

# WATR7000 - New perspectives on project management (2 units)

## Foundation module

### Module description

This module provides participants with an overview of issues relating to integrated water project management.

This foundation module's aim is for participants to understand, critique and engage creative thinking in relation to project management and to learn the skills necessary to professionally design and manage water projects in international development and Australian contexts.

Key topics include: critical, creative and ethical approaches to project design and management; stakeholder and rights-holder identification and analysis; project management skills and tools; impact assessment; and the design of relevant monitoring and evaluation techniques.

### Module introduction

Participants are equipped with the skills, tools and techniques necessary to manage a range of project activities. Participants learn the principles of project management through each stage of the project cycle. These include:

- Initial problem analysis, scoping and project design;
- Identification and inclusion of stakeholders and communities in the design and implementation of projects;
- Management of administrative, logistical and financial aspects of project implementation;
- Social, environmental and gender impact assessment processes;
- Ongoing monitoring and evaluation, and
- Grievance procedures.

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

### Module 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 module is taught externally online.

### Assumed background

This module is one of four foundation modules for the Master of Integrated Water Management. Participants are expected to have the requisite undergraduate and/or workplace knowledge to enable them

to conduct postgraduate study.

### Learning objectives

After successfully completing this module participants are able to:

- 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 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 module
- Show how relevant theories, integration tools and decision support systems presented in this module can inform the research and analysis of case studies and help to identify practical, integrated solutions to water planning and management problems.



“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

## Field trips

Participants 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 participants undertake during the Foundation semester, please refer back to “Field trips” on page 7 of this syllabus or visit the [IWC website](#).



## Teaching staff

**Lead Lecturer:** [Professor Helen Johnson](#) (University of Sassari, Italy)

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

## Problem-Based Learning (PBL) projects

PBL projects and field trips run through the semester, comprising roughly 50% of the assessment weight. These enable participants to develop skills that complement the content delivered in the four Foundation modules.

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 is spent exploring the case study material with respect to the topic content of the ‘New perspectives on project management’ module. Participants are able to apply project management tools to their group project tasks. They consider the design, planning, management, monitoring and evaluation of the water projects presented in the case studies. As their skills and knowledge progress, participants are 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 participants apply particular tools, for example the household survey, risk analysis framework and tools for stakeholder analysis. Linking with material taught in the other modules, participants consider how management actions are affected by the social and policy context, as well as the bio-physical characteristics of the case study catchments.

Photos: participants on a field trip to North Stradbroke Island.