

**Nottingham Trent University Course Specification**

**MRes, MSc, PGDip  
Animal Health  
and  
Welfare**

## Nottingham Trent University Course Specification – MRes

### 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:	MRes Animal Health and Welfare, FT/PT
4.	Normal Duration:	FT 1 years, PT 2 years
5.	UCAS Code:	n/a

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

The MRes in Animal Health and Welfare aims to provide you with a comprehensive understanding of animal health in relation to welfare, within the context of human uses and interactions with animals. The course combines advanced research and academic skills with complementary applied science skills for practical application within the animal sector and will equip you with theoretical knowledge and the opportunities to develop practical applications of that knowledge.

You will develop into an independent scientific researcher with a high level of responsibility and the course will enable you to carry out extensive research aimed at furthering current knowledge of animal health and welfare. This will be specifically achieved through the production of an extensive research project in a relevant subject area of interest to you.

You will attend a series of lectures, seminars and practical sessions, followed by a period of assessment completion and supervised project work. Lectures will be delivered by our research active staff and by top-level researchers in Animal and Equine Science. The taught component of this MRes will be delivered through a range of modules such as "Research Methods and Data Analysis", "Ethology and Welfare

(Animal)" and "Animal Health". Additionally, you will undertake an in depth "MRes Research project" in a relevant subject area of your choice.

An important part of the MRes course will be for you to gain an insight into recent advances in animal science, specifically relating to health and welfare. This means that we strongly advise you to attend a relevant scientific conference as an integral part of your course.

You will develop a wide range of transferable skills during your course of study, skills which are of direct employability value. These skills include the ability to communicate complex ideas coherently, to identify and evaluate sources of information, to orally communicate with different stakeholders and to undertake autonomous and independent research with an awareness of real life applications of that knowledge. Key themes of economic and environmental sustainability will be incorporated and embedded throughout the course in order that you develop as a well-rounded and highly employable, global citizen with a specific skill set relating to animal health and welfare.

An MSc in Animal Health and Welfare is also available and information can be found on a separate Course Specification.

#### **Overview of key aims of the course;**

- To develop a comprehensive understanding and knowledge of animal health and welfare science in relation to maximising and promoting animal health and welfare
- To demonstrate a substantial, critical awareness of current issues/insights at forefront of animal science and the philosophical, welfare and ethical issues related to these
- To be able to critically evaluate general patterns in animal cognition, behaviour, psychological functioning and experience and appreciate how these relate to the application of health and welfare science
- To develop extensive skills in the evaluation of the rigour and validity of published research and assess its relevance to new situations within the discipline
- To investigate, explore, analyse and appraise specific areas of animal health and welfare science and its application via lectures, seminars, self-directed study and extensive project work in a specific, relevant subject area

#### **Overview of key features of the course;**

- Benefit from a range of staff expertise and experience in the field of animal health and welfare science across a range of species
- Develop your skills and knowledge in a rapidly changing and dynamic area of animal science with global applications and relevance

- Further develop your skills with the opportunity to undertake a collaborative research project in the field of animal health and welfare
- Benefit from opportunities to develop generic and specific personal and interpersonal skills related to the discipline
- The Brackenhurst campus offers 200 hectares of rural estate and modern laboratories for the development of scientific skills and experience

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. Learning outcomes are benchmarked to the QAA Masters Characteristics and the NTU Graduate Attributes.

**Knowledge and understanding**

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

Develop a comprehensive understanding and knowledge of animal physiology and ethology in relation to maximising health and welfare

Demonstrate a substantial, critical awareness of current issues/insights at forefront of animal science and the philosophical, welfare and ethical issues related to these

Critically evaluate general patterns in animal cognition, behaviour, psychological functioning and experience and appreciate how this relates to the application of health and welfare science

Critically evaluate research methodologies and techniques and their application to animal health and welfare science

Evaluate the rigour and validity of published research and assess its relevance to new situations within the discipline

**Skills, qualities and attributes**

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

Manage 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.

