## Summary Information, Foundation Scholarships in Complex Project and Program Management, 2009

### What is the Foundation Scholarship?

Asia Pacific International College (APIC) has decided to offer 2 scholarships to qualified applicants in 2009 to study the art and science of management following the application of the complexity theory. It provides opportunities to graduate students to master the art and science of complex project and program management and at the same time qualify and receive the MBA (Project and Program Management), which is a recognised academic degree.

The benefits of APIC’s education programs are many, including gaining insights and competences needed to perform in the increasingly complex technology-based organisations. Examples of high level competencies and meta cognitive abilities include the following:

- Sense making ability (optimum complexity reduction ability)
- Self reference (reflexive learning)
- Capacity to act in conditions of complexity and chaos
- Creative and interpretive mindset
- Goal seeking autonomous behaviour
- In search of new learning/knowledge
- Motivated by intrinsic values
- Capacity to act within technology-based networks

### What are the objectives of the MBA (PPM) course?

The objectives of APIC’s MBA (PPM) course are to aid development of a superior grade of project management professionals as project value creators, project and program leaders, strategic thinkers and agents of change in both private and public sectors of the economy. Typical roles in industry include Program Manager, Project Director, Senior Project Manager, Executive Project Manager, Department Head, Director etc. Given the complexity and uncertainty that typically characterise large complex projects and programs, as well as their business environment, project and program leaders need refined intellectual and professional skills. Research has shown that this type of far-sighted and well-developed professionals are in demand in industry and government, particularly as project-based management is spreading and project management professionals increasingly participate in management of project-oriented business units.

### What is the scope of MBA (PPM)?

The MBA (PPM) is awarded upon completion of 10 course units and the MBA Seminar. On commencement of studies all candidates are required to complete the professional development planning workshop as well. The studies comprise core, secondary core and advanced studies concerning the following concentrations:

- Leadership, communication, socio-cultural and behavioural studies
- Project and program management studies
- Project and program business management studies
- Organisational and legal studies

APIC’s Chart of Competencies in Project, Program, Portfolio and Organisation Management covers 13 Areas, divided into 54 Units and 156 Elements that address the above competencies (download a copy from [www.apicollege.edu.au](http://www.apicollege.edu.au)).

### What is the educational philosophy at APIC?

“I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand.”

Confucius quote (China’s most famous teacher, philosopher, and political theorist, 551-479 BC)

APIC subscribes to the philosophy of learning through research and engagement in realistic settings. APIC emphasises the non-linear and complex nature of professional assignments and their complex environments. While learning is context-based, the development of competencies is not constrained.

Competency acquisition is generally internal to the actors who engage with the project and the host environment. Of course, there is intervention in terms of advice and mentoring, i.e. models needed to interpret the complex settings and the attendant challenges, theories, techniques and tools.
assessment and feedback etc. This model of learning must not be confused with unstructured learning or ad-hoc experience.

To accelerate the learning process, each course unit commences with an intensive knowledge workshop that lays the foundation for accelerated learning and acquisition of superior capabilities. Workshops are taught by leading academics and practitioners in the field. Students then receive mentoring and continuous feedback to conduct their project phase.

Under APIC’s approach individual learning deepens within a context and process. Typically students work on challenging assignments under which they study real life complexities and challenges, make sense of the same, design and apply their own actions then evaluate the results, adjust their actions and continue the process till they can meet or exceed their goals in an optimal manner. The whole environment is rich with opportunities for engagement, reflection and learning.

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<th>When does it start?</th>
<th>Planned commencement date is 1 April 2009.</th>
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<td>What is the mode of study?</td>
<td>Each unit of study has a 4-day intensive workshop plus 10-week project-based studies conducted under supervision and supported by the College’s online systems, tools and knowledge base.</td>
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<td>How long does it take?</td>
<td>The minimum duration for completion of the MBA (PPM) degree is 18 months (3 semesters). However, the Scholarship permits completion of the degree in 4 semesters (2 years).</td>
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<td>Who is qualified to win these scholarships?</td>
<td>Academic merit is the principal criterion for winning one of the Foundation Scholarships in Complex Project and Program Management. In addition, the candidates must demonstrate a commitment to complete the course with merit and be available to mentor up to 10 new students over a 2 year period.</td>
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<td>Can scholarship holders work during their studies?</td>
<td>Part time work is fine provided that it will not be at the expense of their studies. All students can also work full time during the recess times.</td>
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<td>Are there any constraints and conditions?</td>
<td>From the College’s point of view there are no constraints. Potential applicants may need to check their own status regarding attendance at the workshops held in Sydney (otherwise all studies are conducted under supervision and supported by APIC’s online tools, systems and knowledge base). Please note that if a student does not complete the whole MBA (PPM) with merit then he/she becomes liable for full payment of the tuition fees.</td>
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| Action required (applicants) | • Download and review the information supplied on the Foundation Scholarships  
• Apply online*  
• Attend the interview at the College (for assessing your suitability for the scheme)  
• Complete the professional development planning workshop  
• Complete the assigned Intensive Knowledge Workshops in September semester  
• Complete the assigned course units in September semester  
• Proceed to the next semester until you complete the program |

*APIC will consider only applications that are submitted online.