

PRINCE2™ Practitioner

Overview

PRINCE (Projects IN Controlled Environments) is a structured project management method, originally developed by the government and launched in 1990. PRINCE2 was launched in 1996 (revised in 2005) and is the standard method used in UK government projects. It is widely used in the private sector as well, which is why it is commonly referred to as the *de facto* project management standard.

This is an intensive and interactive five-day course covering all PRINCE2 components, processes and techniques in detail. The case study, which runs throughout the course, enables participants to produce the products specified by the method and the sample solutions consolidate their understanding of it. Examination practice is conducted at regular stages. The course is best run Monday to Friday, with the Foundation examination taken on Thursday and the Practitioner examination on the Friday.

Training objectives

The objective of the Foundation examination is to measure whether a candidate would be able to act as an informed member of a project management team using the PRINCE2 method within a project environment supporting PRINCE2. To this end they need to show that they understand the principles and terminology of the method; specifically, candidates must be able to:

- Describe the purpose and major content of all roles, the eight components, the eight processes and the sub-processes, and the techniques.
- State which management products are input to, and output from, the eight processes.
- State the main purpose, and key contents, of the major management products.
- State the relationships between processes, deliverables, roles and the management dimensions of a project.

The objective of the Practitioner examination is to measure whether a candidate would be able to apply PRINCE2 to the running and managing of a project within an environment supporting PRINCE2. To this end they need to exhibit the competence required for the Foundation qualification and also show that they can apply and tune PRINCE2 to address the needs and problems of a specific project scenario; specifically, candidates must be able to:

- Produce detailed explanations of all processes, components and techniques, and worked examples of all PRINCE2 products, as they might be applied to address the particular circumstances of a given project scenario
- Show that they understand the relationships between processes, components, techniques and PRINCE2 products and can apply this understanding
- Demonstrate that they understand the reasons behind the processes, components and techniques of PRINCE2, and that they understand the principles underpinning these elements.
- Demonstrate their ability to tune PRINCE2 to different project circumstances

Audience

This course is recommended for:

- Experienced project managers who need a thorough understanding of the PRINCE2 method in order to apply it immediately and successfully
- Technical staff who are now required to perform a project management role
- Staff who will have a defined role within a PRINCE2 project and need to know the overall method and how to make it work

Format

This five-day course is a complete classroom preparation for the PRINCE2 examinations. All course material, as well as the presenters, are approved by APM Group. The course provides lots of examination question practice for both Foundation and Practitioner exams. A case study is used throughout the course and a set of PRINCE2 management products provided which aid understanding of how to apply PRINCE2 to projects back in the workplace.

Successful completion of the Foundation examination is a pre-requisite for taking the Practitioner examination, so this course offers both. Assuming a Monday start, participants take the Foundation examination on the Thursday – a one-hour, closed-book, examination with 75 multiple-choice questions for which the pass mark is 50%.

The Practitioner examination is held on the Friday morning – a three-hour, open-book, examination comprising three questions based on a scenario background, each question being worth 50 marks and an overall score of 75 out of a possible 150 being required to pass.

To make the most of their time with the expert trainer and to maximise their chances of success in the two examinations, all participants are strongly urged to undertake the pre-course reading and assignments which will be sent to them two weeks before the course begins.

Special features

This is a uniquely practical version of the PRINCE2 Practitioner course. Most of the courses on offer by other organisations rely solely on the standard sample solutions to examination questions provided by the APM Group Ltd, whereas this programme also includes samples of the management 'products' that support the case study. This helps ensure not only that participants develop a greater level of understanding of the methodology (which in itself will help them pass the examinations) but also that they are in a much better position to work in a PRINCE2 environment 'for real'.

The expert trainer

Barrie had many years of practical, hands-on project management experience before becoming a consultant in the 1980s, initially with Hoskyns Education and later with Park Place Europe Ltd. Both he and his co-director Malcolm have been PRINCE trainers and consultants since the methodology was launched in 1990. When PRINCE2 was launched in 1996 they took the opportunity to form their own consultancy, which has built up an impressive client list over the last ten years. In addition to their training activities, as consultants they continue to specialise in project management and its related specialisms, including process maturity and improvement.

Note

PRINCE2 is a government-owned proprietary methodology, managed by the Office of Government Commerce (OGC). APM Group Ltd operates on behalf of the OGC as an awarding body for the Foundation and Practitioner Certificates in PRINCE2. The only route to either of these certificates is through a training organisation accredited by APM Group. There are around 60 such organisations (ATOs) in the UK and we looked at all of them before deciding to which one we should affiliate ourselves. We chose Barrie's organisation (B&M Prince Ltd) for four key reasons:

- **Experience:** as well as training project management specialists in the PRINCE methodology ever since it was first launched in 1990, Barrie and his co-director have many years' practical experience as hands-on project managers, experience which is maintained on a daily basis by their continuing project management consulting work
- **Relevance:** both their courses go beyond the standard PRINCE2 course manual to focus on the practical application of the methodology, rather than just to get candidates through the exam
- **'Transparency':** working with Barrie, you know from the outset who is doing the training
- **Value:** the combination of training that goes beyond the core curriculum with a highly-competitive pricing structure makes this course unrivalled value for money

Course outline

- 1 Beginning a project**
- 2 Product -based planning**
- 3 Planning at project and stage level**
- 4 Project Boards directing a project**
- 5 The management of risk and quality**
- 6 Controls and controlling progress**
- 7 Organising the project management team**
- 8 Business case and investment appraisal**
- 9 Managing the team with work packages**
- 10 Configuration management and change control**
- 11 Closing a project**
- 12 Comprehensive case study**

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