Demonstrate extensive self-direction and originality in solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level

Demonstrate expertise in advanced research including an element of originality and in technical, communication and professional skills

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

Demonstrate the relevance of knowledge and skills acquired to professional activity and responsible global citizenship

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

You will experience a mixture of seminars, lectures and practical sessions and you will also have several opportunities to present work to peers and academic staff. The research project is the culmination of the course and for this you will spend additional time with your research project supervisor. The course emphasises and encourages independent learning (IL) and is structured to improve your ability to undertake high quality research (applied and literature) and critical analysis. At NTU there is a strong culture of e-learning, using the well-established NTU On-line Workspace (NOW), and independent learning elements which will be used extensively to keep in contact and facilitate learning during non-contact time for all modules.

Detailed feedback, both formative and summative, is provided on all assessed work.

Taught modules will be typically delivered in the first 8 months, commencing in October. The taught component of the course will be delivered via lectures, seminars and practicals, complemented with set tasks and self-directed study to prepare for subsequent sessions. Following completion of taught content, time will be used for self-directed study, project-associated research and you will continue to be supported via tutorials, peer discussion groups, tutor meetings, postings, optional on-line courses and e-mail contact with tutors.

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

The course will utilise a variety of assessment methods to ensure that students can demonstrate their achievement of the courses' learning outcomes. Subject knowledge and understanding will be tested mainly through timed assessments, preparation of case studies, student led seminars, literature reviews and presentations, both oral and poster.

You will be assessed in a manner consistent with the aims, objectives and learning outcomes of each module and the course. Assessed work will take one or more of the following forms:

**Research Project (MSc, MRes)**

All research projects will need to comply with criteria set by the School Ethics Committee. Your research projects will demonstrate the ability to research a chosen topic area in depth, design and implement a relevant research project and communicate the findings to an informed audience in a comprehensive scientific report.

**Written assignments**

These may be one or a combination of the following: abstracts, scientific posters, scientific papers, case study reports, project proposals, in-depth literature reviews.

These methods of assessment will allow you to demonstrate understanding, objective critical analysis skills and the ability to communicate findings in a scientific manner. This provides you with experience of writing scientific research for journals and wider publication. Abstract writing and the production of scientific posters will test the ability to synthesise arguments and present them in a highly condensed, accessible and pictorial form. Case study reports will demonstrate the ability to apply scientific knowledge in practical situations.

**Oral Communications**

These will be used to assess both learned knowledge and oral communication skills at various levels of knowledge dissemination. These may take the form of: short scientific presentations, poster presentations, leading peer group seminars, lecturing level 6 (year 3) BSc students, applied consultations, role-plays and *viva voce* examination. You will be assessed on logical and coherent knowledge dissemination, appropriate to the form of communication. They will also be assessed on communication skills, use of aids (handouts, visual aids, and use of props) and the ability to answer questions with knowledge and authority.

All written assessments will be marked anonymously where possible.

**10. Course structure and curriculum**

To achieve the award of MRes Animal Health and Welfare a total of 180 Credit Points (CP) must be achieved.

**Modules**

**Credit Points**

Research methods and data analysis (C)	20
Animal Health (C)	20
Ethology and Welfare (Animal) (C)	20
MRes Research Project (C)	120
(C) – Core modules	

Module content and learning outcomes are designed to allow you to achieve the Post-Graduate attributes we set out for NTU students within our Strategic Plan.

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 Animal Health and Welfare. 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 Animal Health and Welfare.

#### 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.

Your progress will be formally monitored at Examination Boards in the academic year and you will be regularly advised and tutored 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](http://www.ntu.ac.uk).



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

13. **Graduate destinations/employability**

There is a wide range of career opportunities in the animal sector, as well as research areas relating to other animals and to the human health and sport industries. There is also the possibility of further postgraduate research (Master of Philosophy, Doctor of Philosophy).

