



International Diploma in Risk Management

Specialist module: Public Sector Risk

Module aims

There are a number of key aims of this module. These are to provide students with:

- A clear understanding of the nature of the public sector and its management
- A thorough understanding of the concepts surrounding 'public' risk and its management
- A thorough understanding of the context in which public sector risk requires to be managed
- An appreciation of the differences, and in some cases similarities, between public sector risk management and that of the private sector
- By the utilisation of specific, real-life examples, a detailed exposition of the practical implementation of risk management in public sector organisations

Module syllabus

Unit One: Managing in the public sector. Discuss what is meant by the term 'public sector' and how this sector has changed over the past 20 years. Demonstrate an appreciation of the main organisational theory issues which underpin public sector management

Identify the influence that these changes have had on public sector risk and its management

Unit Two: What is public sector risk management (PSRM)? Discuss the nature of risk in the public sector and outline the sector's historical approach to risk management. Discuss the recent development of PSRM and analyse the specific reasons behind the growth in PSRM, using UK local authority risk management as an example

Unit Three: Managing public risk. Identify what is meant by this type of risk and discuss the role that various public sector bodies play in managing it. Analyse the issues surrounding stewardship and regulation.

Unit Four: The differences between public and private sector risk management. Identify the key drivers for managing risk in the private sector and compare and contrast these with the drivers in the public sector. Discuss the benefits and limitations of utilising private sector methods in public sector organisations

Unit Five: The role of central governments in driving PSRM. Research and discuss how central governments influence the development of risk management in the wider public sector through their roles of regulation, stewardship and management.

Unit Six: Risk financing in the public sector. Identify and understand the key risk financing tools available to the public sector and identify the different tools available to and used by the private sector. Understand the importance of how the private sector finances risk when working with the public sector.

Unit Seven: Risk Management and the Public Sector Supply Chain. Identify the scope and range of supply chains in the delivery of public services. Discuss the impact that predicted cuts in public spending may have on supply chain issues. Be aware of the principles of the Public Finance Initiative and the international adoption of these principles. Outline the main theories behind outsourcing and discuss its relevance in the current economic climate.

Unit Eight: International Perspectives. Using the financial crisis as an example, discuss the impact of cross border public risks and how international co-operation can work to develop a risk control environment. Understand how developing countries are using risk management tools to support development projects and be aware of the environmental challenges these countries can face.

Unit Nine: An extended case study: Managing risk around the delivery of local public services in England. Outline the main elements of the English government's model to improve the quality of local communities through the delivery of local public services. Discuss the challenges this model presents to the management of risk to the delivery of such services.