

**Nottingham Business School**

**MSc International Business**

Course Specification

## Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

### Basic Course Information

- |    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Awarding Institution:                         | Nottingham Trent University                         |
| 2. | School/Campus:                                | Nottingham Business School / City                   |
| 3. | Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study: | MSc International Business (dual award) (Full-Time) |
| 4. | Normal Duration:                              | 15 months   |
| 5. | UCAS Code:                                    | N/A   |

### 6. Overview and general educational aims of the course

This suite of International Business MSCs is designed to equip you with a broad knowledge across a wide range of international business subject areas and enable you to develop more specialist knowledge as the course progresses. The courses are not restricted to those with a business or management related first degree. Globalisation represents a great opportunity for those who can acquire knowledge and skills that foster an international perspective, the ability to interact with stakeholders from all over the world, and the ability to operate in a labour market that crosses national borders. Our MSc International Business suite aims at developing professionals able to operate in dynamic, complex settings. By focusing on different aspects of international business environment, global strategy and cross-cultural management, the course trains you for working in a range of internationally oriented companies, including multinationals, small-to-medium enterprises and public institutions.

The MSc International Business dual award is a premium quality course with a growing reputation in its marketplace. It allows you to earn two Master's in 15 months, one from NTU and one from one of the five partner institutions twinned with NTU in Europe or Taiwan. Such qualifications would otherwise require three years of study, one in the UK for any British Master's, and two in any European or Taiwanese institution. The MSc International Business dual award is designed to address the competitiveness of the global context compacting the time needed to develop a truly international experience. By allowing you to spend the first trimester in England, the second trimester in Europe or Taiwan, the third trimester in a work setting anywhere you like in the world, and the final trimester back in England, the dual MSc trains you to become an eclectic, fast-thinking, international manager.

It offers you a real-world international experience as well as career development and continuing English Language support for international students. It delivers high calibre teaching and learning, reflecting a critical approach to International Business with a strong emphasis on research and reflexivity. The MSc International Business dual award can be taken in 15 months over four trimesters. It has three major components:

1. Firstly, the core modules provide a basis for the study of international business at a sophisticated level at the Nottingham city campus.
2. Secondly, you study at one of our high-quality partner institutions overseas and can elect to specialise in a variety of business and management-related areas. These partners and their specialisms are:
  - Kedge Business School (Marseille, France) - Events/Sports Marketing or Finance
  - The University of Brescia, Brescia, Italy – International Business and Management, and Logistics
  - ISCTE-IUL, Lisbon, Portugal – International Management
  - ESC Clermont, France – International Project Management and International Commerce and Digital Marketing
  - National Sun-Yat Sen University, Taiwan – Global Human Resource Management
3. Thirdly, the course offers a 12-week internship, and an academic business research project. This combination of modules will provide you with a range of opportunities that enable your theoretical understanding of international business topics, enable you to personalise your own curriculum and development schedule, and enhance your practical experience of a range of contemporary business issues. For the

As a member of this course you will undertake one term of study overseas in one of the partner institutions illustrated in the next section followed by a 12 week internship. In addition, your international learning experience builds on the active contribution of students from around the world, as well as from the UK and Europe, to create a truly global learning environment for all participants. The main aim of our course is to develop you as well rounded managers, able to operate in a wide variety of business environments, but we have also provided the opportunity for you to select specialist option modules which best meet your needs and aspirations. The principle aims of the course are:

To offer specialist postgraduate courses in international business that are both practically and academically relevant. This is achieved by having the following goals; upon graduating from the course you will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the primary theories and concepts relating to your field of study.
- Apply theory to practice in organisational settings and relate practice to theory.
- Demonstrate aptitude for critical thought and creativity;
- Effectively utilise relevant information and communication skills;
- Critically evaluate ethical and sustainability-based issues within your field of study;
- Evidence the capacity to act as a global citizen;
- Demonstrate the capacity to make an impact in organisations.

As graduates of the course you will have developed a wide range of skills and abilities that will enhance your employability and enable you to achieve your own personal objectives.

