

## Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

### Basic Course Information

1.	Awarding Institution:	Nottingham Trent University
2.	School/Campus:	School of Animal, Rural & Environmental Sciences / Brackenhurst Campus
3.	Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study:	FdSc Horticulture (Full-time, Part-time and Sandwich)
4.	Normal Duration:	Full-time = 2 years, Part-time and Sandwich = 3 years
5.	UCAS Code:	D400; D401

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

FdSc Horticulture is one of two foundation degrees offered in the horticulture area, the other being FdSc Horticulture: Garden Design - (see web-links to these course specifications for further details).

The FdSc Horticulture is designed to provide you with a comprehensive working knowledge at a professional level, of landscape management and horticulture. This stimulating and diverse subject area covers landscapes from public urban parks and green spaces to historic gardens. It involves the principles and practice of both the construction and management of these landscapes. In addition to this it also provides an understanding of horticultural production methods for a wide range of crops.

The study programme has been devised to equip you with a range of knowledge and skills to enhance your employability in the world of work – in private companies, and public or charitable organisations respected for the quality of their landscapes and gardens. The combination of academic knowledge allied with vocational skills is intended to permit you to progress with confidence from supervisory level upwards. Alternatively, you may choose to progress to the associated honours degree (see web link to BSc).

The FdSc Horticulture pathway shares a common core of study at level 4 with the FdSc Horticulture: Garden Design. You will enrol on the generic horticulture course and elect to follow your preferred pathway (Horticulture or Garden Design) at the end of level 4. You also have the opportunity to undertake a one-year sandwich placement, after successful completion of the level 4 modules.

A special feature of the FdSc Horticulture is the emphasis on 'real-life' scenarios, including workplace experience, case studies, visits and talks by practising professionals. At level 5 you will elect optional modules that will enable you to gain additional skills and knowledge in specialist areas such as Planning and Recreation, Greenspace Management and Crop Production, thereby further enhancing employment prospects.

The FdSc Horticulture attracts students from a wide age range and from different educational backgrounds. It is a particularly popular course for adult entrants, many of whom have had little experience of education beyond

school.

The overall aims of the course are:

- To develop the potential of all students to the full, engendering enthusiasm and passion for their chosen subject
- To produce graduates at technological/supervisory level, able to work across a range of landscape or horticulture-related fields, with competency and confidence
- To impart a critical awareness of the fundamental principles of landscape and horticulture management
- To develop interpersonal and transferable skills, producing flexible, participating individuals in the workplace
- To optimise flexibility by the provision of a part-time learning route

7. **Course outcomes**

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.

**Knowledge and understanding**

By the end of the course you should be able to:

Identify, analyse, evaluate a range of client or site briefs; accurately collect and evaluate selected data, select appropriate mechanism for the transfer of data (B)

Recognise a range of landscape or horticultural features or situations; select appropriate technical responses to an identified need. (B)

Identify, utilise and manage the range of hard and soft landscape elements, appropriate to brief.

Prepare appropriate responses to familiar and/or complex problems within landscape or horticulture projects with an awareness of safe working practices (B)

Identify sources of knowledge and technical information; be open to evolving and further concepts. (B)

Appreciate the broad environmental, social and political issues affecting landscape management.

(B) indicates outcomes having specific reference to the QAA Benchmark Statement – Agriculture, horticulture, forestry, food and consumer sciences (2009)

**Skills, qualities and attributes**

By the end of the course you should be able to:

Apply specialist knowledge to meet the needs of the landscape or horticulture sector, with confidence and proficiency (B)

Effectively communicate information, arguments, analysis, in a variety of forms, including technological, to specialist and non-specialist audiences (B)

Accept responsibility and accountability in line with the supervisory or technical level, to achieve identified outcomes within industry projects

Apply transferable and interpersonal skills within or without the industry sector, particularly the skills of initiative, communication and teamwork, to a professional standard

Manage landscape projects over a range of sites and situations

Develop public consultation skills appropriate for the landscape management practitioner

(B) indicates outcomes having specific reference to the QAA Benchmark Statement - Agriculture, horticulture, forestry, food and consumer sciences (2009)

## 8. **Teaching and Learning Methods**

At level 4, the ethos is on the link between understanding of basic principles or concepts and their application in the landscape industry. Hence, the teaching and learning is based on a core of formal lectures, which are developed into applied knowledge gained by practical exercises, either in the field, workshop, computer-aided design or drawing studios, or the laboratory. Exercises are both in groups or individually, so developing interpersonal skills. These skills are further honed in student presentations and role play exercises, appropriate to the specialist pathway of the course.