Possible destinations for MRes graduates include:

MPhil Research

PhD Research

Medical/veterinary sales

Insurance

Animal related Law

Charitable Societies, Governing bodies and relevant NGOs

Animal/Equine Journalism

Coaching and mentoring

Lecturing

Nutritionists and nutrition advisors

Sporting/performance industries and organisations (e.g. Wetherbys, The Kennel Club)

Animal Welfare Organisations (World Horse Welfare, RSPCA, Blue Cross, Dogs Trust)

International Animal Federations (e.g. Fédération Equestrienne Internationale, Fédération Cynologique Internationale)

Research Industry, Research assistant

Animal Consultancy – Health, Behaviour, training and Welfare

Rehabilitation

Sports Psychology and Competition Training

Your course leader and lecturers 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**

The quality of the course is ensured through the Course Committee and the School Academic Standards and Quality Committee (SASQC). The course committee monitors student feedback on module delivery and includes student representation.

The following are involved in the monitoring of quality and standards for the course:

Academic Team Leader (ATL) for Equine and Animal Science

School Postgraduate Course Manager

Course Leader

Research project supervisors

Module Leaders

Appointed student representatives

The course also has an External Examiner who is closely involved in quality assurance and enhancement of the course and offers support and feedback to the course team and submits an annual report on the standards and quality of the course to the University.

**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:

This course is subject to the University's Common Assessment Regulations (located in its [Academic Standards and Quality Handbook](#)). The course complies with the University Common Assessment Regulations for taught postgraduate courses. You will receive a detailed summary of assessment regulations in your Course handbook at the beginning of the course.

**16. Additional Information**

Collaborative partner(s):

Course referenced to national QAA  
Benchmark Statements:

QAA Masters Characteristics and the  
NTU Graduate Attributes

Course recognised by:

Date this course specification  
approved:

May 2014

Any additional information:

## Nottingham Trent University Course Specification – MSc

### 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:	MSc Animal Health and Welfare, FT/PT
20.	Normal Duration:	FT 1 years, PT 2 years
21.	UCAS Code:	n/a

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

The MSc in Animal Health and Welfare aims to provide you with a comprehensive understanding of animal health in relation to welfare within the context of human uses and interactions with animals. The course combines advanced research and academic skills with complementary applied science skills for practical application within the animal sector and will equip you with theoretical knowledge and the opportunities to develop practical applications of that knowledge.

You will develop into an independent scientific researcher with a high level of responsibility and the course will enable you to carry out research aimed at furthering current knowledge of animal health and welfare.

You will attend a series of lectures, seminars and practical sessions, followed by a period of assessment completion and supervised project work. Lectures will be delivered by our research active staff and by top-level researchers in Animal and Equine Science. The taught component of this MSc will be delivered through a range of modules such as "Ethology and Welfare (Animal)", "Comparative Performance Biology" and "Animal Health, Disease Control and Surveillance". Additionally, you will

undertake an in depth “MSc Research project” in a relevant subject area of your choice.

An important part of the MSc course will be for you to gain an insight into recent advances in animal science, specifically relating to health and welfare. This means that we strongly advise you to attend a relevant scientific conference as an integral part of your course.

You will develop a wide range of transferable skills during your course of study, skills which are of direct employability value. These skills include the ability to communicate complex ideas coherently, to identify and evaluate sources of information, to orally communicate with different stakeholders and to undertake autonomous and independent research with an awareness of real life applications of that knowledge. Key themes of economic and environmental sustainability will be incorporated and embedded throughout the course in order that you develop as a well-rounded and highly employable, global citizen with a specific skill set relating to animal health and welfare.

A MRes Animal Health and Welfare is also available and information can be found on a separate Course Specification.