<p><b>7. Course outcomes</b> Course outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do by the end of your course if you take advantage of the opportunities for learning that we provide.</p>
<p><b>Knowledge and understanding</b> By the end of the course you should be able to:</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Critically understand and evaluate the influence exerted by culture on the way businesses operate internationally.</li> <li>2. Articulate a critical understanding of functional strategies and their intersection in the international business context.</li> <li>3. Develop a critical appreciation of external and internal environmental aspects of international business behaviour and strategy.</li> <li>4. Evaluate the strategic challenges faced by companies in the global business environment.</li> <li>5. Apply knowledge, tools and techniques to resolve issues in new and diverse situations within the international business discipline.</li> <li>6. Evaluate the rigour and validity of published research and assess its relevance to the practice of international business.</li> <li>7. Demonstrate the ability to make recommendations for organisational practice based on theoretical insights through a process of experiential or applied learning.</li> <li>8. Demonstrate an aptitude for independent critical thought and rational inquiry.</li> <li>9. Demonstrate creativity and intellectual curiosity in both the application and synthesis of knowledge.</li> <li>10. Demonstrate proficiency in the use of techniques of research and enquiry to draw conclusions from a critical evaluation of relevant issues.</li> <li>11. Demonstrate an appreciation of the wider social, environmental and economic sustainability issues and their interrelationships which may be impacted by or have an impact on organisational activities.</li> <li>12. Understand the environmental, social, governance and ethical problems that may occur in the international business discipline and apply appropriate frameworks or professional codes to resolve such problems.</li> <li>13. Critically self-reflect, and demonstrate an international awareness and openness to the world, based on an appreciation of social and cultural diversity.</li> <li>14. Develop a critical understanding of the role of the international business discipline in the global context.</li> <li>15. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the role of the international business discipline in a wider organisational context.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Skills, qualities and attributes</b> By the end of the course you should be able to:</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>16. Analyse a variety of relevant data used in diverse contexts to support effective decision making in the international business discipline.</li> <li>17. Communicate key issues and arguments in written and oral format to a professional standard.</li> <li>18. Effectively use information and communication technologies relevant to the international business discipline.</li> <li>19. Work collaboratively in internationally diverse teams.</li> </ol>

20. Make decisions and exercise judgement in organisational settings when faced with a range of alternative courses of action.
21. Take personal responsibility for continuing professional development and develop the capacity to be an effective and reflective practitioner.

## 8. **Teaching and learning methods**

NBS adopts a distinctive approach to the design of student learning opportunities, and your learning is structured around theory, practice, experience & observation, and reflection & improvement. At each level (course, module and session), you will study different theories, concepts and approaches and be given opportunities to apply these in a range of practical settings. The aim is to enhance your understanding through the direct experience of business, where you will have opportunities to observe business practices and behaviours (including your own) and analyse these using theoretical knowledge. It is our intention that by reflecting on these experiences, you will be able to use these theories to guide your actions and decisions in a business context or even consider how a theory itself might be improved. In this way we aim to enhance the quality of your learning.

The teaching and learning strategy is designed specifically around the needs of a diverse student cohort and is based upon the following guiding principles:

- Facilitating a period of time for you to adjust to your new study environment, through the inclusion, for example, of a development programme and personal and professional development module.
- Encouraging constructive learning through a student-centred learning environment which allows for time for reflection and which provides you with guidance and support.
- Drawing upon student experiences through interactive workshops rather than a reliance on large group lectures.
- Seeing cultural diversity as a learning resource.
- Offering a range of learning experiences, including industry supported learning opportunities.

This course is therefore designed to offer you a theoretical *and* practical learning experience that fits your needs and enhances your career opportunities. You will enjoy a teaching and learning environment that is shared by your fellow students and academic staff who will be from different educational and cultural backgrounds and with whom you will have the chance to share your previous educational and practical experience. This provides a similar environment to working in international organisations where you interact with colleagues from different backgrounds. Working in groups with other students during the course will allow you to experience different cultures and learning styles. The different teaching, learning and assessment modes will therefore equip you with a number of essential skills, including but not limited to; communication, presentation, negotiation, report writing, analytical and, most importantly, critical thinking skills. You will also have access to a range of industry-leading information packages.

Each of the modules will be delivered over a four-week period, with teaching delivered in three weeks and the fourth week left clear for assessment work. This enables you to focus on one subject at a time, whilst allowing time for preparation and assessment work. Contact within modules takes the form of whole class delivery in interactive workshops (of no more than circa 30 students) and structured guided study. In all teaching sessions, you will have the opportunity to ask questions, interact with other students and the lecturer on problem solving exercises, cases and discussions. Your course will be structured around the sequential delivery of the six core and optional route modules with the Experiential Element offered at the end and the APCD module being delivered throughout the year.

Undertaking this course and experiencing our different teaching and learning techniques will therefore allow you to build up your own experience in the field of finance and equip you with the necessary skills to allow you to integrate into professional life in an international business-related career.

#### **9. Assessment methods**

Our assessment strategy is designed to help you develop and demonstrate your knowledge, understanding and skills. We use a variety of assessment methods throughout the course, including formative assessments which does not count towards your final grades, but which provide useful feedback on your progress and development and guidance towards the summative assessments which count towards your final grades.

