

Frequently Asked Questions about the Master in Project Management (MPM) Program

QUESTIONS

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Why is CIIT offering the MPM program?

CIIT is a young but rapidly evolving and expanding public-sector university in Pakistan with a mission to provide quality education to students at an affordable price. One of our long-term objectives is to contribute to Pakistan's development in whatever way we can. As projects constitute the very basis of national development in virtually all fields, and also because scant attention has been paid in Pakistan to promoting education in managing projects in the past, we feel obliged and are honored to take head on the challenge of pioneering a formal degree program in project management for the first time in Pakistan.

What is total duration of MPM program?

MPM program spans over one-year comprising two semesters.

What is schedule of Classes?

MPM program is designed for professionals therefore classes are scheduled to be held five days a week (Monday – Friday) at 06:30 – 09:30 p.m. However, during holy month of Ramadan, each class will be of maximum two hours and will be finished about one-hour before Iftar.

Who qualifies for admission into the MPM program?

Admission is open to everyone with at least sixteen years of education in a relevant field such as Business Administration, Public Administration and Policy, Computer Sciences, Information Technology, Economics, Engineering, Natural Sciences, and Development studies and at least five years of relevant experience. However, applicants having valid NTS score, i.e. 50 and above, can be considered even if experience is little less than five years. As all course material is in English, and English is the sole medium of teaching and interaction between our course instructors and students, very good English communication skills are a must for applicants.

The MPM is suited primarily for those candidates with backgrounds in the fields of engineering and natural science, computer science and IT, economics, management, public administration and policy, and development studies. The “ideal applicant” would be a working professional in either the public, private, non-governmental or development sector who is in his or her late 20's to mid 30's and who has a strong interest in learning project management for career development.

Candidates seeking admission in our MPM program because they feel that project management has become a “buzzword” and simply want to jump on the bandwagon, as well as those who just “want a degree” but have no genuine interest in learning the subject as a component of their career development are suggested to invest time and finances in the actual field of their choices and interest instead of practicing sheep dip approach.

How many students will be admitted to the program?

CIIT will admit a maximum of 30 students per semester into the MPM.

How much does the MPM program cost?

The total cost of MPM program is Rs. 130,000. Following is detail:

Charges	Fee Structure
Admission Fee (non-refundable)	12,000
Graduation Fee (non-refundable)	5,000
Total	17,000
Caution Money (refundable)	5,000
Per Semester Charges	
Registration Fee	3,000
Tuition Fee	41,000
Examination Fee	3,000
Library Fee	1,000
Laboratory Fee / Computer Lab	5,000
Sports Fee	500
Student Club	500
Total semester fee	54,000
Fee for first semester	76,000
Fee for second semester	54,000
Total fee of the program	130,000

Can I download an MPM application form?

Yes, but it is preferred that you may retrieve it in person from the office of the Program In charge Dr. Muhammad Zahid Iqbal, COMSATS Institute of Information Technology's Academic Block II, Department of Management Sciences, Park Road, Chak Shahzad Campus, Islamabad. Before you get your application form you will first be interviewed with the purpose of determining your suitability for the MPM program.

You can later submit your completed application to the Department of Management Sciences along with a covering letter stating your interest in applying for admission to our MPM program. Please remember that attested copies of your National ID Card, degrees, testimonials etc. and a photo must be attached with your application.

Do I have to undertake an NTS-GAT test?

Yes, you do if your professional experience is less than five years.

I have already passed the NTS-GAT test. Can I use my old test score for admission to the MPM?

According to information we received from National Testing Services, you can use your old NTS-GAT test score provided it is less than two years old. There are, however, "certain circumstances" under which a NTS-GAT test score which is only up to one year old is acceptable. Please check with the Program In charge in case of doubt.

What is this NTS-GAT test? Where can I get information on it?

This is a basic test for admission into master degree programs at CIIT. You can find information on the NTS-GAT test at both the websites of NTS (www.nts.org.pk) and CIIT (www.ciit.edu.pk). If you visit second-hand bookshops, you may be able to find NTS-GAT study guides.

What is this "Letter of Endorsement" from my employers which is required to be submitted with my application?

Our MPM is a very demanding program. Every week you are required to attend 15 hours of classes. Besides this, you are also expected to work for your degree outside the class times. This will put a lot of strain on working professionals. Therefore, it is essential that your employer recognizes this and expresses willingness to facilitate you any way it can. For example, if a class is being held on Monday evening from 6 PM to 9 PM, then your employer should not expect you to stay on in your office and put in overtime on that day (or days). After all, with your MPM you will be adding value to your organization. As it will also benefit, then it be supportive to the maximum possible extent.

Will I be required to attend an interview as a precondition for admission?

The interview will, as indicated above, be conducted at the time you come to get your application form. Therefore, it is necessary that come in person.

Where will the classes be held?

Classes will be held at CIIT's new campus in Chak Shehzad.

Who will be my course instructors?

Only our highest qualified instructors will teach course modules in the MPM. All our main resource persons have either a foreign doctoral degree and/or a foreign masters degree in an engineering, management or administrative field in addition to several years of high-level professional work experience. For further details, please see the course instructors weblink.