#### **Overview of key aims of the course;**

- To develop a comprehensive understanding and knowledge of animal health and welfare science in relation to maximising and promoting health and welfare
- To demonstrate a critical awareness of current issues/insights at forefront of animal science and the philosophical, welfare and ethical issues related to these, including global health and disease concerns
- To be able to critically evaluate general patterns in animal cognition, behaviour, psychological functioning and experience and appreciate how these relate to the application of health and welfare science
  
- To develop skills in the evaluation of the rigour and validity of published research and assess its relevance to new situations within the discipline
- To investigate, explore, analyse and appraise specific areas of animal health and welfare science and its application via lectures, seminars, self-directed study and project work

#### **Overview of key features of the course;**

- Benefit from a range of staff expertise and experience in the field of animal health and welfare science across a range of species
- Develop your skills and knowledge in a rapidly changing and dynamic area of animal science with global applications and relevance
- Further develop your skills with the opportunity to undertake a collaborative research project in the field of animal health and welfare

- Benefit from opportunities to develop generic and specific personal and interpersonal skills related to the discipline
- The Brackenhurst campus offers 200 hectares of rural estate and modern laboratories for the development of scientific skills and experience

### 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. Learning outcomes are benchmarked to the QAA Masters Characteristics and the NTU Graduate Attributes.

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

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

Develop a comprehensive understanding and knowledge of animal physiology, ethology, health and disease concerns in relation to maximising animal health and welfare

Demonstrate a critical awareness of current issues/insights at forefront of animal science and the philosophical, welfare and ethical issues related to these, including global animal health and disease concerns

Critically evaluate general patterns in animal cognition, behaviour, psychological functioning and experience and appreciate how this relates to the application of health and welfare science

Critically evaluate research methodologies and techniques

Evaluate the rigour and validity of published research and assess its relevance to new situations within the discipline

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

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

Manage 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.

Demonstrate self-direction and originality in solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level

Demonstrate expertise in advanced research including an element of originality and in technical, communication and professional skills

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

Demonstrate the relevance of knowledge and skills acquired to professional activity and responsible global citizenship

#### 24. **Teaching and learning methods**

You will experience a mixture of seminars, lectures and practical sessions and you will also have several opportunities to present work to peers and academic staff. The research project is the culmination of the course and for this you will spend additional time with your research project supervisor. The course emphasises and encourages independent learning (IL) and is structured to improve your ability to undertake high quality research (applied and literature) and critical analysis. At NTU there is a strong culture of e-learning, using the well established the NTU On-line Workspace (NOW), and independent learning elements which will be used extensively to keep in contact and facilitate learning during non-contact time for all modules.

Detailed feedback, both formative and summative, is provided on all assessed work.

Taught modules will be typically delivered in the first 8 months, commencing in October. The taught component of the course will be delivered via lectures, seminars and practicals, complemented with set tasks and self-directed study to prepare for subsequent sessions. Following completion of taught content time will be used for self-directed study, project-associated research and you will continue to be supported via tutorials, peer discussion groups, tutor meetings, postings, optional on-line courses and e-mail contact with tutors.

#### 25. **Assessment methods**

The course will utilise a variety of assessment methods to ensure that students can demonstrate their achievement of the courses' learning outcomes. Subject knowledge and understanding will be tested mainly through timed assessments, preparation of case studies, student led seminars, literature reviews and presentations, both oral and poster.

You will be assessed in a manner consistent with the aims, objectives and learning outcomes of each module and the course. Assessed work will take one or more of the following forms:

#### Research Project (MSc, MRes)

All research projects will need to comply with criteria set by the School Ethics Committee. Your research projects will demonstrate the ability to research a chosen topic area in depth, design and implement a relevant research project and communicate the findings to an informed audience in a comprehensive scientific report.

#### Written assignments

These may be one or a combination of the following: abstracts, scientific posters, scientific papers, case study reports, project proposals, in-depth literature reviews.

These methods of assessment will allow you to demonstrate understanding, objective critical analysis skills and the ability to communicate findings in a scientific manner. This provides you with experience of writing scientific research for journals and wider publication. Abstract writing and the production of scientific posters will test the ability to synthesise arguments and present them in a highly condensed, accessible and pictorial form. Case study reports will demonstrate the ability to apply scientific knowledge in practical situations.

