Scotland Excel

Professional Development Award in Project Management (SCQF Level 8)

Scotland Excel deliver an established and recognised qualification in Project Management through a work-based Learning methodology. This will focus on the practical application of key skills in Project Management in a local government context. This progresses on from the PDA in project management which East Renfrewshire Council began delivering in 2012.

The programme was voted winner of the Scottish Public Sector Employee Development & Skills Award 2019.

What is it?

The Professional Development Award (PDA) is a SCQF (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework) level 8 qualification and is certified by the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

The PDA consists of two units:

- Project Management: Project Justification and Planning.
- Project Management: Managing the Implementation of a Project.

The PDA is well established as a standalone qualification but can also provide progression to other learning opportunities such as the Diploma in Management and Leadership at SCQF level 8.

Why us?

Scotland Excel is the Centre of Procurement Expertise for Scotland's Local Government sector and is an established Qualifications Scotland Approved Centre delivering accredited courses through a work-based learning methodology.

Supported by the Moodle digital platform, the Scotland Excel Academy provides the opportunity for interactive learning which will enhance the experience for candidates undertaking the PDA.

How will it be delivered?

The PDA will be delivered online by Scotland Excel who have significant experience in Project Management within a local government context and the course delivery will focus on practical examples in this environment.

How do I register?

Register your place now by providing your details to donnie.macrae@scotland-excel.org.uk

Please contact us if you would like more information as an organisation or an individual or would like to register your interest in future cohorts. These will be scheduled and located in relation to demand.

General Information on the PDA can be found from Qualifications Scotland by clicking here

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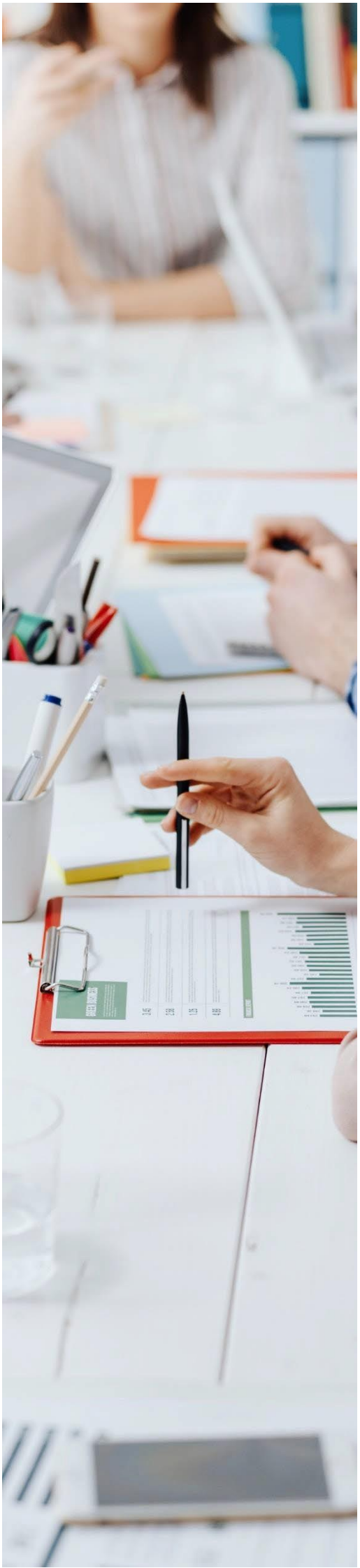

Essential Information

Who is the course aimed at?

Public sector staff who are either new or aspiring project managers or those whose current role involves project management but want to consolidate learning.

What do I need to prepare for the course?

Candidates should have a real-life project which can be applied to the course content. This is critical to the course as it is a work-based learning course.

How much does it cost?

The course costs £565 per learner for Local Authority members of Scotland Excel; £622 per learner for associate members of Scotland Excel and £678 per learner for public-sector learners.

Course dates

Attendance on all online workshops is compulsory. The 5 workshop dates are: **3rd, 10th, 17th February 2027 and 19th, 26th May 2027.**

How will the course be delivered?

The course will use a work-based learning methodology and will be delivered online, via a series of workshops by Scotland Excel, who have significant experience in project management in a local government context.

The PDA will be supported by the Scotland Excel Academy, which operates from a Moodle Digital Platform and will facilitate an interactive online approach to learning.

How is the course assessed?

Assessment of the course will be related to your project justification and planning, and then the implementation of your project. Assessments will be submitted via the online Scotland Excel Academy.

Assessments and course delivery will be supported by interactive activities and the opportunity to share experiences using the Scotland Excel Academy.

How much time will it take me?

The PDA is comprised of two units:

- Project Justification and Planning (8 SCQF credits) and
- Project Managing the Implementation of a Project (16 SCQF credits).

The SCQF works on the basis that 1 credit = 10 hours of effort and therefore it would be expected that completion of the PDA would require a total of 240 hours of effort. This will be comprised of module delivery, guided learning and activities through the Scotland Excel Academy and completion of assessments.

What qualification will I receive if I successfully complete the course?

On successful completion of the course candidates will receive the Professional Development Award in Project Management at SCQF Level 8.

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