

## Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

<b>Basic Course Information</b>		
1.	Awarding Institution:	Nottingham Trent University
2.	School/Campus:	Nottingham Business School/City
3.	Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study:	MSc FinTech and Financial Markets (full time)
4.	Normal Duration:	One year
5.	UCAS Code:	N/A

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

The course aims

- to develop your comprehensive understanding of the principles of FinTech and a solid theoretical background in finance. The focus is to equip you with the key knowledge and skills required to perform a range of roles within the evolving field of FinTech and the contemporary financial markets.
- to develop finance professionals who possess a deep understanding of the technological aspects that drive the FinTech evolution and shape financial markets. More specifically, the course will equip you with the programming and data analytics skills which allow you to understand FinTech products and their applications to financial markets.
- to combine FinTech and mainstream finance content. This balanced approach forms one of the distinctive characteristics of the course as it would allow you to develop a comprehensive understanding of FinTech combined with solid foundations on financial theories and models.

Additionally, acknowledging that most FinTech ventures are in the form of early-stage businesses (e.g. Start-ups), the course focuses on developing your skills on transforming ideas to new FinTech products.

Lastly, since FinTech activity is more international and takes place in non-traditional capital market countries, the course includes an international focus. Thus, as part of the International Entrepreneurial Finance and FinTech Ventures module, you will work in evaluating/suggesting new products to real FinTech start-ups in an international setting that involves an international visit.

### 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:

- Articulate a critical understanding of the contemporary issues, theories and conceptual frameworks used to explain and guide the adoption of financial technology in organisations both nationally and internationally.
- Demonstrate an understanding of a range of technologies that can be utilised to explore and drive financial innovation in dynamic financial services environments.
- Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge and critical understanding of the key concepts, theories, ethical guidelines, and regulatory frameworks that govern financial markets.
- Demonstrate the ability to apply analytical tools and techniques to support business development decisions.
- Apply knowledge, tools and techniques to resolve issues in new and diverse situations within FinTech and the Finance discipline.

- Evaluate the rigour and validity of published research and assess its relevance to the practice of finance.
- Demonstrate the ability to make recommendations for organisational practice based on theoretical insights through a process of experiential or applied learning.
- Demonstrate an aptitude for independent critical thought and rational inquiry.
- Demonstrate creativity and intellectual curiosity in both the application and synthesis of knowledge.
- Demonstrate proficiency in the use of techniques of research and enquiry to draw conclusions from a critical evaluation of relevant issues.
- 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.
- Understand the environmental, social, governance and ethical problems that may occur in the finance discipline and apply appropriate frameworks or professional codes to resolve such problems.
- Critically self-reflect and demonstrate an international awareness and openness to the world, based on an appreciation of social and cultural diversity.
- Develop a critical understanding of the role of the finance discipline in the global context.
- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the role of the finance discipline in a wider organisational context.

#### **Skills, qualities and attributes**

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

- Analyse a variety of relevant data used in diverse contexts to support effective decision making in the finance discipline.
- Communicate key issues and arguments in written and oral format to a professional standard.
- Effectively use information and communication technologies relevant to the finance discipline.
- Work collaboratively in internationally diverse teams.
- Make decisions and exercise judgement in organisational settings when faced with a range of alternative courses of action.
- Take personal responsibility for continuing professional development and develop the capacity to be an effective and reflective practitioner.

#### **8. Learning and teaching methods**

Most 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 (usually of no more than c.30 students) and structured guided study.

Exemptions to the above pattern of delivery are the modules a) Principles of FinTech; b) Introduction to Programming and Data Analytics for Finance and FinTech (IPDA); b) Transformational Leadership Development (TLD); and c) Research Methods for Finance. These modules are delivered as follows:

- a) Principles of FinTech and IPDA are delivered concurrently across eight weeks. This is to spread your workload evenly and allow you enough time to absorb and practice on the programming and data analytics techniques covered in IPDA.

b) TLD (semester 1) and Research Methods for Finance (semester 2) are delivered across 10 weeks each in two hour per week workshops.

Our workshops adopt and promote an action learning approach which, briefly, is described as “learning by doing” using real-life problems. This is articulated in the form of case-studies, simulations, and focused discussions.