#### Oral Communications

These will be used to assess both learned knowledge and oral communication skills at various levels of knowledge dissemination. These may take the form of: short scientific presentations, poster presentations, leading peer group seminars, lecturing level 6 (year 3) BSc students, applied consultations, role-plays and *viva voce* examination.

You will be assessed on logical and coherent knowledge dissemination, appropriate to the form of communication. They will also be assessed on communication skills, use of aids (handouts, visual aids, and use of props) and the ability to answer questions with knowledge and authority.

All written assessments will be marked anonymously where possible.

## 26. **Course structure and curriculum**

To achieve the award of MSc Animal Health and Welfare a total of 180 Credit Points (CP) must be achieved.



<b>Modules</b>	<b>Credit Points</b>
Research methods and data analysis (C)	20
Comparative Performance Biology (C)	20
Animal Health, Disease Control and Surveillance (C)	40
Ethology and Welfare (Animal) (C)	20
Ethics and Consultation (Animal) (C)	20
MSc Research Project (C)	60
(C) – Core modules	

Module content and learning outcomes are designed to allow you to achieve the Post-Graduate attributes we set out for NTU students within our Strategic Plan.

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 Animal Health and Welfare. 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 Animal Health and Welfare.

#### 27. **Admission to the course**

The specific requirements normally required for entry on postgraduate MSc Animal Health and Welfare are:

A minimum of 2:2 or equivalent honours science degree.

Animal-related practical experience (e.g. agricultural production, equestrianism, companion animal training) is strongly recommended as an adjunct to academic qualifications in order to fully appreciate the application of theoretical knowledge to practical, real world situations.

In the absence of the above requirement, applicants will be considered according to the following criteria (Non-standard entry NSE):

A background in related subjects.

Mature students with non-traditional qualifications with authenticated relevant experience will be considered.

Such other qualification(s) and experience as the Admissions Panel deem to be equivalent in subject content and level of attainment.

An individual who can operate independently and is self-motivated and committed.

Effective oral and written communication skills.

The assessment of these criteria will be via interview by the course leader, accompanied by the submission of a portfolio of evidence to demonstrate your prior experiential or certificated learning. The interview will be used to ascertain whether you have a sufficient background in appropriate academic areas to benefit from the course and whether the aims of the course are compatible with your aspirations.

The overriding consideration will be the extent to which you are likely to succeed on the course and benefit from it.

International applicants will be assessed for admission in line with University regulations. If your first language is not English you must be competent in written and spoken English up to the following standard: IELTS 6.5 (minimum 6.0 in reading and writing), Paper-based TOEFL 560 (to include 5 or above in the Test for Written English [TWE]), Internet-Based TOEFL (IBT) 83 (with a writing score of 24).

**28. 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.

Your progress will be formally monitored at Examination Boards in the academic year and you will be regularly advised and tutored 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](http://www.ntu.ac.uk).

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

29. **Graduate destinations/employability**

There is a wide range of career opportunities in the animal sector, as well as research areas relating to other animals and to the human health and sport industries. There is also the possibility of further postgraduate research (Master of Philosophy, Doctor of Philosophy).

Possible destinations for MSc graduates include:

MPhil Research

PhD Research

Medical/veterinary sales

Insurance

Animal related Law

Charitable Societies, Governing bodies and relevant NGOs

Animal/Equine Journalism

Coaching and mentoring

Lecturing

Nutritionists and nutrition advisors

Sporting/performance industries and organisations (e.g. Wetherbys, The Kennel Club)

Animal Welfare Organisations (World Horse Welfare, RSPCA, Blue Cross, Dogs Trust)

International Animal Federations (e.g. Fédération Equestrienne Internationale, Fédération Cynologique Internationale)

Research Industry, Research assistant

Animal Consultancy – Health, Behaviour, training and Welfare

Rehabilitation

Sports Psychology and Competition Training

Your course leader and lecturers 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.

