

Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

Basic Course Information		
1.	Awarding Institution:	Nottingham Trent University
2.	School/Campus:	School of Social Sciences, City Campus
3.	Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study:	MA Professional Practice (Careers Guidance) Flexible part time
4.	Normal Duration:	0.5 - 3 years
5.	UCAS Code:	

6.	Overview and general educational aims of the course	
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The careers guidance pathway provides a Masters level qualification in careers guidance related to, and situated within professional practice. Individuals delivering and managing careers guidance need the skills to lead their professions in an ever changing environment, and to meet the challenges of professional service delivery in the context of shrinking public sector funding and the development of new ways of working. For example, partnership working is becoming of increasing importance.

The Careers Guidance pathway will allow you to build on learning from a previous academic programme and consolidate existing knowledge from practice. The Pathway will provide a route for you to progress from your Masters in Professional Practice to a Professional Doctorate, or a PhD.

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:		

- Demonstrate a thorough knowledge and critical understanding of theories, principles and research relevant to a specified area of professional practice informed by both national and international perspectives.
- Develop advanced conceptual abilities and analytical skills in order to evaluate the rigour and validity of published research and assess its relevance to new situations and the evolving nature of professional practice.
- Develop creativity in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established, advanced techniques of research and enquiry are used to interpret knowledge in public sector professions.
- Critically appraise the design, development and evaluation of policy developments, service provision and research informed initiatives to enhance professional practice.

Skills, qualities and attributes		
By the end of the course you should be able to:		

- Develop advanced skills and attributes to enable and contribute to learning and professional development in practice.
- Critically reflect upon the ethical implications in, and for, practice.
- Analyse and develop complex arguments relation to professional practice and use these to enhance the future development of the profession.
- Critically develop the skills to pursue research.
- Critically, ethically and reflectively analyse and problem solve complex issues in professional practice.

8. **Teaching and Learning Methods**

The teaching on the pathway will be delivered through a blend of methods both direct and non-direct and will include formal lectures, debates, workshops, case studies, problem-based learning scenarios, small group activities and tutorials and projects. Through self-directed learning opportunities you will be encouraged to access wider literature and application of knowledge and skills to a work- related learning context. E-learning will be orchestrated to engage you in a variety of approaches including the use of discussion boards, group tasks, online media, electronic library resources and quizzes. You will also be provided with electronic formative and summative assessment and feedback.

9. **Assessment Methods**

You will be assessed through a series of written assignments. The core modules are all 5,000 words with the exception of the Research Dissertation and Service Evaluation Project which are 8000 words. All of these assignments attempt to utilise theoretical perspectives and understanding to support the development of practice. Examples of assessment include: reflective assignments, research projects, practice projects, the design and critique of learning experiences, and research dissertations.

10. **Course structure and curriculum**

To obtain the pathway award MA Professional Practice (Careers guidance), you will need 180 credits acquired from the core modules listed below. Credits can be acquired by Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) for which purpose courses or modules completed either at NTU or elsewhere will be considered.

Core Modules

One-to-One Interactions and Allied Theoretical Concepts (20 credits)

Ethics, Values and Reflective Practice (20 credits)

Labour Market Information (20 credits)

One-to-One Career Guidance Interactions and Allied Theoretical Concepts (20 credits)

<p>Partnership Working and Evidence Based Practice (20 credits)</p> <p>Curriculum Design, Group Work and Presentations (20 credits)</p> <p>Research Methods (30 Credits)</p> <p>Research Dissertation (30 Credits) or Service Evaluation Project (30 Credits)</p>
<p>11. Admission to the course</p>
<p>For current information regarding all entry requirements, please see the 'Applying' tab on the course information web page.</p>
<p>12. Support for Learning</p>
<p>A course specific induction session will be offered at the commencement of the course and this will be integrated with the wider Programme induction arrangements. The Course induction will include a specific overview of each module, university regulations, health and safety information, signposting of NTU resources, career directions and employability themes within the student's chosen profession and relevant institutional information including key contacts.</p> <p>The course will offer both formal and informal student support systems. Formal systems include practice supervision (in the practice setting) group supervision onsite at the University and individual support from course tutors. Informal systems include peer support networks (either onsite and/or using eLearning systems).</p> <p>The University Counselling Service may be a relevant resource for you whilst on the course and the induction arrangements will signpost this service.</p> <p>The University Careers Service may also be a relevant resource for you whilst on the course and the induction arrangements will signpost this service. General career and employment themes will be addressed during the course and highlighted on eLearning systems.</p> <p>The course will offer personal tutor support as a first point of contact for you whilst on the course and in relevant circumstances your tutor will signpost you to internal or external resources.</p> <p>The course will offer appropriate levels of support should you have a disability, learning difficulties, dyslexia and/or other relevant conditions warranting additional levels of support.</p>
<p>13. Graduate destinations / employability</p>
<p>It is anticipated that you will enter a range of programme related employment in the public, private, and third sectors. The study routes within the pathway are designed to maximise employability via accreditation, the acquisition of specialist knowledge, and the development of professional and transferable skills.</p> <p>The MA will provide a route for you to progress to a Professional Doctorate or PhD</p>

14. Course standards and quality
<p>The MA Professional Practice Framework will engage in the normal Course Committee and Examination Board procedures. Framework reporting will be via the 'Programme Standards and Quality Report' and development and sustainability will be implemented and monitored via the rolling action plan.</p> <p>The External Examiners will need to provide an overview of the professional contexts within which students are employed and specialist expertise in empirical research in professional practice contexts alongside an overview of the entire framework.</p>
15. 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:
16. Additional Information Collaborative partner(s): Course referenced to national QAA Benchmark Statements: Course recognised by: Date implemented: Any additional information: 8 April 2013