

# PSM I ASSESSMENT ADDED TO CURRICULUM AT OTH REGENSBURG UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

FEBRUARY 2018

## CASE STUDY



## THE UNIVERSITY

### The University

Ostbayerische Technische Hochschule (OTH) Regensburg is a university of applied sciences in Regensburg, Germany. It was founded in 1971 as a university for technology, business, and social affairs. Today, it is one of the largest and most recognized universities of applied sciences in Germany. They currently have 11,500 students, and 225 professors. Areas of focus include engineering, business studies, design, architecture, health, and social studies.

Professor Dr. Sabine Jaritz teaches a course within the Project Management major at the university called Project Controlling. This 14-week course looks at traditional vs. Agile project and portfolio management. Before becoming a Professor, Jaritz worked as a strategic management consultant for The Boston Consulting Group for 15 years. As her background is primarily in traditional project management, she came to the realization that with Agile becoming more prominent, she needed to learn it, and teach it to her students.

### The Challenge

Jaritz took notice that although many German companies have been using Scrum, many are still struggling applying it in a consistent manner. This lack of consistency can lead to failures. If she could enable her students to learn Scrum in a consistent 

manner, she felt they could add tremendous value to organizations after graduating.

“Scrum is becoming more widely used and I want students to be prepared for the real-world,” said Jaritz. “I am seeing large companies like BMW and Siemens using Scrum - it is important that students understand Scrum when they leave the university.”

Proving that students have learned and are ready for the next step after graduation is never easy, so OTH Regensburg needed to find a way to prove the knowledge that had been transferred to their students by an outside, independent body. This would help differentiate their students to potential employers.

## The Solution

Jaritz decided that since she, herself, wanted to become more well-versed in Scrum, that she would make a major piece of her class learning about Scrum and more importantly, “Professional Scrum”. She would teach Scrum as part of her overall curriculum throughout the semester and include taking the Scrum.org Professional Scrum Master™ I (PSM I) certification assessment as part of the class. When she brought the idea of making the PSM I certification a part of the class, the students were very interested and excited about it.

“I chose the Scrum.org PSM I certification because I knew it would be more difficult than some of the other certifications out there,” said Jaritz. “After my research, it also proved to be the most credible. I wanted the certification to be something the students could be proud of achieving and something that would help them when they start their careers.”

When Jaritz started preparing class materials, she made her presentations consistent with the Scrum Guide. Her students were lacking real-

world experience and she felt that she could help bring that into her class which would indirectly help them prepare for the certification. It gave the students a good opportunity to learn how to apply the Scrum framework by working through examples and case studies in class.

Students were taught the class in German and English because they needed to know English for the exam, which added some extra challenge. When teaching the class, Jaritz broke the class into small teams and each team took a section of the Scrum Guide to focus on. Jaritz also facilitated discussions where the students can share their experiences when they had used Scrum in daily life or prior work experiences. Once the class got through the course material, the students moved on to taking the PSM I certification exam.

## Results

With the hard work in class behind them, 24 of Jaritz’s students passed the PSM I exam already, the vast majority after the first attempt. The remaining 4 others plan to take it after their end of term exams. Each student was given recognition in class with certificates and they all celebrated together. The entire university recognized this and many members of the faculty and staff were talking about how credible the approach was to include the certification in the class.

“When I took the exam, it was not easy,” said Jaritz. “Honestly speaking, the exam is quite a challenge and it needs hard preparation. I view this as a very positive thing in that the PSM I is a very credible certification and a great feat for my students to achieve. I am convinced that the PSM I certification will help the students build their personal brand and help them when they are searching for a job post-graduation. This will help them be more successful in their future careers, whether down the line as a Scrum Master, as part of a Scrum Team, or whatever they do. It is truly something to be proud of.” ➤

## About the PSM I

### Assessment and Certification

The Professional Scrum Master™ level I (PSM I) assessment is available to anyone who wishes to validate his or her depth of knowledge of the Scrum framework and its application. Those who pass the assessment receive the industry recognized PSM I Certification to demonstrate their mastery of the content. Although a Professional Scrum training class is not required, it is highly recommended. ◆

## About Scrum.org

Based on the principles of Scrum and the Agile Manifesto, Scrum.org provides comprehensive training, assessments, and certifications to improve the professional of software delivery.

Throughout the world, our solutions and community of Professional Scrum Trainers empower people and organizations to achieve agility through Scrum.

Ken Schwaber, the co-creator of Scrum, founded Scrum.org in 2009 as a global organization, dedicating himself to improving the profession of software delivery by reducing the gaps so the work and work products are dependable.

Visit [www.scrum.org/Resources](http://www.scrum.org/Resources) for more whitepapers and case studies about the Scrum framework in action.

Test your Scrum knowledge and receive the industry recognized PSM I certification.

Learn more and get certified at [www.scrum.org/PSM-Certifications](http://www.scrum.org/PSM-Certifications)