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.

**9. Assessment methods**

The summative assessments, which count towards your final grades, consist of exams, and individual and group coursework.

Also, the course adopts a variety of formative assessment methods, which do not count towards your final grades, but which support your learning and allow you to receive useful feedback on your progress.

Both summative and formative assessment will incorporate experiential elements to enable you to apply your knowledge through live projects or simulations and cases.

Our assessment strategy is designed to help you develop and demonstrate your knowledge, understanding and skills. Also, assessment is balanced throughout the course, helping you to manage your workload.

Some of the assessment is assessing your ability to work effectively with others as this forms an essential skill in the workplace. Therefore, some modules incorporate elements of group assessment. However, across the course, individual performance is more highly weighted in order to give due credit for individual performance.

**10. Course structure and curriculum**

The course consists of six twenty credit point modules with a specific focus on FinTech and Financial Markets. Most of these modules, are delivered sequentially over a period of three weeks, followed by a fourth week when the assessment takes place. An exemption to this pattern is a) the Principles of FinTech, b) the Introduction to Programming and Data Analytics for Finance and FinTech modules which are delivered concurrently across eight weeks during the first semester.

Also, the course includes two ten credit point modules, the Transformational Leadership Development (TLD) and Research Methods for Finance (RM), which are delivered across the first and the second semester respectively over 10 weeks.

In the final phase of the course, you will work on your consultancy project which carries forty credit points.

The structure of the course is shown below:

Semester	Modules		
1	Global Financial Markets (20 cp) (4 weeks)		Transformational Leadership Development (TLD) (10cp) (10 weeks)
	Principles of FinTech (20cp) (8 weeks)	Introduction to Programming and Data Analytics for Finance and FinTech (20cp) (8 weeks)	
2	Valuation of Investment Products (20cp) (4 weeks)		Research Methods for Finance (10cp) (10 weeks)
	Regulation and Compliance in Financial Markets and FinTech (20cp) (4 weeks)		
	International Entrepreneurial Finance and FinTech Ventures (20cp) (4 weeks)		
3	Consultancy Project (40cp) (15 weeks)		

The course curriculum has been designed to underpin knowledge associated with the core aspects of FinTech and the principles of finance.

In Global Financial Markets, the first module of the course, you will become familiar with the full range of international financial markets and the financial securities traded in each of these markets. Also, considering the growing importance of interest rates on the course of financial markets, the module will enable you to critically evaluate the impact of the different directions of monetary policy on each of the core financial markets.

The second module, Principles of FinTech, is designed to provide an introduction to the key aspects and applications of financial technology and Blockchain technology. Also, the module aims to develop your ability to critically evaluate the applications and limitations of each of the key technologies involved in the evolution of FinTech.

Possessing Python programming skills is a key prerequisite for anyone looking to make a career in FinTech and the contemporary Financial Markets. Thus, in the Introduction to Programming and Data Analytics for Finance and FinTech, you will develop an understanding of the principles of Python as a programming and data analytics tool, in the context of analysing financial data.

In the second semester, the module Valuation of Investment Products is designed to provide you with a deep and integrated view of the theory and practice of the key aspects of financial management and valuation of various investment products in a multinational environment.

The module Regulation and Compliance in Financial Markets and FinTech aims to give you a concise, although complete, overview of the regulatory environment in financial markets and fintech and develop your understanding of the emerging regulatory developments at international level. Also, the module evaluates the use of technology for the implementation of regulation (e.g. RegTech).

In the final module, International Entrepreneurial Finance and FinTech Ventures, you will develop your understanding of the traditional and non-traditional sources of financing available to early-stage organisation (e.g. start-ups) with particular emphasis on FinTech related ventures. Additionally, the module will provide you with a comprehensive overview of the process required to assess the viability of a new venture in the context of unit economics and construct a model of projected financial information.

Integrated into the above six modules are two ten credit point modules, Transformational Leadership Development (TLD) and Research Methods for Finance,

which both help to support your academic and professional personal development. These are common modules across the NBS PGT platform.

