

Pioneering Project Management Education in Ireland

Dublin Business School (DBS) is the largest independent third-level college in Ireland, offering programs that attract more than 9,000 students from 70 countries around the world. DBS is also a pioneer in offering project management education, as it was the first private college in Ireland to become a Registered Education Provider (R.E.P.) and offer exam preparation courses for PMI's Project Management Professional (PMP)[®] certification.

According to Paul Taaffe, PMP and Senior Lecturer, the decision to work with PMI was a simple one. "DBS prides itself on the quality of its programs, so working with PMI was an easy choice," Paul recalls. "PMI is the world's leading institution in project management. Today's global marketplace relies on organizations being able to trade with one another all around the world, despite coming from different cultures and speaking different languages. Only PMI's framework of best practices makes it possible for project management to become a universal language that everyone can speak."

According to Paul, achieving R.E.P. status has afforded a number of benefits not only to DBS but also to its students and graduates.

RAISING ORGANIZATIONAL VISIBILITY:

"PMI is a globally recognized and respected organization. So many people have heard of it, we found that we don't

have to go and 'sell' ourselves to the students. In essence, our work is already done," laughs Paul. "Students have confidence in PMI, and come to us with the knowledge that we have already proven ourselves to meeting PMI's exacting standards."

GROWING FACULTY RESOURCES:

Increasing demand for their programs has enabled DBS to substantially increase its faculty. When it first began offering project management courses, DBS had only a single full-time instructor on staff. Today, DBS has three full-time instructors, as well as a network of experts, who are on call to lecture on specialized topics. Additional programs are in development, including an online MBA program with a project management focus.

BOOSTING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

Another benefit to becoming an R.E.P. is the natural connection it creates with a powerful asset: the local PMI chapter. "I always encourage my students to join PMI and the Ireland chapter," says Paul. "They have more than 800 members from across Ireland and represent a wide range of industries. The chapter not only provides an incredible opportunity for networking, but also a great way to build knowledge and skills, as its members are responsible for leading the key projects happening in Ireland today."

In addition to providing substantial organizational benefits to DBS, their R.E.P. status has also benefited its students and graduates by increasing their success in the marketplace and the workplace.

INCREASING SUCCESS IN THE MARKETPLACE:

Today's graduates are entering a new job market, where organizations place a high value on those who can prove their project management expertise. "Organizations want to place their

WHAT IS AN R.E.P.?

A PMI Registered Education Provider (R.E.P.) is an organization approved by PMI to issue professional development units (PDUs) for its training courses.

Courses offered by R.E.P.s are preapproved for contact hours in fulfillment of certification eligibility requirements, as well as PDUs to fulfill the continuing certification requirements for PMI credentials.

The R.E.P. program has been designed to enhance the ongoing professional development of PMI members, those credentialed through PMI and others in the project management profession.

For more information visit:
[PMI.org/REP](https://www.pmi.org/REP)

projects in the hands of people who have a proven ability and a proven competency to actually execute them," explains Paul. "This means that those who have a certification, such as the PMP®, find it's a lot easier to push open the door into an employer's organization than those who don't."

INCREASING SUCCESS IN THE WORKPLACE

Paul, now in his second decade as a PMP®, can also personally attest to the value of certification in the workplace, due to a 30-year career that has included managing large projects and running a project management office. "If you have that certification, you're going to be a better project manager, rather than just flying by the seat of your pants and hoping that things are going to work out. Because PMI and its certifications are constantly aligned with best practice, it keeps project managers very sharp and the organization can have confidence in them and their ability to deliver."

What Lies Ahead for Registered Education Providers?

A look at recent research regarding "Millennials" indicates that Registered Education Providers may be uniquely positioned to benefit from long-term growth in the demand for certification

exam preparation and project management training.

MILLENNIALS SEE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION AS THE KEY TO INCREASING SALARY

Decades of studies have shown that the PMP® is one of the most valuable certifications in the working world in terms of salary. Now, recent Millennial research reveals that more than two-thirds of Millennials consider salary to be one of the most important measures of career success... and more than 70% of them regard professional certification as an important means of building a successful career.

BOTH MILLENNIALS AND THEIR EMPLOYERS WANT TO INVEST IN BUILDING TRANSFERRABLE SKILLSETS SUCH AS PROJECT MANAGEMENT

In addition, R.E.P.s can look to experience an increase in the demand for project management training from both individuals and organizations. Numerous studies have long identified project management as one of the most transferable skillsets for a professional to possess. Now, multiple Millennial studies reveal that the majority of Millennials strongly desire to build a highly transferable skillset... and many

corporations have identified that helping them do so is a key employee retention strategy.

For Registered Education Providers, Even Uncertain Economic Times Boost the Bottom Line

But how will R.E.P.s fare in today's challenging economic climate? Paul is confident that R.E.P.s will thrive, not in spite of the economy, but because of it. "When an economy is struggling, organizations need to gain any and every competitive advantage they can," Paul states. "Project management has never been more important, because in today's environment, the failure of a project can actually threaten the survival of an entire organization. Even organizations who are good at delivering projects know that they need to always be improving, because if they aren't, they know that their competitors certainly are."