The requirements of the world of work are embedded throughout the course, with an emphasis on the technology and modes of communication appropriate for the supervisory level of employment. Integration and application to the workplace is particularly enhanced by the range of guest speakers and visits. An important feature of the teaching and learning of the course at both level 4 and 5 is the use of 'real-life' scenarios in the diverse landscape management and horticultural industry.

At level 5, the balance between formal lecture and applied exercise is continued. However, the key aspect of evaluation of data or concepts is introduced, and the theoretical tenets applied to the reality of workplace operations. These are promoted along with the skill of independent learning. The latter feature is intended to inspire an enthusiasm for learning once in the workplace environment, or for preparation for continuing educational studies through the associated honours degree. The cornerstone of this level is the Industry Placement module, where you will undertake work in the area of landscape management and horticulture. In addition the Research Project module is an opportunity to select and research a topic of your own choice and provides a valuable link to the Keystone Project at level 6 of the BSc (Hons) Environment, Design and Management course should you wish to progress to a full degree course.

Teaching and learning derives great benefit from the specialist resource base of the Brackenhurst campus. Landscape management and horticulture studies utilise the historic landscaped gardens, construction workshops, a relatively new nursery facility, and dedicated CAD and general drawing studios.

## 9. **Assessment Methods**

The FdSc Horticulture course uses a variety of assessment methods to ensure that you can demonstrate the range of learning outcomes. The vocational nature of the course results in assessments which are based on or within the

workplace. At both levels 4 and 5, the range of personal skills valued within the world of work, such as initiative, teamwork and responsibility are included in assessments.

At level 4, knowledge acquisition and application of theory is assessed by means of technical reports, landscape site survey plans drawn by hand or using computer-aided design techniques, a portfolio of observed landscape features, and practically-based tests of plant knowledge and hard landscape skills. Teamwork with your cohort is a fundamental feature of level 4.

The evaluative theme of level 5 produces an emphasis on the presentation of technical information in various forms, such as reports, contract documents and scale drawings. These are intended to develop your skills of data selection, analysis and communication. In addition, there are assessments which demand project planning and implementation skills, coupled with post-project evaluation.

The course includes a number of non-graded assessments, mainly within the modules of large value in level 4, to ensure you are developing the necessary understanding and skills, prior to the final graded assessments.

## 10. Course structure and curriculum

The FdSc Horticulture course is studied full-time (over 2 years), or part-time (over 3 years), with the option of an industrial sandwich placement year between levels 4 and 5. You will find that some modules have particular importance in the preparation for the world of work and further study (such modules are indicated with a \*).

The order of delivery of the modules and their content has been arranged to address the course learning outcomes, and to allow a logical development of your knowledge and skills. A 'curriculum map' is available should you wish to see how the course outcomes relate to the modules of study.

If, for whatever reason, you do not progress onto study the level 5 modules, you will be eligible to receive a Higher Certificate in Horticulture on completion of 120 credits at level 4.

Students who undertake a sandwich placement will be eligible for a Placement Diploma in Professional Skills award if they:

- a) satisfactorily complete at least 36 weeks of supervised work experience;
- b) receive satisfactory reports from the placement tutor and/or workplace supervisor in respect of the competencies or learning outcomes or experience gained;
- c) submit all required tasks for the award

Students who satisfactorily complete between 6 and 35 weeks of supervised work experience and who satisfy points b) and c) above will be eligible for a Placement Certificate in Professional Skills.

