

Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

Basic Course Information

1.	Awarding Institution:	Nottingham Trent University
2.	School/Campus:	School of Animal, Rural and Environmental Sciences, Brackenhurst Campus
3.	Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study:	MSc in Global Food Security and Development (FT & PT)
4.	Normal Duration:	1 year full-time or 2 years part time
5.	UCAS Code:	N/A

6. Overview and general educational aims of the course

Nearly a billion of hungry and an equal number of malnourished people in the world, recurrent food price spikes and socio-political unrest, climate change, degradation and scarcity of natural resources, coupled with decline in rural communities and livelihoods, have placed food security high on the development agenda. This MSc in Global Food Security & Development course is designed to meet the growing demands for professionals equipped with the knowledge, understanding, skills, and attributes required to deal with these challenges.

Taking inter-disciplinary perspectives, with insights from agro-ecological sciences, geography, political science, sociology, and innovation studies, and by using systems approaches and research-informed teaching, the course will explore and analyse issues of food security, the factors that affect food security outcomes, the solutions to food security problems, and the planning and execution of food security interventions.

Through coursework, and practical on-the-ground experience (e.g. field visits), the course is designed to provide you with in-depth knowledge; develop your intellectual and communicative abilities; and equip you with necessary analytical and research skills.

The course aims are as follows:

- To develop critical understanding of the theory and practice of global food security and development
- To produce employment or research-ready graduates who can meet the global need for scientifically literate and technically-competent individuals capable of effectively performing within the field of global food security and development
- To produce graduates who are capable of critically applying the broad range of principles and approaches underpinning global food security and development, with an ability to further the collective knowledge and expertise in their specialist area
- To produce graduates who have a holistic approach to global food security and development, who recognise the need for, and relatedness of, theory and practice, and are able to bridge gaps between these two
- To provide graduates with an international outlook on food security and development; and an appreciation of the strong life skills, independence, flexibility and interdependence that are required to perform effectively in the field of global food security and development.

7.	<p>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.</p>
<p>Knowledge and understanding By the end of the course you should be able to:</p>	
<p>Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding and knowledge of food security and food systems and the factors (biophysical/environmental, economic, political, demographic and social) affecting food security outcomes.</p> <p>Critically evaluate the frameworks and methods used to analyse food security, food systems and the roles of policy and international institutions in global food security.</p> <p>Analyse the roles, forms and modalities of international development assistance relating to food security projects and programmes.</p> <p>Evaluate innovations for improving food security as well as innovation diffusion and knowledge transfer & exchange (KTE) processes.</p> <p>Evaluate the rigour and validity of published research and assess its relevance to new situations.</p> <p>Deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences.</p> <p>Demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in food security and development.</p> <p>Demonstrate the relevance of knowledge and skills acquired on their programme of study to professional activity and responsible global citizenship.</p>	
<p>Skills, qualities and attributes By the end of the course you should be able to:</p>	
<p>Design and apply appropriate research methods and analytical tools in assessing food security situations and predicting future risks or conduct advanced professional enquiries.</p> <p>Communicate the results of research and technical or professional enquiry to peers in an appropriate manner.</p> <p>Demonstrate awareness of the significance of teamwork and cultural and local issues while implementing food security and development projects and programmes.</p> <p>Demonstrate expertise in advanced research, technical, communication and professional skills.</p> <p>Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level.</p>	

Develop a commitment to learning, training, personal and professional development, and to accept accountability and perform independently with a high level of responsibility.

Show critical awareness of current problems or issues relating to food security along with the ability to address and apply ethical resolution.

8. **Teaching and learning methods**

The course will be delivered through a range of methods including: interactive lectures, guided reading, computer lab sessions, real-life case studies, workshops, seminars, and study visits. You will also have opportunities to present your work to peers and academic staff.

The taught modules will be delivered during two half year periods (start of October to the end January, and start of February to the end of May). The MSc Research Project module will begin at the start of the second half year and students will work to complete their research projects by October. There will be opportunities for fieldwork to enhance your knowledge and understanding of food security problems and solutions as well as analyse current situations and plan interventions.

The taught modules – Food Security & Food Systems Analysis, Innovations for Food Security, Food Security & International Development Cooperation, and Research Methods in Food Security – will involve discussions and workshops to develop skills. For your Research Project you will spend additional time with your dissertation supervisor to enable you to develop a viable project.

During the taught modules you will be practising various analytical skills, carrying out directed study and research and you will continue to be supported via tutorials, the NTU Online Workspace (NOW) and e-mail contact. The course is designed to encourage independent learning and is structured to improve your ability to undertake high quality research and critical analysis. At NTU there is a strong culture of e-learning, and the well-established NOW will be used extensively to keep in contact and facilitate learning during non-contact time for all modules.

Additional learning opportunities will be gained from the detailed formative and summative feedback given on all assessed work and feedback provided by peers.

9. **Assessment methods**

The course will use a variety of assessment methods to ensure that you can demonstrate your achievement of the course learning outcomes. This will take one or more of the following forms:

Written assignments

These will include:

- essays on selected topics
- case study reports
- project proposals

These methods of assessment will allow you to demonstrate understanding, objective critical analysis skills and the ability to communicate findings in a systematic manner. Project proposals will enable you to demonstrate your ability to apply academic knowledge in practical situations.

