

WATR7000 - Project management (2 units)

Foundation module

Course description

This course provides students with an overview of the issues relating to integrated water management.

The aim of this foundation course is for students to understand the principles of project management and learn the skills necessary to professionally design and manage water projects in development contexts.

Key topics include: problem analysis and scoping; project design; capacity building; and participatory approaches, monitoring and evaluation.

Course introduction

This course trains students in the skills, tools and techniques necessary to manage a broad range of project activities. Students learn the principles of project management through each stage of the project cycle:

- from initial problem analysis, scoping and project design to the management of administrative, logistical and financial aspects of project implementation;
- social, environmental and gender impact issues;
- research and data analysis;
- ongoing monitoring and evaluation;
- grievance procedures.

Focusing on project management for the water sector, the course emphasises participatory project management and frameworks for cross-sectoral collaboration.

Course delivery

- **Full-time** (on-campus) students, including international students, are required to enrol in the internal offering in Semester 1. Semester 1 begins with a three-day [field trip to North Stradbroke Island](#).
- **Part-time** (external) students are required to attend a three-day [field trip to North Stradbroke Island](#) followed immediately by an intensive three-day block of classes (9am-5pm). The remainder of the course will be taught externally on-line.

Assumed background

This course is one of four foundational courses for the Master of Integrated Water Management. Students are expected to have the requisite undergraduate and/or workplace knowledge to enable them to conduct postgraduate study.

Learning objectives

After successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

- understand the history and theories of project management
- understand the project management cycle and use it in specific project activities
- apply the essential tools of project management relating to project planning and resourcing
- identify the elements required in project design
- define a project's scope using a range of participatory and analytical tools
- develop a project logical framework and critically analyse the logical framework approach
- recognise the need and plan for social, environmental, and gender impact assessments in project design and rollout
- participate in and lead a project team
- understand and apply monitoring and evaluation and risk management in the project cycle
- demonstrate the use of personal reflection and social learning to improve their own ability, and their ability as part of a team, to analyse and explore integrated solutions to practical water planning and management problems exemplified in case studies presented in this course
- show how relevant theories, integration tools and decision support systems presented in this course can inform the research and analysis of case studies and help to identify practical, integrated solutions to water planning and management problems.





IWC Graduates receive a co-badged degree from four leading Australian universities, ranked amongst the top 1% of the best universities in the world for teaching and research. (QS Global Ranking)

“When we graduate we will be one of the new ‘breeds’ of water managers who are able to interact with professionals from a number of disciplines – from engineering to community development. This is a skill that is desperately needed if we are to effectively manage water in Australia and globally.”

– Masters student

Teaching staff

Course Coordinator: [Dr Steven Pratt](#) (The University of Queensland)

Lead Lecturer: [Dr Helen Johnson](#) (The University of Queensland)

Lecturer: [Mr Peter Wegener](#) (International WaterCentre)

Problem-Based Learning (PBL) projects

PBL projects and field trips will run through the semester, comprising roughly 50% of the total contact time and assessment weight. These enable students to develop skills that complement the content delivered in the four co-requisite courses: WATR7000, WATR7001, WATR7002, WATR7003. Please see other co-requisite course profiles to cross-reference.

The PBL stream for the Foundation semester comprises an individual project and a group project conducted in multidisciplinary teams (full-time students complete two PBL projects per semester while part-time students complete one PBL per semester):

- **PBL1:** Situation analysis and critique of an existing water management project or program (Group project)
- **PBL2:** Design of a project proposal to address a real-world water management issue from an Integrated Water Management perspective (Individual project)

A significant amount of project time will be spent exploring the case study material with respect to the topic content of the Project management course. Students will be able to apply project management tools to their group project tasks. They will consider the design, planning, management, monitoring and evaluation of the water projects presented in the case studies. As their skills and knowledge progress, students will be asked to undertake the comprehensive design of a water project situated in a designated case study catchment. In addition to generic project management skills such as the use of the logical framework approach students will apply particular tools, for example the household survey, risk analysis framework and tools for stakeholder analysis. Linking with material taught in the other courses, students will consider how management

actions are affected by the social and policy context, as well as the bio-physical characteristics of the case study catchments.

Field trips

Students begin the Foundation semester with a three-day field trip to [North Stradbroke Island](#). The cost of the trip (including transport from Brisbane, accommodation and meals) is included in the tuition fees.

For a complete list of field trips that students undertake during the Foundation semester, please refer back to “Field trips” on page 4 of this syllabus or visit [IWC website](#).



Photos of students on a field trip to North Stradbroke Island.