

# What do people say about the course?

“I went on the course several months after I had started my programme so I spent a lot of time feeling frustrated about what I had missed out. I went back to work with a long list of things to do, and I am still using my book now to get ideas for what we need to do next. Biggest learning point was the strategies as I hadn't put many of these 'rules' into my programme brief.”

“I wasn't sure if this was the right course for me because I wasn't sure if I really had a programme, but by the time the trainer had finished the first day I knew what parts of my work were a programme and what to get rid of so I could concentrate on being the programme manager. I spent the next two weeks reorganising my work and I feel a lot more confident about what I am doing now.”

“I have been asked to support our project and programme teams, and this course really helped me understand the terminology that they are all using. I definitely feel less excluded in meetings now.”

“Stakeholder Engagement meant nothing to me until my trainer showed me that even groups and individuals outside the Programme can have a big effect on the programme and that there is a need to consider how to communicate with them as well as the programme team.”

# Is a qualification important?

- MSP is internationally recognised “best practice” for managing programmes and is clear evidence that you understand the structure, processes, roles and responsibilities of effective programme management
- The MSP qualification is required by recruiters as it is an important in helping them differentiate between those who can project manage and those who really understand how a programme is a different entity requiring different skills
- Programme management is a logical step for experienced project managers who are involved in delivering complex solutions where they find themselves responsible for more than one work stream, which needs a different type of control to that offered within project management.
- Programme management is also relevant for those managers who are responsible for identifying what activities their organisation will commit to in the annual business plan to realise the strategic objectives

# Why choose Maven Training?

- Maven is an Accredited Training Organisation, assessed by the APM Group every year to check that we have quality processes, course materials and trainers to give you the best possible MSP training course
- Excellent MSP examination pass rates consistently above the national average for MSP Foundation and Practitioner qualifications
- Trainers who have set up and managed programmes across many industries, and who can give practical guidance that adds to the information presented in the text book
- Professionally trained trainers, who are part of our Maven Excellence Train the Trainer programme:
  - Attending specially commissioned train the trainer events throughout the year
  - Attending other qualification based courses and taking examinations themselves so they know how it feels!
- Regularly updated course materials and sample papers to ensure our courses are as enjoyable, relevant to the real world and up to date as possible

# When you train with Maven

## Before the course

- Receive the MSP text book – “Managing Successful Programmes”
- Access to <https://www.mavennet.co.uk> which has lots of information to help you prepare for your course:
  - Pre-course work book with activities, questions and suggested pages to read and mark up in the official text book
  - E-learning modules to help you see how MSP fits into project, change and risk management qualifications
  - On-line access to a trainer for any questions that you have about MSP
  - Quizzes and sample examination papers to test your knowledge

## During the course

- Course materials including models, games, puzzles, slides, activities and sample examination papers
- Experienced trainers who know how to run programmes and how to apply MSP in the ‘real world’
- Activities to help you understand how to use MSP and how to pass the examinations

## After the course

- Use the [Maven Knowledge Centre](#) to stay up to date

Call today on **020 7089 6161** to discuss  
your **MSP<sup>®</sup>** requirements or visit the  
Maven website for more information.



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