In addition, there are two important weeks scheduled in the year: a) The Personal Development Week which is scheduled during the first semester and offers a selection of professional development opportunities that align with the delivery of the TLD module; and b) The Global Responsibility Week which is scheduled in the second semester and through a series of visiting professorial lectures explores key ethical and sustainability-related dimensions of finance and business. Both these weeks provide valuable opportunities for continuous professional development (CPD) which plays a key role in the course.

The final phase comprises your major project where you will be undertaking a 'live' consultancy project on a FinTech-related topic. The consultancy experience project (CEP) gives you the chance to undertake focused research as part of a team and develop a range of professional skills related to working with others, managing a complex project and delivering actions in a real business situation. The CEP briefs are in relation to FinTech ventures and the aim is to introduce you to the process required to raise funding and optimise strategy for early-stage ventures or devise turnaround strategies for distressed businesses.

As a group you will present your findings to the client in verbal and written form. At the end of the project, individual assessments will require you to reflect on your personal development and undertake some related personal enquiry. Taught input will introduce you to project management tools and concepts, explore the requirements of an effective professional and establish the assessment expectations.

#### 11. **Admission to the course**

##### **Entry requirements.**

For current information regarding all entry requirements for this course, please see the 'Applying' tab on the NTU 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 completed prior to the start of the course.

When you arrive you will undertake a development programme linked to the TLD module. Initially, you will be provided with the basic knowledge of your course and its operations. This will encompass details of the course (e.g. aims, timetable, teaching and learning strategy, assessment and feedback) and course management processes (e.g. student feedback mechanisms and course committees). Also, as part of this development programme you will be introduced to the University (e.g. the range of facilities, available support and guidance services) and the wider regulations that apply to your studies. Then, the TLD development programme continues with sessions which are focused on academic and professional development, including a residential programme. The residential programme 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 which enables students from a variety of educational backgrounds to achieve a smooth transition into this high-performance course.

A key source of information about your course will be the course handbook which will be available to you when you arrive. The course handbook includes all the essential information, which are covered during the development programme outlined above.

Academic staff within Nottingham Business School have an excellent reputation for being approachable and enthusiastic about their subject area, with the course 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 work with tutors and fellow students 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 an academic mentor.

It is expected that each student will meet with their academic mentor at least four times (two times in the first semester and once in each subsequent semester). In addition to reviewing your academic progress, academic mentors have a key role in reinforcing your professional skills development and encouraging you to reflect on the different strands of your course and extra-curricular activity. Academic mentors 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 academic mentor 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 learning environment designed to encourage creative thinking about real world issues confronting organisations. The School's professional approach to business 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 Bloomberg terminal 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 FinTech and Finance, and as graduates of the course, you will have developed a wide range of skills and abilities that will enhance your employability prospects.

In particular, this course will help you to:

- Develop a career within the emerging FinTech space and the contemporary financial services sector;
- Build your expertise on the principles of finance as well as more dynamic topics such as programming and data analytics. This will allow you to develop a competitive advantage in the employment market.

As a graduate of the MSc FinTech and Financial Markets course, you will have a wide range of possible careers. For example:

- Progress onto existing and emerging roles in banking, investment, and insurance in the City of London, or other global financial centres.

- Create or join FinTech start-up ventures and lead them to their next stage of development and funding.
- Pursue a career within the contemporary financial services sector
- Go on to study for a further professional qualification (such as the CFA Institute, the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, or the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants) as well as doctoral level studies.

Specialist careers advisers in NTU's employability team are available 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 FinTech and Financial Markets.

**14. Course standards and quality**

The management of the course is conducted through two formally constituted committees, the Board of Examiners and the Course Committee. 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.

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 attend 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 for Postgraduate Taught Programmes (located in Section 16 of the Quality Handbook).

This course is subject to the University's Common Assessment Regulations (located in its [Academic Standards and Quality Handbook](#)).

**16. Additional information**

Collaborative partner(s):	<b>None</b>
Course referenced to national (QAA) Benchmark Statements:	QAA Benchmarks for level 7 courses in Business and Management (QAA 2015)
Course recognised by:	
NTIC progression route(s):	MSc Fintech and Financial Markets
Date this course specification approved:	17 May 2019

Any additional information: