Best project management certifications in 2026, including for technical projects

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Short answer: PMI's PMP is the most widely recognised project management certification for experienced project managers, and CAPM is PMI's entry-level option. PRINCE2, from PeopleCert, is common in the UK, Europe and public-sector work. For agile delivery, Scrum Master and agile practitioner certifications fit better. For people who run technical programmes and need engineering judgement as well as delivery skills, a technical credential such as IICTP's CTP or PgTP sits alongside a project management one.

TL;DR The short version

- PMI's PMP is the most widely recognised certification for experienced project managers, and CAPM is PMI's entry-level option.
- PRINCE2 from PeopleCert is common in the UK, Europe and the public sector; Scrum and agile certifications fit agile delivery better.
- These test planning and delivery practice, not engineering decisions, and most renew through continuing education.

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The main options

- **PMP (PMI):** for experienced project managers; requires project experience and project management training.
- **CAPM (PMI):** PMI's entry-level certification, with no experience requirement.
- **PRINCE2 (PeopleCert):** a process-based method, with Foundation and Practitioner levels.
- **Agile:** Scrum Master certifications, PMI-ACP and others. See best agile certifications.
- **Program and portfolio:** PMI's PgMP and PfMP for senior roles.

For technical projects

Project management certifications test planning and delivery practice, not engineering decisions. People who run platform migrations, infrastructure or AI programmes also need to judge estimates, dependencies and technical risk. See technical project manager: the role and IICTP and PMI: two credentials for two jobs.

Skills any of them should build

- Work breakdown structure

- Critical path
- Earned value
- Risk register
- Scope and change control

Keeping it current

Most project management certifications renew every few years through continuing education. See PDUs explained.

Before you book

Certification bodies rename, update and retire exams often. Check each issuer's own page for current versions, prerequisites and fees before you book.

> Related credential: Program Technical Practitioner. Explore the exam facts and syllabus.

Sources and further reading

1. Project Management Institute. Certifications. pmi.org/certifications. Read 20 October 2026. PMI®, PMP®, CAPM® and PMI-ACP® are marks of Project Management Institute, Inc.; IICTP is not affiliated with PMI.
2. PeopleCert. PRINCE2. peoplecert.org.
3. IICTP. Exam facts, eligibility and blueprints. iictp.org/certifications/exam-facts.

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