

# THE UNIVERSITY OF CUMBRIA

**Project Academy -  
Background information for  
candidates**

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University of  
**CUMBRIA**



# **CONTENTS**

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<b>ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF CUMBRIA</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>WHAT IS THE UNIVERSITY OF CUMBRIA PROJECT ACADEMY?</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>KEY AREAS OF ACTIVITY</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>RECENT DEVELOPMENT AND SUCCESSES</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>CASE STUDY: A PROJECT ACADEMY FOR SELLAFIELD</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>NOTES PAGE</b>	<b>14</b>

# **ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF CUMBRIA**

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The University of Cumbria was established to deliver long-term socio-economic benefits to Cumbria, the Borderlands and across our wider region and beyond as the University 'of' and 'for' Cumbria. Founded on a rich educational history with institutions dating back more than 150 years in 2017 the University celebrated its 10th anniversary and in 2018 we celebrated our thirty thousandth graduate.

Our vision is to be a catalyst for individual and regional prosperity and pride – with national and international relevance, reach and impact, placing a firm emphasis on our roots as an Anchor Institution for Cumbria, our wider region and beyond.

## **We place high value on:**

- Working in strategic partnerships with employers, education providers and stakeholders to grow and provide an accessible and research informed academic offer which capitalises on place and meets individual, regional, sector and employer needs;
- Providing knowledge-focused services to businesses and other employers;
- Providing an excellent learning, teaching and research environment and student experience, equipping our graduates with the skills, attributes, confidence and resilience to succeed on graduation and beyond.

We operate across multiple locations: Carlisle (two locations) Lancaster, Ambleside, Workington, Furness and London as well as at employer sites regionally, nationally and internationally. Having been involved in the development of a number of the new Apprenticeships and with a proven track record in the delivery of high quality education, with a focus on industry-relevant qualifications and flexible, work based learning across many sectors.



**DEVELOP SKILLS  
EXPAND KNOWLEDGE  
UNLOCK OPPORTUNITIES**

# WHAT IS THE UNIVERSITY OF CUMBRIA PROJECT ACADEMY?

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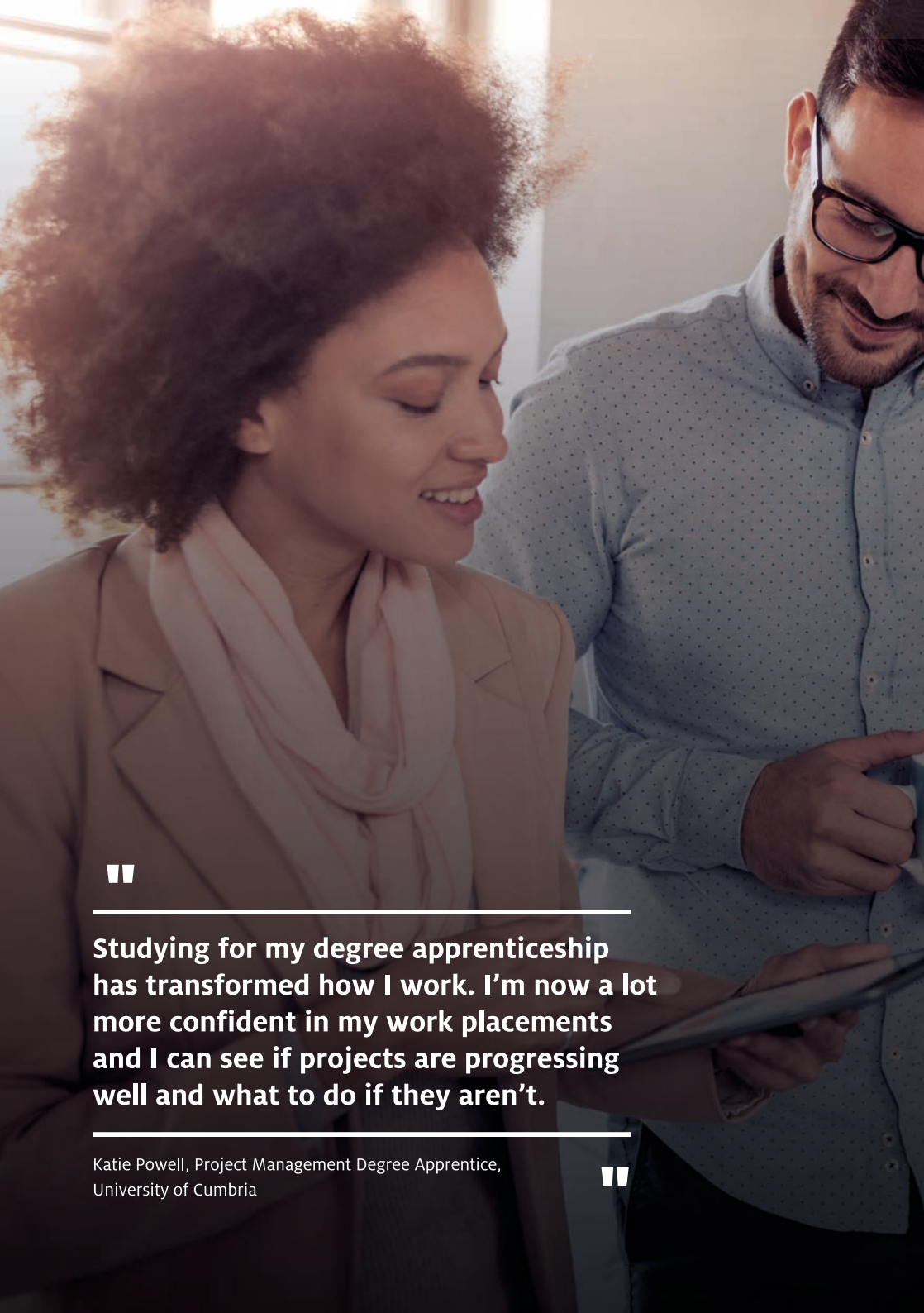
The University of Cumbria Project Academy (UoCPA) is a growing national centre of excellence for education, skills and the development of effective project professionals who are able to deliver, oversee and lead excellent projects.

