

# PRINCE2 Agile<sup>®</sup> FAQ

## Global Prerequisite Update

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# 1 For Candidates

## 1.1 WHAT IS THE CHANGE TO THE PREREQUISITE FOR PRINCE2 AGILE?

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AXELOS has made the decision to change the prerequisite requirement to take the PRINCE2 Agile examination. This is an expansion of the pilot that has been conducted in Germany, Austria and Switzerland for a significant part of 2016 and will last from the 1 October 2016 until the end of 2017.

The key feature of this change is that the prerequisite for taking PRINCE2 Agile has been lowered from PRINCE2 Practitioner to PRINCE2 Foundation level only. AXELOS has also extended the prerequisite to include other project management qualifications in recognition of the level of competence and understanding demonstrated by the candidates who have taken these qualifications.

Therefore in order to take PRINCE2 Agile, a candidate must hold at least one of the below qualifications:

- PRINCE2 Foundation
- Project Management Professional (PMP)
- Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM)
- IPMA Level A® (Certified Projects Director)
- IPMA Level B® (Certified Senior Project Manager)
- IPMA Level C® (Certified Project Manager)
- IPMA Level D® (Certified Project Management Associate)

This aligns the prerequisite for PRINCE2 Agile to that for PRINCE2 Practitioner.

## 1.2 WHY IS AXELOS MAKING THIS CHANGE?

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Since the launch of PRINCE2 Agile, AXELOS has received feedback both from our accredited community and candidates on the guidance and exam. One of the recurring pieces of feedback received from both practitioners and partners is that the current prerequisite of having a PRINCE2 Practitioner certificate is unnecessary.

Throughout 2016 AXELOS has been running a trial in Germany, Austria and Switzerland to better understand the impact of lowering the prerequisite. The trial aimed to answer these two main questions:

1. Would candidates struggle going directly from PRINCE2 Foundation to PRINCE2 Agile due to the increased level of difficulty?
2. Would this change confuse the market by creating two streams within the PRINCE2 Certification scheme: PRINCE2 and PRINCE2 Agile (rather than PRINCE2 Agile being a qualification further to PRINCE2 Practitioner)?

Based on both qualitative and quantitative data from the initial pilot we are satisfied that candidates did not struggle with the increased level of difficulty despite only having PRINCE2 Foundation and that the markets in the trial were not disrupted by the change.

We have therefore taken the decision to expand the trial to continue to assess the impact of the change at a global level and for an extended period of time.

### 1.3 WHERE WILL THE CHANGE TAKE EFFECT?

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The change will take effect globally.

### 1.4 WHAT WILL BE THE DURATION OF THE EXPANDED TRIAL?

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The expanded trial will commence on 1 October 2016 and will continue until the end of 2017. AXELOS will continue to assess the impact of the change on pass rates and the PRINCE2 market and will update the accredited and wider communities on any further changes.

### 1.5 WHAT WILL AXELOS BE ASSESSING ONCE THE CHANGE HAS COME INTO EFFECT?

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AXELOS will monitor a number of important factors once the change has come into effect:

- Is the learning path from PRINCE2 Foundation to PRINCE2 Agile Practitioner too steep?
- Will PRINCE2 Agile become a more attractive proposition to audiences who have been deterred by the current prerequisite?
- Will this impact how PRINCE2 training is delivered?

If you have any comments or feedback on the change, please email [ask@AXELOS.com](mailto:ask@AXELOS.com).

### 1.6 DOES THIS MEAN THAT AXELOS WILL CHANGE THE PREREQUISITE PERMANENTLY?

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AXELOS will continue to monitor the impact of the change and make any subsequent decisions accordingly.

### 1.7 WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TRIAL?

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Anyone that holds one of the specified qualifications (laid out in section 1.1) is eligible to take part in the trial and take the PRINCE2 Agile exam.

### 1.8 I HAVE A PRE-2009 PRINCE2 FOUNDATION CERTIFICATE; CAN I STILL TAKE THE EXAM?

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Yes. Any PRINCE2 Foundation certificate is valid. It should be noted that PRINCE2 Agile assumes a level of knowledge in line with the 2009 Edition of PRINCE2, so candidates with an earlier Foundation certificate may be at a slight disadvantage if they have not familiarized themselves with the changes introduced in the 2009 update.

### 1.9 WILL EXTRA PRE-COURSE WORK BE REQUIRED?

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AXELOS advises that all candidates always prepare thoroughly for any exam. A greater familiarity with both the PRINCE2 Agile and PRINCE2 Foundation content allows for greater chance of success. Candidates should obtain the materials from their chosen training provider.

## **1.10 WILL THE PRINCE2 AGILE CERTIFICATE BE DIFFERENT FOR THE NEW PREREQUISITES?**

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No, if you pass the exam, you will be awarded with the PRINCE2 Agile certificate and this will have the same validity as that of any candidate meeting the previous PRINCE2 Practitioner prerequisite.

## **1.11 WHAT HAPPENS IF I FAIL THE EXAM?**

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The situation is not different to taking any other examination. Candidates who fail and wish to resit the exam will be eligible to do so within the trial period. After the trial has concluded, any candidate who has failed with the adjusted prerequisite may no longer be eligible to retake the exam.

## **1.12 IF I GAIN THE PRINCE2 AGILE CERTIFICATE, DOES THIS MEAN I AM CERTIFIED AS A PRINCE2 PRACTITIONER AS WELL?**

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No. Gaining the PRINCE2 Agile Practitioner qualification is not equivalent to gaining the PRINCE2 Practitioner qualification. It is therefore not possible to gain a digital badge for PRINCE2 Practitioner level as part of AXELOS Membership if you have PRINCE2 Foundation and PRINCE2 Agile Practitioner.

