What’s In It for ME (WIIFM)

I teach graduate engineering students who are on student visas from India. In most cases my “students” are eager to learn and explore new ideas and methods as their main goal is to find a job in Canada and seek permanent residency. They also intend to sponsor the rest of their family in India for immigration to Canada. At first my “students” might be hesitant about this course as it involves a lot of memorizing Project management vocabulary, and their previous engineering course were more problem-solving courses. It does take them a while to adapt but by midterm most of the students realize the importance of understanding the Project Management vocabulary.

* Immigration – in order to stay in Canada, they must pass all their courses including this course
* Job Opportunities – they are numerous job opportunities in Project Management and in order to stay in Canada and become a permanent resident they need to have a job
* Employability – most full-time jobs involve some sort of projects so understanding project management is considered an asset to employers
* Good salaries – the salaries offered in Project Management positions are higher than just engineering design roles
* Teamwork – teamwork is considered important in most companies. Taking a project management course indicates that you have worked in teams
* Interviewing - Project Management terms often come up in interviewing for Engineering positions so understanding the terms allows my student to look more competent when they are interviewing
* Opportunity for Advancement – Project Management roles often lead to more senior roles in a company as these roles involve teamwork.

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