**30. Course standards and quality**

The quality of the course is ensured through the Course Committee and the School Academic Standards and Quality Committee (SASQC). The course committee monitors student feedback on module delivery and includes student representation.

The following are involved in the monitoring of quality and standards for the course:

Academic Team Leader (ATL) for Equine and Animal Science

School Postgraduate Course Manager

Course Leader

Research project supervisors

Module Leaders

Appointed student representatives

The course also has an External Examiner who is closely involved in quality assurance and enhancement of the course and offers support and feedback to the course team and submits an annual report on the standards and quality of the course to the University.

**31. 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:

This course is subject to the University's Common Assessment Regulations (located in its [Academic Standards and Quality Handbook](#)). The course complies with the University Common Assessment Regulations for taught postgraduate courses. You will receive a detailed summary of assessment regulations in your Course handbook at the beginning of the course.

32. **Additional Information**

Collaborative partner(s):

Course referenced to national QAA Benchmark Statements: QAA Masters Characteristics and the NTU Graduate Attributes

Course recognised by:

Date this course specification approved: May 2014

Any additional information:

## Nottingham Trent University Course Specification - PGDip

### Basic Course Information

33.	Awarding Institution:	Nottingham Trent University
34.	School/Campus:	School of Animal, Rural & Environmental Sciences / Brackenhurst Campus
35.	Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study:	PGDip Animal Health and Welfare, FT/PT
36.	Normal Duration:	FT 1 years, PT 2 years
37.	UCAS Code:	n/a

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

The PGDip in Animal Health and Welfare aims to provide you with an understanding of animal health in relation to welfare within the context of human uses and interactions with animals. The course combines academic skills with complementary applied science skills for practical application within the animal sector and will equip you with theoretical knowledge and the opportunities to further develop practical applications of that knowledge.

You will attend a series of lectures, seminars and practical sessions, followed by a period of assessment completion and supervised project work. Lectures will be delivered by our research active staff and by top-level researchers in Animal and Equine Science through a range of modules such as "Ethology and Welfare (Animal)", "Comparative Performance Biology" and "Animal Health, Disease Control and Surveillance".

An important part of the PGDip course will be for you to gain an insight into recent advances in animal science, specifically relating to health and welfare. This means that we advise you to attend a relevant scientific conference as an integral part of your course.

You will develop a wide range of transferable skills during your course of study, skills which are of direct employability value. These skills include the ability to communicate

complex ideas coherently, to identify and evaluate sources of information, to orally communicate with different stakeholders and to undertake autonomous and independent research with an awareness of real life applications of that knowledge. Key themes of economic and environmental sustainability will be incorporated and embedded throughout the course in order that you develop as a well-rounded and highly employable, global citizen with a specific skill set relating to animal health and welfare.

A MSc and MRes Animal Health and Welfare is also available and information can be found on a separate Course Specification.

#### **Overview of key aims of the course;**

- To develop an understanding and knowledge of animal health and welfare science in relation to maximising and promoting animal health and welfare
- To demonstrate a critical awareness of current issues/insights at forefront of animal science and the philosophical, welfare and ethical issues related to these
- To be able to critically evaluate general patterns in animal cognition, behaviour, psychological functioning and experience and appreciate how these relate to the application of health and welfare science
- To develop skills in the evaluation of the rigour and validity of published research and assess its relevance to new situations within the discipline
- To investigate, explore, analyse and appraise specific areas of animal health and welfare science and its application via lectures, seminars and self-directed study

#### **Overview of key features of the course;**

- Benefit from a range of staff expertise and experience in the field of animal health and welfare science across a range of species
- Develop your skills and knowledge in a rapidly changing and dynamic area of animal science with global applications and relevance
- Further develop your skills with the opportunity to undertake a collaborative research project in the field of animal health and welfare
- Benefit from opportunities to develop generic and specific personal and interpersonal skills related to the discipline
- The Brackenhurst campus offers 200 hectares of rural estate and modern laboratories for the development of scientific skills and experience

#### **39. 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. Learning outcomes are benchmarked to the QAA Masters Characteristics and the NTU Graduate Attributes.