In undertaking this course you will experience a number of different assessment methods aimed at helping your progression through the course and skills development. Assessment is balanced throughout the course, helping you to manage your workload. There will be a mixture of theoretical and practical assessments with a focus on applying the theory to real world situations. We will also assess the softer skills by using a mixture of assessment types and a combination of individual and group based assessments. Assessment types will therefore include academic and reflective essays, reports, presentations, portfolios, phase tests and case studies. Group learning is a central feature of our teaching and learning strategy, and indeed the ability to work effectively with others is essential to all work practice. It is thus appropriate that some elements of group assessment are incorporated, although individual performance is more highly weighted in order to give due credit for individual performance. Assessment will also incorporate experiential elements to enable you to apply your knowledge through live projects or simulations and cases.

These different types of assessment will provide you with the knowledge and different skills necessary to succeed in the world of finance.

#### **10. Course structure and curriculum**

As previously noted, the course structure is based on three phases of study:

The first phase consists of three core international business modules, one aimed at developing your practitioner’s skills, and one aimed at developing your research skills. You will also select the partner institution where you plan to spend your second term of study. The choice of the partner institution will be determined at the commencement of the first term. Based on that, you will choose a foreign language module that can help facilitate your stay overseas.

These base skills are then developed in the second phase, which is your choice of specialisms at one of our overseas partners. If you are unable to travel overseas due to visa restrictions or other complications, you can complete your studies in Nottingham with a shorter international experience. Incoming students for this phase of the Dual Degree will also be able to take these modules, or other routes from NBS’ Master’s provision as detailed on the NBS web site.

The final stage of our course involves the completion of a dissertation. Input on Research methods, Project Management and Consultancy precedes the project to ensure that you are prepared to undertake this challenge. You will be assigned an academic supervisor to guide and advise you through the process.

Personal development and career support will be integral to the course both via input during the induction course and in subsequent additional workshops. For example, during career events guest speakers from companies will be invited to participate and to offer an insight into potential career pathways.

If you are dual degree student joining from one of our partners, namely those enrolled at KEDGE, ISCTE-IUL, University of Brescia, ESC Clermont, and National Sun-Yat Sen University in Taiwan, you will have the opportunity to take one of the routes of study from our existing Master’s degrees. In addition you will take an advanced compulsory 20cp (10ECTS) Business English module.

The final phase comprises undertaking either a 12-week internship or a dissertation.

The structure of the course including each of the routes available to MSc International Business and MSc IB dual award is shown overleaf:

<b>Modules</b>				
International Business Environment and Strategy				
Organization and Management				
Cross-cultural Management				
Transformational Leadership Development				
Research Methods				
Foreign Language				
<b>KEDGE (Marketing and Finance routes)</b>	<b>ISCTE-IUL modules</b>	<b>NSYSU modules</b>	<b>Universit y of Brescia modules</b>	<b>ESC Clermont (routes)</b>
International brand management	International Finance	Organizational Development	Strategy Analysis	International Commerce and Digital Marketing

Sports and events management	Entrepreneurship and Networks	Research Methodology	Leadership & Complex Organisations	International Project Management
Finance (first degree in Finance is required)	Global Business & Management	Independent studies in HRM	International Transportation Logistics	
Finance and organizational management (first degree in finance is required)	International Consulting	International HRM	Quantitative Methods	
	International HRM	Strategic Management	Marketing Advanced	
	International Strategy	Chinese proficiency certificate	Foreign Language	
	International Project	Academic Research Ethics	Optimization	
12-week Internship				
Dissertation				

### 11. Admission to the course

Entry requirements:

For current information regarding all entry requirements for this course, please see the 'Applying' tab on the course information web page.

### 12. Support for learning

Support for your learning will be available from before your study starts. Prior to your enrolment, you will have online access to details of registration and preparatory work which needs to be done prior to the start of the course.

When you arrive you will undertake a development programme in the form of the first unit of the APCD module. Initially you will be provided with the basic knowledge of your course and its operations. This will encompass details of the:

- 1) course aims,
- 2) teaching and learning strategy,
- 3) introduce members of the teaching team,
- 4) outline the timetable,
- 5) assessment strategy,
- 6) regulations and schedule,
- 7) and explain the course management processes such as student feedback mechanisms and course committees, along with course and university regulations, and the range of facilities available at the University and the University's support and guidance services.



This gives way to focused academic and professional development sessions; this includes a residential programme that has been specifically designed to help students build trust and start to work as teams. We are proud of our comprehensive and focused development programme that enables students from a variety of educational backgrounds to achieve a smooth transition into this high performance course.