We aspire to be recognised across multiple sectors and industries as the go to place and partner of choice for the development of organisational and team capability and extending of project professionals individual effectiveness from entry level through to subject matter experts, within the ever changing landscape of project delivery.

## **How does the UoCPA work?**

We work collaboratively with employer and delivery partners to develop, deliver and support a comprehensive and progressive pathway of education, training, professionally accredited qualifications and personal, team and professional development.

Drawing on a long legacy and deep expertise of developing reflective and critical professionals and leaders across the private, public and third sectors, we have developed a strong capability and capacity to transfer this expertise and apply it within various skill and employment sectors, bridging between academia and the workplace



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**Studying for my degree apprenticeship has transformed how I work. I'm now a lot more confident in my work placements and I can see if projects are progressing well and what to do if they aren't.**

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Katie Powell, Project Management Degree Apprentice,  
University of Cumbria



# KEY AREAS OF ACTIVITY

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The current activity of the UOCPA falls in five main areas:

1. Acting as principal supplier of the award winning Project Academy for Sellafield
2. A strategic partnership with BAE Systems in Barrow to delivering project management higher education and the L6 degree apprenticeship
3. A position as one of two providers approved to deliver the L6 PMDA to NHS Trusts and employers through Health Education England and a unique ability to offer the L6 PMDA across the NHS with an embedded Leadership Qualification through the NHS Leadership Academy
4. The provision of regional and national cohorts of the L6 project management degree apprenticeship and a Higher Education offer from L4 to L8 through physical and virtual face to face delivery
5. The provision of a comprehensive Professional and CPD Short Course Offer through physical and virtual face to face delivery.

## WHAT DOES THE UOCPA DELIVER?

Through the five key areas of activity UOCPA delivers courses from apprenticeships to masters and from one-day foundation courses to year-long development programmes and multi-year degree programmes. Our courses are accredited by or aligned with the Association for Project Management (APM).

We also offer both apprenticeship (since January 2019) and non-apprenticeship routes to our BSc Project Management, together with a Foundation degree (earned after two years' study) and a growing number of certificate courses. These shorter programmes include Project Controls, Project Scope Baseline Management, Programme Management and Business Change Management. We also coordinate and deliver an extensive programme of short CPD courses and professional qualifications under the Project Academy banner, from introduction courses to different project disciplines, to APM, Axelos and APMG certified qualifications.