Written exam

This is a formal examination that requires you to draw from prior taught aspects of the module and to demonstrate written communication, critical analysis and evaluation skills.

Dissertation

Your dissertation will be assessed to examine your ability to design and execute a research project, including such tasks as develop instruments/protocols, identify and collect requisite data, analyse data using appropriate statistical methods and computer software, and communicate the findings to an informed audience in a comprehensive scientific report.

10. Course structure and curriculum

To achieve the award of MSc in Global Food Security & Development a total of 180 Credit Points (CP) must be achieved.

The course comprises the following modules:

- Food Security & Food Systems Analysis (Core, 40CP)
- Innovations for Food Security (Core, 40CP)
- Food Security and International Development Cooperation (Core, 20CP)
- Research Methods in Food Security (Core, 20CP)
- MSc Research Project (Core, 60CP)

Students who successfully complete 60 cp at level 7 of the course and meet the learning outcomes but who do not wish to progress further will be entitled to receive the award of Postgraduate Certificate in Global Food Security.

Those students who successfully complete 120 cp at level 7 of the course and meet the learning outcomes but do not wish to progress further will be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Global Food Security and Development.

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

You will be invited to attend an induction event at the beginning of your course and all students at Nottingham Trent University have full access to Student Support Services. In addition, School-based pastoral support networks are in place to offer students support, guidance and advice on academic and personal issues. Where necessary, the Course team will liaise with University Student Support Services. Academic support will be available through the NOW as well as via tutorials.

You will also be regularly advised by your Project Supervisor. Supervisors will guide your progress throughout your course. For example, you will participate in research team meetings (potentially across disciplines), individual meetings with research project supervisors and other contact or communication as appropriate.

University Accommodation Officers will provide you with information, guidance and continuing support regarding accommodation issues, such as halls of residence, private rented accommodation and the Landlord Approval

Scheme. The Accommodation Services can be accessed through www.ntu.ac.uk.

You will be provided with an online Student Handbook at the start of your course, which will provide a list of useful contacts, course information and advice.

We want you to feel part of a learning community and every effort will be made to uphold this aim to the highest standards.

13. Graduate destinations/employability

Possible destinations for MSc students include:

Non-academic sector

- UN institutions/programmes: FAO, UNDP, WFP, IFAD, etc.
- International donor agencies: DFID, USAID, AusAID, NZAID, EuropeAid, GTZ, SIDA, DANIDA, etc.
- Government departments: Ministries/departments of agriculture, food or rural development (e.g. DEFRA in the UK)
- National and international NGOs: Soil Association, Oxfam, CARE international, Action Aid, etc.
- Charitable organisations: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, etc.
- Private sector: Agribusiness corporations, e.g. Syngenta, agricultural and rural development consultancies, e.g. ADAS (UK)
- Media: local media, e.g. Farmers' Weekly, and international media, e.g. BBC
- Policy/think tanks: IFPRI, ODI, etc.

Employed as: food security analyst; food security monitoring & evaluation specialist; food security project or programme analyst; food security communications analyst; food security policy analyst; food security assessment consultants; food security project or programme manager/officer/coordinator/assistant; technical adviser/officer; food security trainer [job designations taken from recently advertised positions in the international job market]

Academic sector

- Covers universities or higher education institutions

Employed as: Research assistants/associates, doctoral fellows, lecturers, etc. in subjects relating to agricultural and rural development

Alternatively, you may wish to continue in the field of research by seeking MPhil or PhD scholarships.

Staff in the School are actively involved in liaising with external agencies and industry to ensure the relevance of the course to the world of work. The University's Careers Service has an enviable reputation for finding our graduates employment and offers individual consultations.

14. Course standards and quality

Standards and quality are ensured on this course by a variety of different mechanisms. These include:

1. A course committee which meets 3 times a year (Induction review, mid-year review and end of year review meetings), all of which include a student representative. One of the key tasks of this committee is to monitor student feedback on course delivery.
2. A system of student feedback applied to all of the modules.

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. An external examiner from another University who oversees the standard of the course, including curriculum design and assessment of student work, writing an annual report on the standards and quality of the course. 4. A proportion of all student work submitted is double marked by an academic member of staff and read by the external examiner. 5. An annual course standard and quality report (CSQR) is produced, and the external examiner's report is considered. 6. Application of NTU's Periodic School Review process. 										
<p>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:</p>										
<p>The course complies with the University Common Assessment Regulations for taught postgraduate courses.</p>										
<p>16. Additional Information</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Collaborative partner(s):</td> <td>None</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Course referenced to national QAA Benchmark Statements:</td> <td>Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education advice set for Master's degree Characteristics – March 2010</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Course recognised by:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Date this course specification approved:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Any additional information:</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Collaborative partner(s):	None	Course referenced to national QAA Benchmark Statements:	Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education advice set for Master's degree Characteristics – March 2010	Course recognised by:		Date this course specification approved:		Any additional information:	
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