



Dr Riccardo Mogre

TECHNOLOGY PATHWAY

How Specialised Skills Training Can Help Students Beyond Graduation



Professional Scrum Master course helps students prepare for their future careers.

The Technology Pathway prepares students to tackle the contemporary business challenges arising from technological advances. Students learn how to manage technological innovations, analyse and apply data to improve management decision making, develop new technological products, and deliver them using an agile approach.

Agile product delivery using the Scrum framework is the main focus of the Professional Scrum Master (PSM) course, which was most recently offered to the Technology Pathway MBA students in March 2018 by **Scrum.org** and Professional Scrum Trainer, Simon Reindl. Agile project management is an approach aimed at guiding teams in the incremental delivery of requirements throughout the project life cycle. Scrum is an agile framework for product delivery that is practiced by 90% of agile teams and this adoption continues to grow.

Dr Riccardo Mogre, Leader of the Technology Pathway and Assistant Professor in Operations Management, said: *“The adoption of agile frameworks, and of Scrum in particular, is on the rise and not only limited to the software industry, where it originated. The PSM course will help our Technology Pathway students in their future career by exposing them to agile project management styles that they are likely to use after graduation.”*

The PSM course covers the principles and empirical process theory underpinning the Scrum framework, and the role of the Scrum Master in it. This course is a combination of instruction and team-based exercises, and teaches what is at the heart of the Scrum and agile movement. Students who successfully complete an assessment earn the PSM I certification.

Irshad Paurobally, a student of the Technology Pathway, said: *“Durham is one of the few schools that offer a Technology Pathway. Aside from modules such as Technology Innovation and Business Analytics, we are also provided with the opportunity to undergo training on Scrum. We learnt how with Scrum, processes can be broken down into smaller parts with minimal feature sets and with repeated releases called Sprints.”*

It was striking to me how the Scrum Master displays servant leadership with responsibilities for supporting both the team and the process. Additionally, team members are required to display versatility in their roles. The overarching theme is that of the centrality of the product delivery in a timely manner. The PSM class is a great learning experience for students and one which is relevant to the organisation of tomorrow.”