What facilities will CIIT offer the students of the MPM program?

CIIT offers all its students good facilities. Our lecture halls are equipped with multimedia and whiteboards. All text books used in our MPM course modules will be available in our library. We also offer high-speed internet access for those with laptops. However, we do not offer any transportation facility. Students must make their own arrangement in this regard.

I live outside Islamabad. Can CIIT arrange hostel accommodation for me if I'm admitted to the MPM?

CIIT has hostel facilities but these are usually overbooked. Moreover, as mostly our undergraduate students are residing in these hostels we do not think that their environment would be appropriate for working professionals. There are a number of hostels in Islamabad/Rawalpindi and the MPM organizers can try to be supportive by locating such hostels and providing contact details to the MPM applicants who must indicate their need for accommodation in their applications. **NOTE:** The MPM Organizers are not responsible for any loss, damage or personal injury incurred by MPM applicants in these hostels. All

arrangements must be made, and the cost of hostel accommodation incurred, by the MPM applicants themselves.

What examination system is the MPM program following?

In each of the ten MPM courses there will be three components of evaluation. First component comprises quizzes, assignments, presentation etc. carrying 25 marks. Second component consists of two sessional examinations carrying 25 marks in total. (sessional-I = 10 and sessional-II = 15). Final component is terminal examination of 50 marks. In addition, all students will be required to undertake a Project Assignment, which is to be submitted within a given time frame.

What teaching methodology will be applied in the MPM program?

We will be following an approach which emphasizes both holistic and methodological elements. In other words, our students are expected to not only see the “broader picture” in which projects are initiated, planned and implemented, but also they are required to understand all the main processes, tools and techniques which find application in larger projects.

What role does business and industry have in the MPM program?

We firmly believe that the input of business and industry is crucial for the acceptance and credibility of our MPM program. CIIT will strive to include maximum participation by businesses and industries in the Islamabad-Rawalpindi region. We have already received offers of support and we are working hard to forge close relationships with partners.

Is attendance in the MPM classes mandatory?

Yes, it is. If students do not attend classes they will miss out details that are not only crucial for gaining an in-depth understanding of project management but which may be exam relevant. If due to other professional or family or other commitments students think or can foresee that they may or will have difficulty in regularly attending classes and/or in meeting our demanding program requirements, they should NOT apply for admission into our MPM program.

Can I be expelled from the MPM program?

Yes, you can! Instances of misbehavior apart, students will be expelled from our MPM program if they fail to attend classes or fail to clear their examinations. No fees will be refunded in this case. As we are targeting professionals we feel, though, that the likelihood of this occurring is quite remote.

Does CIIT offer scholarships for the MPM program?

No, it doesn't. The MPM program is self-financing and we cannot offer any scholarships for the foreseeable future. We may remind students that our program is very affordable and is comparable in standard to MPM programs being offered overseas. If you apply for admission into an MPM program in Europe, North America or Australia, our tuition cost would barely

cover your return airfare – to say nothing of your astronomical tuition and living expenses in your country of study.

Can I get credit for other project management courses I already attended inside and outside CIIT?

No, you can't. You are required to meet ALL the MPM program requirements as they stand, irrespective of whether or not you have already studied project management elsewhere before.

How does the CIIT MPM compare to other programs in this field in Pakistan and overseas?

As we mentioned, our MPM program is a pioneering undertaking. Some universities in Pakistan do offer degrees with specializations in project management but none offers a degree in project management yet.

Our MPM is comparable in terms of quality with similar degrees being offered in foreign countries. If you do a comparative analysis of our requirements, you will find numerous similarities between our MPM and their respective programs. We may add that our MPM is more focused on project conditions as they apply to Pakistan.

Will my degree be recognized by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan?

CIIT is a public-sector university. All degrees being offered by CIIT have to pass through a long process of checks by several boards. All our degrees are recognized by the HEC.

What is the role of the Project Management Institute in the MPM program?

The Project Management Institute fully stands behind our MPM program. In fact, the Institute has agreed to host its seminar series at CIIT in future.

What job prospects will I have after graduation?

Project Management is a field for which there is huge scope in Pakistan – and overseas. The future of Pakistan rests on the foundation of projects, whether they are in energy, logistics, construction, telecommunications, poverty alleviation, administrative reforms or countless other fields. Professionals in this field are really very hard to find.

What future links will I have with CIIT?

CIIT believes that its relationship with students doesn't start with the student's application letter for admission into our MPM program and terminate with the award of the student's degree at a formal ceremony one year later. Like other reputed universities in Pakistan and overseas, we want to have a long-lasting bond with our students so that we can mutually support and grow.

To whom can I apply for admission into the MPM program?

You can apply directly to:

*Dr. Muhammad Zahid Iqbal
In charge MPM program
Department of Management Sciences
COMSATS Institute of Information Technology
Park road, Chak Shahzad Campus, Islamabad,
Email: mzahid75@comsats.edu.pk
Cell: 0322-5375179*