Fundamentals of Project Finance: A Comprehensive Overview

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Paris (France)



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Why This Course

Project finance is a critical financing approach for large-scale infrastructure, energy, utilities, transport, industrial, and public-private partnership projects. It allows major projects to be funded based primarily on project cash flows, contractual arrangements, risk allocation, and long-term financial viability.

Unlike traditional corporate finance, project finance requires a clear understanding of project structure, legal agreements, financial modeling, risk assessment, lender requirements, sponsor responsibilities, and deal documentation. A well-structured project finance transaction can attract funding, reduce risk exposure, and improve project bankability.

This intensive 1-week course provides a comprehensive introduction to project finance principles and practices. Through lectures, case studies, hands-on financial modeling exercises, risk workshops, and deal structuring discussions, participants will gain practical knowledge to assess project viability, understand financing structures, and navigate complex project finance transactions with confidence.

What You'll Learn and Practice

By joining this program, you will:

- Understand the key principles and structures of project finance.
- Differentiate project finance from corporate finance.
- Identify key project participants and understand their roles.
- Explore legal, contractual, and commercial frameworks in project finance.
- Identify and categorize major project risks.
- Apply risk allocation and mitigation strategies.
- Assess political, country, environmental, and social risks.
- Build and interpret project finance models.
- Develop cash flow projections and sensitivity analysis.
- Use key financial ratios and metrics to assess project performance.
- Apply scenario analysis and stress testing.
- Understand capital structure and financing options.
- Review term sheets, contract provisions, security packages, and due diligence requirements.
- Analyze current trends in renewable energy, infrastructure, PPPs, and emerging markets.



The Program Flow

Day 1: Introduction to Project Finance

- Project finance fundamentals and market overview.
- Understanding the role of project finance in infrastructure, energy, and long-term capital projects.
- Key participants and their roles.
- Sponsors, lenders, governments, contractors, operators, advisors, and insurers.
- Project finance versus corporate finance.
- Legal and contractual frameworks.
- Practical exercise: Mapping the structure and participants of a project finance transaction.

Day 2: Risk Analysis and Mitigation

- Identifying and categorizing project risks.
- Construction, completion, operational, market, revenue, legal, political, environmental, and social risks.
- Risk allocation and mitigation strategies.
- Allocating risks to the parties best able to manage them.
- Political and country risk assessment.
- Environmental and social risk considerations.
- Workshop: Developing a project risk matrix and mitigation plan.

Day 3: Financial Modeling for Project Finance

- Building a project finance model.
- Understanding assumptions, revenues, costs, debt schedules, taxes, reserves, and cash flows.
- Cash flow projections and sensitivity analysis.
- Key financial ratios and metrics.
- Debt service coverage ratio, loan life coverage ratio, internal rate of return, net present value, and payback period.
- Scenario analysis and stress testing.
- Practical exercise: Reviewing and interpreting a project finance model.

Day 4: Deal Structuring and Documentation

- Capital structure and financing options.
- Debt, equity, mezzanine finance, guarantees, grants, and blended finance structures.
- Term sheets and key contract provisions.
- Intercreditor issues and security packages.
- Due diligence process and requirements.
- Commercial, legal, technical, financial, environmental, and insurance due diligence.
- Workshop: Structuring a project finance deal and reviewing key documentation.



Day 5: Current Trends and Case Studies

- Renewable energy and infrastructure project finance.
- Public-Private Partnerships and their project finance characteristics.
- Emerging market challenges and opportunities.
- Current trends in sustainable finance, climate finance, and infrastructure investment.
- Case study analysis and group presentations.
- Lessons learned from successful and challenging project finance transactions.
- Final activity: Presenting a project viability and bankability assessment.

Individual Impact

- Strengthen your understanding of project finance structures and transaction principles.
- Improve your ability to assess project viability and bankability.
- Build confidence in identifying, analyzing, and mitigating project risks.
- Gain practical exposure to financial modeling and key project finance metrics.
- Improve your understanding of deal structuring, documentation, and due diligence.
- Develop stronger capability to participate in project finance discussions and decisions.

Work Impact

- Improve project evaluation and financing decision quality.
- Strengthen risk allocation and mitigation in project finance transactions.
- Support better preparation for lenders, investors, and project stakeholders.
- Improve financial modeling interpretation and project bankability assessment.
- Enhance deal structuring and negotiation readiness.
- Build stronger organizational capability in infrastructure, energy, PPP, and long-term project financing.

Training Methodology

This program uses a practical and transaction-focused approach to help participants understand project finance in real business contexts. Learning methods include:

- Interactive lectures and guided discussions.
- Project finance case studies.
- Project structure and participant mapping exercises.
- Risk identification and mitigation workshops.
- Financial modeling review and interpretation activities.
- Sensitivity analysis and stress testing exercises.
- Deal structuring and documentation review.
- Group presentations, peer discussion, and facilitator feedback.



Beyond the Course

Upon completion, participants will be prepared to approach project finance transactions with greater clarity, structure, and confidence. They will return ready to:

- Assess project viability and bankability.
- Build and interpret project finance models.
- Identify and mitigate key project risks.
- Support project finance deal structuring and documentation.
- Review term sheets, contracts, and due diligence requirements more effectively.
- Engage more confidently with lenders, sponsors, advisors, and project stakeholders.