Any candidate who gains the PRINCE2 Agile Practitioner certification will be eligible to gain the PRINCE2 Agile Practitioner digital badge.

## **1.13 I WAS CONSIDERING TAKING PRINCE2 PRACTITIONER, SHOULD I NOW TAKE PRINCE2 AGILE INSTEAD?**

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AXELOS would recommend that you select the course(s) which best reflect(s) your working environment and training requirements. Some candidates may choose to study for PRINCE2 Agile or PRINCE2 Practitioner, or both.

The change in the prerequisite will provide candidates with more choice and find a course and qualification which best meets their needs.

## **1.14 DOES THIS MEAN THAT PRINCE2 PRACTITIONER IS NO LONGER RELEVANT?**

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Not at all. Project management methodologies should be adopted and adapted to the environment in which they are being adopted. If you are working in a more traditional project management environment where there is less of an appetite to adopt agile methods we would strongly recommend that you take PRINCE2 Practitioner instead of PRINCE2 Agile.

## 2 For EIs and ATOs

### 2.1 WHAT EVIDENCE OF A CANDIDATES QUALIFICATION IS REQUIRED?

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The same rules apply as for eligibility for the PRINCE2 Practitioner exam. Candidates need to provide either the certificate of their prerequisite qualification, their AXELOS digital badge, or, where applicable, a letter from the prerequisite qualification awarding body. The EI can also verify a candidates PRINCE2 Foundation qualification from the SCR.

### 2.2 IS THIS AVAILABLE TO ALL ATOS?

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Yes it is, as long as they are accredited to deliver PRINCE2 Agile. The change is supported by our Examination Institute (EI) partners and ATOs should liaise directly with their main EI contact for any accreditation or examination queries.

### 2.3 IS THE SYLLABUS GOING TO BE UPDATED TO ALIGN TO THIS CHANGE?

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This is a matter that AXELOS will continue to assess with the PRINCE2 Agile examiner team after the change takes effect, to ascertain if there are any alterations required to align the syllabus to the updated prerequisite. We will update the accredited community accordingly if any changes are required.

### 2.4 WILL I NEED TO START DELIVERING SEPARATE COURSES FOR 'FOUNDATION ONLY' CANDIDATES?

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Although AXELOS does not specify how training is delivered, based on the feedback from the pilot run in Germany, Austria and Switzerland we would recommend reviewing your existing PRINCE2 Agile courseware to ensure that it is appropriate for a 'Foundation only' audience.

Based on the results of the initial pilot, we do not envisage that Foundation only candidates need to be part of a separate class in order to stand a fair chance of passing the PRINCE2 Agile exam. This however will be defined by the individual ATO.

### 2.5 DO YOU EXPECT ATOS TO BUNDLE PRINCE2 AGILE WITH PRINCE2 FOUNDATION?

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Again, although AXELOS does not specify how training is delivered we would encourage ATOs to consider reviewing their current course offerings. We envisage that this change will make PRINCE2 Agile a more attractive proposition to a wider audience and see this an opportunity for ATOs.

### 2.6 HOW DOES AN ATO GIVE FEEDBACK ON THE TRIAL?

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There is no formal platform for feedback, but if you do have any comments, please email your Partner Account Manager or email [PartnerAsk@AXELOS.com](mailto:PartnerAsk@AXELOS.com).

## 2.7 WILL MARKETING SUPPORT BE AVAILABLE FOR THE TRIAL?

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AXELOS has created a PRINCE2 Agile Sales and Marketing Toolkit which is available to download on the Global Partner Programme portal. This has been updated to reflect the change in the prerequisite.

During October we will also be running PRINCE2 Agile month to celebrate the lowering of the prerequisite. Alongside various marketing activities, the month will include free access to a month's online subscription of the PRINCE2 Agile guide and 25% discount off the physical publication. For more information visit [www.AXELOS.com/PRINCE2-Agile-month](http://www.AXELOS.com/PRINCE2-Agile-month).

## 2.8 WHAT DATA IS REQUIRED FROM THE ATO AND EI?

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Once the change comes into effect we will monitor the year on year examination results for:

- PRINCE2 Foundation
- PRINCE2 Practitioner
- PRINCE2 Agile Practitioner
- The pass rate of the PRINCE2 Agile Practitioner exam

To ensure that AXELOS is able to accurately monitor the results from the trial, we are requesting that the EIs report on the prerequisite used by each candidate for the PRINCE2 Agile examination in the same way as the prerequisite for PRINCE2 Practitioner is currently reported on. Please ensure that this references the highest requirement used by the candidate (e.g. if a candidate has PRINCE2 Foundation and PRINCE2 Practitioner, they are recorded as having used PRINCE2 Practitioner as their prerequisite).

AXELOS appreciates that this may add an operational burden for both the ATO and EI, and so we are offering a grace period before we will require the prerequisite to be reported on for each candidate. While we would appreciate that this is reported on as soon as possible, this will not be a requirement for any PRINCE2 Agile examinations taken before the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017.

AXELOS is working closely with the Examination Institutes on this reporting requirement. If you would like to speak to the AXELOS teams about available support please contact:

**Global Partner Team** via email – [PartnerAsk@AXELOS.com](mailto:PartnerAsk@AXELOS.com)

**Global PPM Marketing** via email - [Tom.Lynam@AXELOS.com](mailto:Tom.Lynam@AXELOS.com)



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