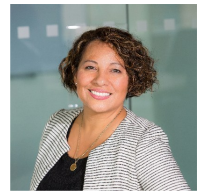


NICOLA FAIRBANKS

IT Project Manager

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IT project manager with nine years of experience delivering infrastructure, software, and cloud migration projects in financial services and the public sector. I've managed programmes worth up to £8.5 million and led cross-functional teams of up to 40 people. Most recently managed the cloud migration programme at Standard Life, moving 120+ applications from on-premises data centres to AWS over 18 months.

EXPERIENCE

Senior IT Project Manager, Standard Life (part of abrdn), Edinburgh

Jun 2021 – Present

Managing a portfolio of IT infrastructure and cloud transformation projects within the wealth management division.

- Led the **£8.5 million** cloud migration programme — moved 120+ applications from on-prem to AWS across 18 months, finishing 6 weeks ahead of schedule
- Managed a cross-functional team of **40 people** including developers, architects, DBAs, and third-party vendors
- Introduced Jira-based project tracking that replaced spreadsheets — improved sprint velocity reporting accuracy by **35%**
- Delivered the PSD2 compliance project on time, involving **14 system integrations** across 3 business units

IT Project Manager, Scottish Government (Digital Directorate), Edinburgh

Mar 2018 – May 2021

Managed digital service delivery projects across multiple government departments.

- Delivered the **£3.2 million** Social Security Scotland case management system — on time and under budget by £180k
- Ran a team of **22 people** (mix of civil servants and contractors) using Agile/Scrum methodology
- Managed the migration of 45 legacy systems to **GOV.UK PaaS**, coordinating with GDS and 6 departmental teams

Project Coordinator, FNZ Group, Edinburgh

Sep 2016 – Feb 2018

Supported senior project managers on platform migration and client onboarding projects.

- Coordinated UAT for **3 platform migrations** involving 15+ test cycles each — zero critical defects at go-live
- Maintained project plans, RAID logs, and status reports for a **£2.1 million** client onboarding programme
- Organised and facilitated **weekly SteerCo meetings** with C-level stakeholders from 4 client firms

EDUCATION

MSc in Information Technology, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh

Sep 2015 – Aug 2016

Dissertation on *risk management frameworks for agile IT projects in financial services*. Graduated with Merit.

BA (Hons) in Business Studies, University of Stirling, Stirling

Sep 2011 – Jun 2015

Upper Second Class Honours (2:1). Included a year-long placement at Tesco Bank in project support.

SKILLS

Agile & Waterfall project delivery, PRINCE2 & Scrum, Jira, Confluence & MS Project, AWS cloud migration planning, Stakeholder management (C-suite), Budget management (up to £8.5m), Risk & issue management (RAID logs), Vendor & contract management, Business case development, ITIL service transition

CERTIFICATIONS

PRINCE2 Practitioner, Axelos / PeopleCert

Sep 2018

Certified ScrumMaster (CSM), Scrum Alliance

Apr 2019 – Apr 2027

AWS Cloud Practitioner, Amazon Web Services

Nov 2021 – Nov 2024

LANGUAGES

English (native), French (intermediate)

PROJECTS

AWS Cloud Migration – Standard Life

Jan 2022 – Jun 2023

Led the full programme to migrate Standard Life's on-premises application estate to AWS.

- Migrated **120+ applications** including customer portals, internal tools, and batch processing systems
- Finished **6 weeks ahead of schedule** and £320k under the £8.5m budget
- Achieved **99.98% uptime** during cutover weekends with zero data loss

Case Management System – Social Security Scotland

Feb 2019 – Nov 2020

End-to-end delivery of a bespoke case management platform for Scotland's new social security agency.

- Delivered a **£3.2 million** project on time and £180k under budget
- System processes **45,000+ benefit applications** per month across 11 benefit types

REFERENCES

Gordon McAllister, Head of IT, Standard Life, gordon.mcallister@abrdn.com, +44 7700 900 772

Fiona Drummond, Deputy Director, Digital, Scottish Government, fiona.drummond@gov.scot, +44 7700 900 891

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITY

Committee Member – PMI Edinburgh Chapter

Jan 2020

Help organise quarterly networking events and annual conference for project management professionals in Edinburgh. 180+ active members.

Mentor – Edinburgh Napier University

Sep 2022 – Jun 2023

Mentored 3 final-year students on their capstone IT projects, helping them with project planning, stakeholder analysis, and presentation skills.