### Level 4

• Horticultural Technology *	20 credits
• Plants and Soil Science*	20
• Plant and Botanical Knowledge	20
• Survey Planning and Construction *	40

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Garden Design in Practice * 20</li> </ul> <p><b>Level 5</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Horticultural Employability * 20 credits</li> <li>• Soft Landscape Design * 20</li> <li>• Horticultural Practices * 20</li> <li>• Experimental Design and Analysis 20</li> </ul> <p>Electives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greenspace Management * 20</li> <li>• Crop Production 20</li> <li>• Land Use Ecology 20</li> </ul> <p>NB Electives will only run with viable numbers and at the discretion of the University.</p>
<b>11. Admission to the course</b>
<p><b>Entry requirements</b></p> <p>For current information regarding all entry requirements for this course, please see the course information web page.</p>
<b>12. Support for Learning</b>
<p>The support provided by the friendly, approachable staff is a feature noted by previous cohorts of students, and one which remains a gold standard on this course.</p> <p>Student support is initially provided through an induction programme, which introduces the essential course information and the range of academic and pastoral support available to you. A course handbook is issued at induction, which is followed by individual information packs on each module, containing details of module content and assessments.</p> <p>Ongoing support is offered in several ways. You will be assigned a pastoral tutor who monitors progress by means of regular individual and group tutorials. In addition, the specialist pathway leader is available for academic issues which cannot be resolved by the pastoral tutor. You are also advised that the FD Horticulture course leader is available for advice, should you feel further discussion is needed.</p> <p>Personal Development Planning is integrated into The Work Experience module at level 4, and the pastoral tutor will develop the process during tutorials. The library and other learning resources, including the IT and CAD suites, are regularly reviewed and updated to ensure they meet the vocational needs of the course.</p> <p>The University Central Student Support Services offer a range of specialist and professional services for you, and have a centre based at the Brackenhurst campus. They provide support for students with specific learning needs such as dyslexia.</p> <p>A highlight of the FdSc Horticulture course is the annual Careers Week in January, which consists of a series of visits and talks by a range of practising</p>

	landscape management professionals. This is intended to provide you with careers ideas and the various routes open to you on graduation.
<b>13.</b>	<b>Graduate destinations / employability</b>
	<p>You will be well-equipped to pursue a wide range of careers within landscape and horticulture management. Potential areas for employment include local authorities, public organisations, private companies or charities such as Groundwork, in positions such as parks or landscape officers, head or assistant head gardeners, horticultural production units, landscape project managers or supervisors.</p> <p>To ensure that your employment prospects are maximised and the course remains up-to-date, there is an active Industry Advisors Panel, giving valuable advice to both staff and you. The workplace employers also contribute to your education and training.</p> <p>Alternatively, the qualification can be used as a stepping stone onto a related honours degree or you can progress onto BSc level 6 and study for a further 1 year to achieve an honours degree in Environment Design and Management.</p>
<b>14.</b>	<b>Course standards and quality</b>
	<p>There are well-established and effective systems for managing the quality of the curriculum within the School.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Induction questionnaires, mid-year and end-of-year reviews, module feedback, and School end-of-year questionnaires are all used to gain valuable feedback from students on their overall learning experience of the course and university</li> <li>• The termly committee meetings are a formal venue for student representatives to raise issues on behalf of their cohort to the course staff. In addition, student representatives are encouraged to bring any urgent issues to the attention of staff at any time between formal meeting dates</li> <li>• Informal student feedback is gathered through the pastoral tutorial system, which can be a means of early identification of potential issues</li> <li>• The external examiner provides an annual report on the standards and quality of the course, based on student assessments, feedback and interviews with students</li> <li>• Employers are involved in the development and review of the course on an informal basis by regular contact, but also through the annual Industry Advisory Committee.</li> </ul>
<b>15.</b>	<b>Assessment regulations</b>
	<p>This course is subject to the University's Common Assessment Regulations (located in its <a href="#">Academic Standards and Quality Handbook</a>). Any course specific assessment features are described below:</p> <p>The final award for the FdSc Horticulture is calculated on the results from both levels, in the proportion of 20% from level 4 and 80% from level 5.</p>
<b>16.</b>	<b>Additional Information</b>