We have recently developed a new MSc in Project Leadership for professionals who have already completed degree level study in project management. Launching in January 2022 this programme will offer a route to becoming a Chartered Project Professional (ChPP), the APM chartered standard.



## WHO DOES THE UOCPA WORK WITH?

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We have a growing employer client base which currently includes: Sellafield Ltd, BAE Systems, Rolls-Royce, the BBC, the Department for Education, COGENT, Local Government, NHS Trusts, Siemens, The Cumberland BS, UKRI, HES, STORY and over 130 others across multiple sectors.

Who delivers the UOCPA?

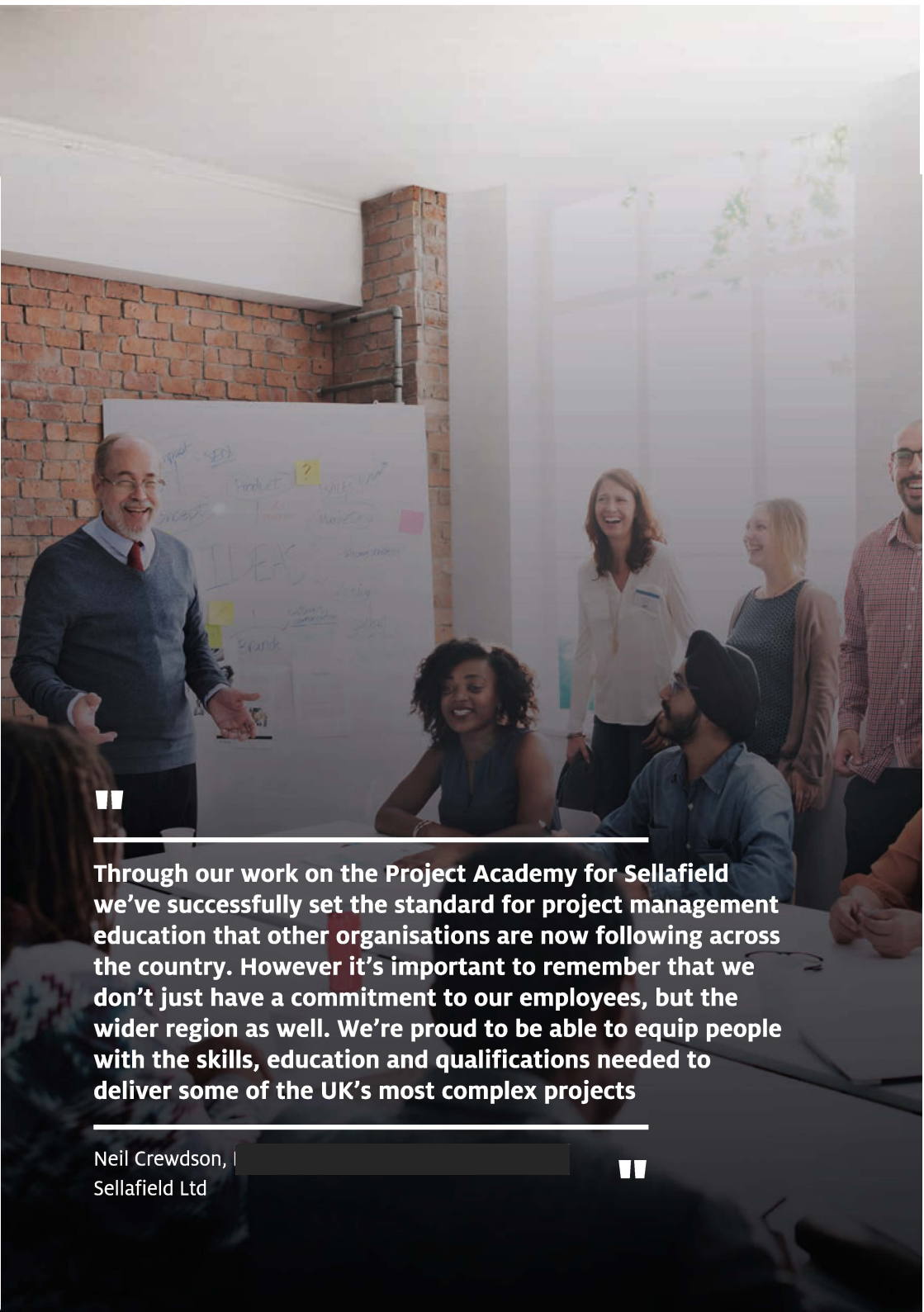
Whilst drawing on the breadth and depth of expertise and capacity across the wide academic subject base our Project Management team currently consists of staff whom possess higher degrees at Masters or Doctoral level combined with experience of project management across a range of industries such as IT, manufacturing, logistics, Armed Forces, construction, oil and gas, highways, third sector and health service.