Academic staff within the Business School have an excellent reputation for being approachable and enthusiastic about their subject area, with the programme being designed around face to face contact with a wide range of specialists. This is highly valued by our students and distinguishes us from many of our competitors. You will have many opportunities to build relationships both with tutors and fellow participants throughout the course. In service of this, students will be able to approach their course leader(s), or other members of the teaching team for support and guidance as required, and each student will be allocated a personal tutor. It is expected that each student will meet with their personal supervisor at least four times (two times in the first trimester, and once in each subsequent trimester). In addition to reviewing your academic progress, personal tutors have a key role in reinforcing your professional skills development and encouraging you to reflect on the different strands of your course and extra-curricula activity. Personal tutors also play an important pastoral role, and where appropriate, will direct you to University support and guidance services. A student dashboard enables you and your tutor to track your engagement and progress and log the minutes of your meetings. Our specialist careers advisors in the 'Working With You' team are also there to provide you with help and support in terms of your future career.

Course Administrators are also an important part of your support arrangements. Course administrators are often the first port of call for students who have concerns and these individuals can be a non-formal means of discussing problems, and a source of useful information and guidance.

Nottingham Business School provides a high quality management learning environment designed to encourage creative thinking about real world issues confronting managers and their organisations. The School's professional approach to management education is supported by the latest communications and information technology, and extensive learning resources. The computing network offers 24-hour access to the University's computing facilities, and a range of services off-campus are also available, including email, electronic library services and access to a range of software. You will have access to a wealth of library materials including over 450,000 books (many of which are available as e-books), as well as an extensive audio-visual collection of videos and slides. Electronic library resources form a core part of the support to students, with over 200 databases and 9,000 electronic journals accessible by the e-library web portal. The School has a specialist

Trading Room, and access to leading resources such as ft.com and Qualtrics for all students.

We also recognise that you sometimes need help that falls outside the academic area. The University's Student Support Services offers dedicated professional support services for both international and home students. Our aim is to ensure that you have access to appropriate support for academic, financial and personal issues which might affect your experience at the university.

### **13. Graduate destinations/employability**

Undertaking this course will give you a wide insight into the different aspects of international business and management, and as graduates of the course you will have developed a wide range of skills and abilities that will enhance your employability prospects.

By earning the MSc International Business dual award you will be able to access responsibility roles within:

- companies that operate internationally
- multinational organizations
- non-governmental development agencies
- European or supranational institutions,
- EU regional and national organizations' networks
- Consultancy companies.

This course will also equip you for:

- undertaking further study within the field of International and Global Business
- changing career direction towards a managerial role, or;
- building on your existing expertise with up-to-date international disciplinary knowledge and skills for fostering career promotion in your chosen profession
- be employed within multinational corporations
- carrying out consultancy across sectors and business functions.

The relevance of the course to the work place is monitored via direct feedback from both a practitioner external examiner and from local companies. The companies are involved at the final stage of the course when all students conduct and present a consultancy project: a project which demands the thoughtful application of the theory and skills gained throughout the course.

As a student your choice of elective subjects should be partially determined by your future career aspirations.

Specialist careers advisers in NTU's employability team are there to help you identify strategies to enable you to effectively pursue your career goals. The focus of this course will be on developing your skills and occupational awareness in ways that enable your successful transition into the world of international business.

### **14. Course standards and quality**

Management of each course is conducted through three formally constituted committees, the Board of Examiners, the Course Committee and the Course Enhancement Board (CEB). The Course Committee will be responsible for the overall quality assurance and

management of the course. Its membership complies with the University's requirements as specified in the University's Academic Standards and Quality Handbook. Student representatives will also meet collectively with members of the School's Executive team once each term in a 'student forum', designed to facilitate communication between the student body and the management of the School.

Each course will also operate an annual 'course enhancement board' (CEB) Chaired by the Head of Postgraduate Programmes, which consists of employers, alumni, students and staff to consider the overall strategic direction of the course. The CEB provides the external direction and input from employers and alumni to ensure the continuing relevance of course content.

Course standards and quality are maintained in a number of ways. You will have the opportunity to provide anonymous written feedback on each of the modules you study, and the course as a whole. You will also be able to offer your comments and suggestions through (or have the opportunity to be elected as) elected student course representatives, who attends course committees, the course enhancement boards and student forum meetings.

External examiners report on the appropriateness of the curriculum, the quality of student work and the assessment process. All tutors have their teaching observed by their peers.

**15. Assessment regulations**

This course is subject to the University's Common Assessment Regulations (located in Section 16 of the Quality Handbook). Any course specific assessment features are described below:

**16. Additional Information**

Collaborative partner(s):	N/A
Course referenced to national QAA Benchmark Statements:	Master's Degrees in Business and Management (QAA, 2015)
Course recognised by:	N/A
Date this course specification approved:	November 2015
Any additional information:	