Collaborative partner(s):	NA
Course referenced to national QAA Benchmark Statements:	Foundation Degree Benchmarks Agriculture, horticulture, forestry, food and consumer sciences (2009)
Course recognised by:	NA
Date this course specification approved:	June 2014
Any additional information:	

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### Basic Course Information

17.	Awarding Institution:	Nottingham Trent University
18.	School/Campus:	School of Animal, Rural & Environmental Sciences / Brackenhurst Campus
19.	Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study:	FdSc Horticulture: Garden Design (Full-time, Part-time and Sandwich)
20.	Normal Duration:	Full-time = 2 years, Part-time and Sandwich = 3 years
21.	UCAS Code:	D400; D401

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

The FdSc Horticulture: Garden Design is one of two foundation degrees offered in the horticulture area, the other being the FdSc Horticulture. - (see web-links to these course specifications for further details).

The course is designed to provide a comprehensive working knowledge of landscape and garden design at a professional level.

The study programme has been devised to provide you with a range of knowledge and skills to enable you to consider self-employment, a popular choice for many graduates, or to enhance your employability in the world of work – in private companies or public service organisations. In the latter situation, the combination of academic knowledge allied with vocational skills is intended to permit you to progress with confidence from supervisory level upwards. Alternatively, you may choose to progress to the associated honours degree.

The FdSc Horticulture: Garden Design shares a common core of study at level 4 with the FdSc Horticulture. This is in recognition of the broad range of knowledge required at this professional level. You will enrol on the generic horticulture course and elect to follow your preferred pathway (Garden Design or Horticulture) at the end of level 4. You also have the opportunity to undertake a one-year sandwich placement, after successful completion of the level 4 modules.

A special feature of the FdSc Horticulture: Garden Design is its emphasis on 'real-life' scenarios, including workplace experience, case studies, visits and talks by practising professionals.

The FdSc Horticulture: Garden Design attracts students from a wide age range and different educational backgrounds.  
The overall aims of the course are:

- To develop the potential of all students to the full, engendering enthusiasm and passion for their chosen subject
- To produce graduates at technological/supervisory level, able to work across a range of landscape or horticulture-related fields, with competency and confidence

- To impart a critical awareness of the fundamental principles of landscape and horticulture management
- To develop interpersonal and transferable skills, producing flexible, participating individuals in the workplace
- To optimise flexibility by the provision of a part-time learning route

23. **Course outcomes**

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.

**Knowledge and understanding**

By the end of the course you should be able to:

Identify, analyse and evaluate a range of client or site briefs; accurately collect and evaluate selected data, select appropriate mechanism for the transfer of data (B)

Recognise historical landscape features; select appropriate technical response (B)

Formulate and evaluate ideas or concepts and relate to site, client or budget (B)

Prepare appropriate responses to familiar and/or complex problems within landscape or horticulture projects with an awareness of safe working practices (B)

Identify sources of knowledge and technical information; be open to evolving and further concepts (B)

Identify, utilise and manage the range of hard and soft landscape elements, appropriate to brief (B)

Appreciate the construction processes by others involved in the development of the landscape (B)

(B) indicates outcomes having specific reference to the QAA Benchmark Statement - Agriculture, horticulture, forestry, food and consumer sciences (2009)

**Skills, qualities and attributes**

By the end of the course you should be able to:

Apply specialist knowledge to meet the needs of the landscape or horticulture sector, with confidence and proficiency (B)

Effectively communicate information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms, especially graphic or technical where appropriate, to specialist and non-specialist audiences (B)

Accept responsibility and accountability in line with the supervisory or technical industry level, to achieve identified outcomes with projects

Apply transferable and interpersonal skills within or without the industry sector, particularly the skills of initiative, communication and teamwork, to a professional standard

Effectively communicate information or concepts in a visual or technological form, to a range of clients

Develop the personal skills of appropriate communication to client or contractor, responsibility, self-motivation and organisation

(B) indicates outcomes having specific reference to the QAA Benchmark Statement - Agriculture, horticulture, forestry, food and consumer sciences (2009)

#### 24. **Teaching and Learning Methods**

At level 4, the ethos is on the link between understanding of basic principles or concepts and their application in the landscape industry. Hence, the teaching and learning is based on a core of formal lectures, which are developed into applied knowledge gained via practical exercises, either in the drawing studio, computer-aided design studio, onsite in gardens, in the workshops or the laboratory. Exercises are both in groups or individually, so developing interpersonal skills. These skills are further honed in student presentations and role play exercises.