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

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

Develop an understanding and knowledge of animal physiology, ethology, health and disease concerns in relation to maximising health and welfare

Demonstrate an awareness of current issues/insights at forefront of animal science and the philosophical, welfare and ethical issues related to these

Critically evaluate general patterns in animal cognition, behaviour, psychological functioning and experience and appreciate how this relates to the application of health and welfare science

Demonstrate an awareness of discipline relevant research methodologies and techniques

Evaluate the rigour and validity of published research

**Skills, qualities and attributes**

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

Manage complex issues, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

Demonstrate self-direction and originality in solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level

Demonstrate expertise in research including an element of originality and in technical, communication and professional skills

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



Demonstrate the relevance of knowledge and skills acquired to professional activity and responsible global citizenship

40. **Teaching and learning methods**

You will experience a mixture of seminars, lectures and practical sessions and you will also have several opportunities to present work to peers and academic staff. The course emphasises and encourages independent learning (IL) and is structured to improve your ability to undertake high quality research (applied and literature) and critical analysis. At NTU there is a strong culture of e-learning, using the well-established the NTU On-line Workspace (NOW), and independent learning elements which will be used extensively to keep in contact and facilitate learning during non-contact time for all modules.

Detailed feedback, both formative and summative, is provided on all assessed work.

Taught modules will be typically delivered in the first 8 months, commencing in October. The taught component of the course will be delivered via lectures, seminars and practicals, complemented with set tasks and self-directed study to prepare for subsequent sessions. You will be supported via tutorials, peer discussion groups, tutor meetings, postings, optional on-line courses and e-mail contact with tutors.

41. **Assessment methods**

The course will utilise a variety of assessment methods to ensure that students can demonstrate their achievement of the courses' learning outcomes. Subject knowledge and understanding will be tested mainly through timed assessments, preparation of case studies, student led seminars, literature reviews and presentations, both oral and poster.

You will be assessed in a manner consistent with the aims, objectives and learning outcomes of each module and the course. Assessed work will take one or more of the following forms:

Written assignments

These may be one or a combination of the following: abstracts, scientific posters, scientific papers, case study reports, project proposals, in-depth literature reviews.

These methods of assessment will allow you to demonstrate understanding, objective critical analysis skills and the ability to communicate findings in a scientific manner. This provides you with experience of writing scientific

research for journals and wider publication. Abstract writing and the production of scientific posters will test the ability to synthesise arguments and present them in a highly condensed, accessible and pictorial form. Case study reports will demonstrate the ability to apply scientific knowledge in practical situations.

#### Oral Communications

These will be used to assess both learned knowledge and oral communication skills at various levels of knowledge dissemination. These may take the form of: short scientific presentations, poster presentations, leading peer group seminars, lecturing level 6 (year 3) BSc students, applied consultations, role-plays and *viva voce* examination.

You will be assessed on logical and coherent knowledge dissemination, appropriate to the form of communication. They will also be assessed on communication skills, use of aids (handouts, visual aids, and use of props) and the ability to answer questions with knowledge and authority.

All written assessments will be marked anonymously where possible.

#### 42. **Course structure and curriculum**

To achieve the award of PGDip Animal Health and Welfare a total of 120 Credit Points (CP) must be achieved.

<b>Modules</b>	<b>Credit Points</b>
Research methods and data analysis (C)	20
Comparative Performance Biology (C)	20
Animal Health, Disease Control and Surveillance (C)	40
Ethology and Welfare (Animal) (C)	20
Ethics and Consultation (Animal) (C)	20

(C) – Core modules

Module content and learning outcomes are designed to allow you to achieve the Post-Graduate attributes we set out for NTU students within our Strategic Plan.

