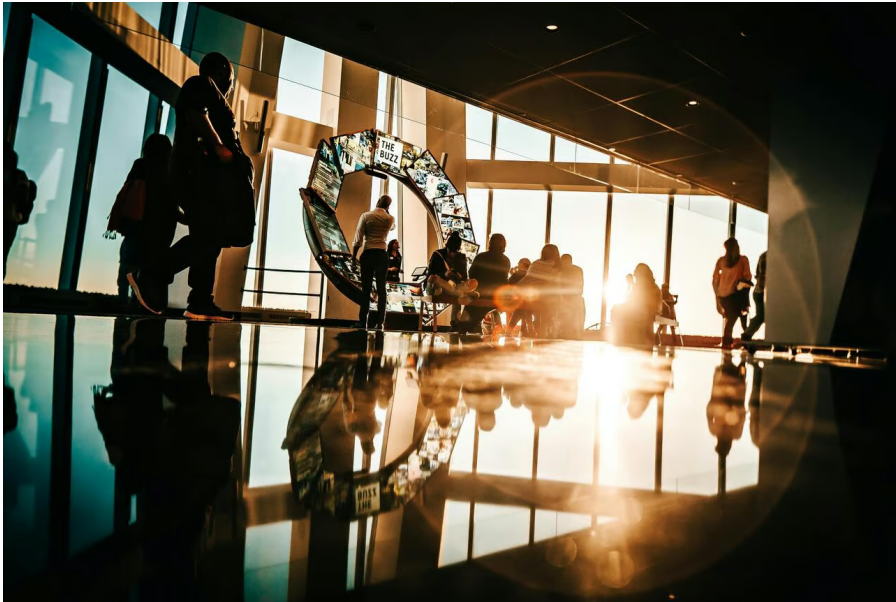


What Are the Benefits of Joining a Project Management Association?

August 6, 2024



A common question that I am asked as a project management coach is how to decide on which industry association is the best fit, to support an individual in their project management development journey.

This is not an easy question to answer. Guidance is often dependent on a number of factors, including in which **country** the individual is based, the **type of projects** that they are hoping to work on, preferred **qualifications** they would like to pursue, if there are **cost** considerations that need to be factored in and whether the purpose is to develop an individual's **profile** or undertake **networking**.

In some cases, employers may specify the project association that staff are required to join, as this may determine a qualification route, align with the organization's corporate membership, or meet client specifications.

It is possible to hold membership of multiple associations, and often there are complementary factors, such as access to a range of research. Or preferential access to sector events, awards and speakers.

Staying informed and connected within the project management community is a key reason to seek association membership. Either as a full member or, as a student or junior member for those early on in their careers.

Being a part of a project management association can significantly enhance your professional growth. These associations serve as valuable platforms for networking, knowledge sharing, and continuous learning. By becoming a member, you gain access to a wealth of resources, training programs,

certifications, and conferences that can enrich your skills and broaden your horizons in project management.

To assist you on this journey, I have produced an easy-to-use guide to the [6 leading project management associations](#) and their key features, as well as a [free guide to project management associations](#). This resource will help you navigate the key benefits of each project management association, enabling you to make informed decisions and find the right fit for your professional development.

As a developing project manager, this information will enable you to:

- **Explore Membership Options:** The table provides insights into the number of members and the associated membership costs of each organization. This helps you assess the popularity and reach of the associations and choose the one that aligns with your preferences and budget.
- **Access Professional Development Opportunities:** Each association offers unique qualifications and certifications. By referring to the table, you can identify the qualifications that resonate with your career goals and aspirations. This enables you to chart a clear path for professional advancement and demonstrate your expertise to potential employers or clients.
- **Attend Conferences and Events:** The main conference events listed in the table act as focal points for project management professionals. Attending these events not only allows you to stay updated with the latest industry trends and best practices but also provides opportunities to network with industry leaders and peers from around the world.
- **Explore Corporate Membership Benefits:** If you are part of a company or organization, the table indicates whether each association offers a corporate membership facility. By opting for a corporate membership, you can unlock additional benefits such as group training programs, discounted rates, and specialized resources tailored to organizational needs.

How to use the table effectively:

To maximize the benefits of the table and make an informed decision about which association is best for your circumstances, consider the following steps:

- **Assess Your Goals and Priorities:** Reflect on your career aspirations and project management objectives. Are you seeking a global network or a more localized community? Do you prioritize specific certifications or qualifications? Understanding your goals will help you narrow down your options.
- **Explore Association Summaries:** The table provides concise summaries of each association, offering an overview of their mission, focus, and areas of expertise. Take the time to read through these summaries to gain a better understanding of each association's core values and offerings.
- **Consider Membership Costs and Benefits:** Evaluate the membership costs and benefits associated with each organization. Consider factors such as membership fees, access to resources and events, and additional perks. This will help you gauge the value proposition and return on investment for each association.

- **Research Qualifications and Certifications:** Pay attention to the qualifications and certifications offered by each association. Assess their relevance to your career and the industry you work in. Review the prerequisites, application process, and costs associated with obtaining these qualifications.
- **Explore Conference Events:** Examine the main conference events hosted by each association. Look for events that align with your interests and professional development needs. Consider the themes, keynote speakers, and networking opportunities available at these conferences.
- **Seek Recommendations and Peer Insights:** Reach out to fellow project management professionals, mentors, or colleagues who have experience with specific associations. Their perspectives and personal experiences can provide valuable insights and help you decide on the best fit for your career aspirations.

Wishing you a great week of career growth!



Nicola Benjamin