The requirements of the world of work, whether in self-employment or employment, are embedded throughout the course, with an emphasis on the technology and modes of communication appropriate for the supervisory level of employment.

Integration and application to the workplace is particularly enhanced by the range of guest speakers who are practising designers, landscape contractors, or landscape officers within organisations. An important feature of the teaching and learning of the course at both level 4 and 5 is the use of 'real-life' scenarios in the design sector of the landscape industry.

At level 5, the balance between formal lecture and applied exercise is continued. However, the key aspect of evaluation of data or concepts is introduced, and the theoretical tenets applied to the reality of workplace operations. These are promoted along with the skill of independent learning. The latter feature is intended to inspire an enthusiasm for learning once in the workplace environment, or for preparation for continuing educational studies through the associated honours degree. The cornerstone of this level is the Horticulture Employability module, where the students can undertake garden or landscape design or related work experience, either as sole practitioners or within an organisation.

Teaching and learning derives great benefit from the specialist resource base of the Brackenhurst campus. Landscape and garden design has a dedicated computer-aided design studio and a general drawing studios, as well as utilising the resources of the historic landscaped gardens, construction workshops, and a relatively new nursery facility.

#### 25. **Assessment Methods**

The FdSc Horticulture: Garden Design uses a variety of assessment methods to ensure that you can demonstrate the range of learning outcomes. The vocational nature of the course results in assessments based on or within the workplace. At both levels 4 and 5, the range of personal skills valued within the world of work, such as initiative, teamwork and responsibility are included in assessments.

At level 4, knowledge acquisition and application of theory is assessed by means of drawings of designs and concepts using a range of media, technical reports, site survey plans produced by hand or using computer-aided design techniques, and practically-based tests of plant knowledge.

The evaluative theme of level 5 produces an emphasis on developing the skills of presentation of concepts and designs in various graphic forms. Also, there is the translation of landscape knowledge into the applied skills of planting plans and construction drawings. In addition, there are assessments which demand the understanding of process, from conception to realisation of landscape features or projects.

The course includes a number of non-graded assessments, throughout many of the modules at level 4 and 5 to provide formative feedback, and ensure the development of the necessary understanding and skills, prior to the final graded assessments.

## 26. Course structure and curriculum

The FdSc Horticulture: Garden Design is studied full-time (over 2 years), or part-time (over 3 years), with the option of an industrial sandwich placement year between levels 4 and 5. You will find that some modules have particular importance in the preparation for the world of work and further study (such modules are indicated with a \*).

The order of delivery of the modules and their content has been arranged to address the course learning outcomes, and to allow a logical development of your knowledge and skills. A 'curriculum map' is available should you wish to see how the course outcomes relate to the modules of study.

If, for whatever reason, you do not progress onto study the level 5 modules, you will be eligible to receive a Higher Certificate in Horticulture on completion of 120 credits at level 4.

Students who undertake a sandwich placement will be eligible for a Placement Diploma in Professional Skills award if they:

- d) satisfactorily complete at least 36 weeks of supervised work experience;
- e) receive satisfactory reports from the placement tutor and/or workplace supervisor in respect of the competencies or learning outcomes or experience gained;
- f) submit all required tasks for the award

Students who satisfactorily complete between 6 and 35 weeks of supervised work experience and who satisfy points b) and c) above will be eligible for a Placement Certificate in Professional Skills.