Our lecturing team are supported by associate staff, who deliver the PMQ examination and guest lectures during the degree programme, as well as adding a wealth of further experience in Project Management to the team.

In addition to our Associates, we also make use of guest experts from our employer base who are able to bring to life elements of Project Management, and students have appreciated such input from senior leaders in their own employers.

As well as academic teams focused on delivering education and research, the Institute has a support team focused on managing our industry partnerships and contracts, with staff dedicated to client relationship management, support for students from application to graduation, finance and contract management, quality assurance and continuous improvement, and course development.

We are currently implementing our latest investment in additional staffing in this area, as demonstrated by the recruitment of additional staff across a number of roles, to ensure our capacity is growing commensurate with the demands on staff to continue to deliver high quality learner experience, high levels of employer satisfaction and good outcomes for all our students.



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**Through our work on the Project Academy for Sellafield we've successfully set the standard for project management education that other organisations are now following across the country. However it's important to remember that we don't just have a commitment to our employees, but the wider region as well. We're proud to be able to equip people with the skills, education and qualifications needed to deliver some of the UK's most complex projects**

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Neil Crewdson, |  
Sellafield Ltd



# RECENT DEVELOPMENT AND SUCCESSES

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**2021/21 marked the 5th anniversary of the Project Academy work and as part of this we saw:**

- The extension of the Project Academy for Sellafield contract for a further two years
- Relationships with wider employers maintained and also key new / relationships developed
- New significant clients being secured (e.g. NHS Trusts, DFE, UKRI and Cumbria County Council)
- The Institute expanded its reach for the project management apprenticeship
- The 550th HE registration took place in project management
- The 5500th attendance took place on a short course in project management
- Over 130 employers are now engaged on the Project Academy
- 57 of these employers are accessing the PM level 6 apprenticeship
- 10 employers are accessing other Higher Education programmes
- The geographical coverage ranges from Glasgow to Southampton/ Brighton.

We currently hold the position as one of the lead HE providers of Project Management in the country and the reputation of the PA is very strong in the nuclear industry. This reputation and activity is extending across a range of employers within the energy, industrial, public and wider private and third sectors.



**The range of training and education we have developed for the Academy is available to all individuals and companies. We are aiming to benefit the whole region by developing much needed skills across all areas of project management from entry level to executive level.**



# CASE STUDY: A PROJECT ACADEMY FOR SELLAFIELD

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In 2016 the University of Cumbria began a long term partnership with Sellafield Ltd to deliver project management qualifications and training across their organisation. The Academy was created to ensure all of Sellafield's training and career development methodologies were aligned to the various career paths. During this time, we've delivered over 50 courses and a number of these are accredited by the Association for Project Management.

To date, our collaboration with Sellafield Ltd has been recognised by accolades including a Nuclear Decommissioning Authority supply chain award and formed part of their winning Contribution to the Profession APM award.

In March 2020 the Project Academy for Sellafield contract was further extended. Following the success of this programme we have also developed positive working relationships with a number of other major employers, small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and charities.

[Click here](#) to watch a video which gives an overview of the Project Academy for Sellafield.



# NOTES

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## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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If you have any questions or would like some more information about the University of Cumbria Project Academy please contact a member of our team on:

E: [project.academy@cumbria.ac.uk](mailto:project.academy@cumbria.ac.uk)

T: 01228 616332

Project Academy for Sellafield: <https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/business/project-management/a-project-academy-for-sellafield/>



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