

Regular news: **Issue 519 8 May 2009**

## MSc aims to halt overruns to transport project costs

The University of Oxford is inviting transport project managers to enrol on a new MSc course to help them deliver projects successfully and avoid economic or financial disasters.

The MSc in major programme management is being run by Professor Bent Flyvbjerg, an international expert in why projects so often end up costing more and taking longer to deliver than originally anticipated, and why project benefits often fall short of expectation (LTT 10 May 07).

Flyvbjerg has advised the DfT on the concept of 'optimism bias' and his work has informed the Department's reforms to how local major transport projects are managed.

"Our goal with the new degree is to help reduce the high frequency of financial and economic disasters ('boondoggles') in major programme management and increase the number of successes," Flyvbjerg told LTT. He was appointed director of the BT Centre for Major Programme Management at the Saïd Business School, University of Oxford last month (LTT 30 Jan).

The two-year part-time degree begins this October and is aimed at professionals with more than seven years of professional experience in project or programme management, though there is some flexibility to this criterion.

The cost of the course is £20,000, excluding accommodation. College fees will add a further £3,000 to the cost.

The deadline for this year's applications is 5 June.



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