### Level 4

• Horticultural Technology *	20 credits
• Plants and Soil Science*	20
• Plant and Botanical Knowledge	20
• Survey Planning and Construction *	40
• Garden Design in Practice *	20

<b>Level 5</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soft Landscape Design *</li> <li>• Horticultural Employability *</li> <li>• Horticultural Practices *</li> <li>• Applied Design *</li> <li>• CAD Professional Practice *</li> <li>• Experimental Design and Analysis</li> </ul>	20 20 20 20 20 20
<b>27. Admission to the course</b>	
<p><b>Entry requirements</b></p> <p>For current information regarding all entry requirements for this course, please see the course information web page.</p>	
<b>28. Support for Learning</b>	
<p>The support provided by the friendly, approachable staff is a feature noted by previous cohorts of students, and one which remains a gold standard on this course.</p> <p>Student support is initially provided through an induction programme, which introduces the essential course information and the range of academic and pastoral support available to you. A course handbook is issued at induction, which is followed by individual information packs on each module, containing details of module content and assessments.</p> <p>Ongoing support is offered in several ways. You will be assigned a pastoral tutor who monitors progress by means of regular individual and group tutorials. In addition, the specialist pathway leader is available for academic issues which cannot be resolved by the pastoral tutor. You are also advised that the FdSc Horticulture course leader is available for advice, should you feel further discussion is needed.</p> <p>Personal Development Planning is integrated into The Work Experience module at level 4, and the pastoral tutor will develop the process during tutorials. The library and other learning resources, including the IT and CAD suites, are regularly reviewed and updated to ensure they meet the vocational needs of the course.</p> <p>The university Central Student Support Services offer a range of specialist and professional services for you, and have a centre based at the Brackenhurst campus. They provide support for students with specific learning needs such as dyslexia.</p> <p>A highlight of the FdSc Horticulture course is the annual Careers Week in January, which consists of a series of visits and talks by a range of practising landscape management professionals. This is intended to provide you with careers ideas and the various routes open to you on graduation.</p>	
<b>29. Graduate destinations / employability</b>	
<p>You will be well-equipped to pursue a range of careers within the landscape industry. Many graduates aim to become self-employed garden designers,</p>	

and others to be landscape design-and-build contractors, for which further craft level training in practical skills such as bricklaying is recommended. However, there are other opportunities within organisations, particularly local authorities and environmental charities such as Groundwork, for you to become a landscape officer. You will also be equipped to apply for posts as project or parks managers, due to the breadth of your studies.

To ensure that your employment prospects are maximised and the course remains up-to-date, there is an active Industry Advisory Committee, giving valuable advice to both you and the staff. The workplace employers also contribute to your education and training. You may subsequently wish to progress onto post-graduate studies to become a chartered landscape architect

**30. Course standards and quality**

There are well-established and effective systems for managing the quality of the curriculum within the School.

- Induction questionnaires, mid-year and end-of-year reviews, module feedback, and School end-of-year questionnaires are all used to gain valuable feedback from students on their overall learning experience of the course and university
- The termly committee meetings are a formal venue for student representatives to raise issues on behalf of their cohort to the course staff. In addition, student representatives are encouraged to bring any urgent issues to the attention of staff at any time between formal meeting dates
- Informal student feedback is gathered through the pastoral tutorial system, which can be a means of early identification of potential issues
- The external examiner provides an annual report on the standards and quality of the course, based on student assessments, feedback and interviews with students
- Employers are involved in the development and review of the course on an informal basis by regular contact, but also through the annual Industry Advisory Committee meeting.

**31. Assessment regulations**

This course is subject to the University's Common Assessment Regulations (located in its [Academic Standards and Quality Handbook](#)). Any course specific assessment features are described below:

The final award for the FdSc Horticulture: Garden Design is calculated on the results from both levels, in the proportion of 20% from level 4 and 80% from level 5.

**32. Additional Information**

Collaborative partner(s):	NA
Course referenced to national QAA Benchmark Statements:	Foundation Degree Benchmarks Agriculture, horticulture, forestry, food and consumer sciences (2009)

Course recognised by:	NA
Date this course specification approved:	June 2014
Any additional information:	