A PGCert in Animal Health and Welfare is available as an interim fallback award (as part of the MSc course).

#### 43. **Admission to the course**

The specific requirements normally required for entry on postgraduate PGDip Animal Health and Welfare are:

A minimum of 2:2 or equivalent honours science degree

Animal-related practical experience (e.g. agricultural production, equestrianism, companion animal training) is strongly recommended as an adjunct to academic qualifications in order to fully appreciate the application of theoretical knowledge to practical, real world situations.

In the absence of the above requirement, applicants will be considered according to the following criteria (Non-standard entry NSE):

A background in related subjects.

Mature students with non-traditional qualifications with authenticated relevant experience will be considered.

Such other qualification(s) and experience as the Admissions Panel deem to be equivalent in subject content and level of attainment.

An individual who can operate independently and is self-motivated and committed.

Effective oral and written communication skills.

The assessment of these criteria will be via interview by the course leader, accompanied by the submission of a portfolio of evidence to demonstrate your prior experiential or certificated learning. The interview will be used to ascertain whether you have a sufficient background in appropriate academic areas to benefit from the course and whether the aims of the course are compatible with your aspirations.

The overriding consideration will be the extent to which you are likely to succeed on the course and benefit from it.

International applicants will be assessed for admission in line with University regulations. If your first language is not English you must be competent in written and spoken English up to the following standard: IELTS 6.5 (minimum 6.0 in reading and writing), Paper-based TOEFL 560 (to include 5 or above in the Test for Written English [TWE]), Internet-Based TOEFL (IBT) 83 (with a writing score of 24).

44. **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.

Your progress will be formally monitored at Examination Boards in the academic year and you will be regularly advised and tutored 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](http://www.ntu.ac.uk).

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

#### 45. **Graduate destinations/employability**

There is a wide range of career opportunities in the animal sector, as well as research areas relating to other animals and to the human health and sport industries. There is also the possibility of further postgraduate research (Master of Philosophy, Doctor of Philosophy).

Possible destinations for PGDip graduates include:

Medical/veterinary sales

Insurance

Animal related Law

Charitable Societies, Governing bodies and relevant NGOs

Animal/Equine Journalism

Coaching and mentoring

Lecturing

Nutritionists and nutrition advisors

Sporting/performance industries and organisations (e.g. Wetherbys, The Kennel Club)

Animal Welfare Organisations (World Horse Welfare, RSPCA, Blue Cross, Dogs Trust)

International Animal Federations (e.g. Fédération Equestrienne Internationale, Fédération Cynologique Internationale)

Research Industry, Research assistant

Animal Consultancy – Health, Behaviour, training and Welfare

Rehabilitation

Sports Psychology and Competition Training

Your course leader and lecturers 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.

#### 46. **Course standards and quality**

The quality of the course is ensured through the Course Committee and the School Academic Standards and Quality Committee (SASQC). The course committee monitors student feedback on module delivery and includes student representation.

The following are involved in the monitoring of quality and standards for the course:

Academic Team Leader (ATL) for Equine and Animal Science

School Postgraduate Course Manager

Course Leader

Research project supervisors

Module Leaders

Appointed student representatives

The course also has an External Examiner who is closely involved in quality assurance and enhancement of the course and offers support and feedback to the course team and submits an annual report on the standards and quality of the course to the University.

#### 47. **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:

This course is subject to the University's Common Assessment Regulations (located in its [Academic Standards and Quality Handbook](#)). The course complies with the University Common Assessment Regulations for taught postgraduate courses. You will receive a detailed summary of assessment regulations in your Course handbook at the beginning of the course.

48. **Additional Information**

Collaborative partner(s):

Course referenced to national QAA Benchmark Statements: QAA Masters Characteristics and the NTU Graduate Attributes

Course recognised by:

Date this course specification approved: May 2014

Any additional information: