

# Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

## Basic Course Information

1.	Awarding Institution:	Nottingham Trent University
2.	School/Campus:	School of Architecture, Design and Built Environment/ City Campus
3.	Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study:	BSc (Hons) in Quantity Surveying and Commercial Management, FT, SW
4.	Normal Duration:	FT 3 years, SW 4 years
5.	UCAS Code:	K240

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

The BSc (Hons) Quantity Surveying & Commercial Management course is designed for students who want to be at the centre of the management of construction procurement processes. The course will develop your knowledge and skills to effectively undertake the role of quantity surveyors and commercial managers in a construction team to deliver projects to the right quality, on time and at the right price.

The course applies theoretical knowledge into practice through professional and transferable skills development appropriate for the industry. It includes one year of professional training placement (an integral part of the sandwich mode) for you to experience the construction industry through on site work experience.

The course is accredited by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). The development of this course has been guided by various RICS documentation including the competencies requirements. This is accessible from:

<http://www.rics.org/uk/apc/pathway-guides/construction-pathway-guides/quantity-surveying-and-construction/>

The course is also accredited by the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB). The development of this course has been guided by various documents including the CIOB Education Framework 2013:

<http://www.ciob.org/sites/default/files/CIOB%20Education%20Framework%20for%20Undergraduate%20Programme%202013.pdf>

The course you will study has been designed alongside the BSc (Hons) Construction Management course.

Your course therefore, benefits from being an integral part of a common framework. One of the main benefits to you is the flexibility to transfer at the end of your first year studies to the above course within the common framework.

In summary, the course aims to:

- Provide you with the necessary knowledge and skills to become a key player in the construction project team;
- Equip you with the skills that will support your career and professional development;
- Prepare you for postgraduate study and lifelong learning.

## 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:

- Analyse and evaluate the technical, financial and contractual concepts, principles and theories associated with the procurement, production, refurbishment, maintenance and development of construction projects. (B & C)
- Describe and discuss the legal, economic, financial, political, technological and environmental principles, theories and practices which affect the construction process and within which construction and client organisations operate. (B & C)
- Evaluate and explain the role of quantity surveyors/commercial managers and their professional and commercial contribution towards the procurement, production and development of construction projects. (B & C)
- Demonstrate a systematic understanding and explain the roles of quantity surveyors/commercial managers within the project team and other professionals involved in the procurement and delivery of projects for construction clients. (B & C)
- Demonstrate a systematic understanding of and discuss ethics, sustainability, health and safety and other values which affect and inform the professional judgement, duty of care and responsibilities of quantity surveyors/commercial managers to all stakeholders. (B & C)
- Demonstrate a good understanding of the impact of disability, social class, ethnicity, gender, religion, nationality, sexuality, and other social experiences and subjectivities in construction management contexts. (B & C)

(B) Indicates that the outcome has been mapped to the QAA Land, Construction, Real Estate and Surveying benchmark standards accessible from:

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/publications/information-and-guidance/publication/?PubID=3124#.WQsKyWVNVHg>

(C) Indicates that the outcome has been mapped to the Construction Industry Council (CIC) Higher Education Graduate Common Learning Outcomes accessible from:

<http://cic.org.uk/publications/?cat=other-publications>

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

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

- Interpret a range of data to provide appropriate advice to the different types of construction clients in meeting their project and business objectives. (B & C)
- Undertake and manage the pre- and post- contract procedures and processes of construction projects. (B & C)
- Utilise appropriate tools and techniques in pre and post contract risk, value and financial management. (B & C)
- Utilise effectively the necessary range of appropriate written, oral and presentation skills. (B & C)
- Select and use effectively the necessary range of numerical methods for calculating, checking and presenting solutions to problems. (B & C)
- Evaluate the appropriateness of a range of sources including current research, draw on evidence to reflect and evaluate competing explanations to draw

appropriate conclusions. (B & C)

- Work effectively in teams through interpersonal relationships and group dynamics to agree goals, plans, and review and evaluate progress. (B & C)
- Define, investigate and analyse problems of a non-routine and unfamiliar nature and apply judgement to devise practical and creative solutions. (B & C)

(B) Indicates that the outcome has been mapped to the QAA Land, Construction, Real Estate and Surveying benchmark standards accessible from:

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/publications/information-and-guidance/publication/?PubID=3124#.WQsKyWVNVHg>

(C) Indicates that the outcome has been mapped to the Construction Industry Council (CIC) Higher Education Graduate Common Learning Outcomes accessible from:

<http://cic.org.uk/publications/?cat=other-publications>

## 8. Teaching and Learning Methods

The course modules utilise an innovative selection of teaching and learning methods. Classes are a mixture of formal lectures supported by smaller group classes such as seminars, workshops, surgeries, laboratory sessions, project meetings and tutorials. The smaller group sessions are designed to be more student-led than lectures. The university also provides an online resource to support teaching and learning, called the Nottingham Trent University Online Workspace – NOW. This course and all associated modules are represented on the NOW and it is used to assist the School team in providing you with various information associated with the course and modules delivered by the tutors.

Exercises based on real work problems are used in various project-based modules on the course. Collaboration and working in a team is an important skill for the profession working in a multi-disciplinary global environment. Therefore, a collaborative working and/or teamwork element is included in such modules. Analysis and problem-solving skills are further developed through the individual dissertation and project modules in the final year.

You will progress through stages of learning as you learn to become an autonomous learner. At Level 4 you will 'learn by doing', Level 5 you become an 'independent' learner, and a 'reflective' learner at Level 6.

## 9. Assessment Methods

The assessment is based on coursework and projects as well as examinations – including electronically assessed tests. Coursework assignments can be in various forms such as essays, reports, portfolios, class presentations, laboratory work and timed assessments. Projects can either be assessed either individually or as a group. Some of the assessments will involve you grading yourselves either for individual or team activities, supported throughout by formative assessment. Examinations and electronically assessed tests are scheduled appropriately throughout the academic year.

Different modules have different combinations of innovative assessment methods. They are designed to give you a variety of ways in which to demonstrate achievement of the range of learning outcomes.

### **Work Placement Year (Sandwich mode) Diploma/Certificate of Professional Practice**

Between Levels 5 and 6 you have the opportunity of undertaking a period of work placement. The Employment Team will help you to identify and apply for work placement

opportunities which are then secured through a process of application and competitive interview. In order to qualify for the Diploma of Professional Practice you will normally have:

- Completed 36 weeks (minimum requirement) of Professional Practice Placement with an approved organisation.
- Received a satisfactory report from the employer.
- Successfully completed the Professional Practice submission requirements.

A Certificate in Professional Practice is available for the successful completion of shorter periods of placement work experience (a minimum of 10 weeks).

*NOTE: A Sandwich award will not be conferred with a Certificate in Professional Practice*

Further information regarding the placement learning framework can be found by visiting the Placement Information area of the NOW Workspace.

## 10 Course structure and curriculum

The course can be studied in three different modes namely full-time, sandwich and part-time. This takes three, four and five years to complete respectively. The placement year is an integral part of the sandwich degree. The part-time route requires you to be working in appropriate employment while not in attendance at the University. Students following the part-time mode of study normally are expected to be in attendance one day per week for the duration of the academic year.

For details of the part time study pathway, please consult the part time specific course specification.

On the full time and sandwich pathways, you will study a diet of modules to develop the course outcomes as follows:

<b>Modules</b>
<b>Level 4 120 credit points (CPs)</b>
Fundamentals of Construction (40CPs)
Introduction to Measurement & Cost (20CPs)
Construction Industry Practice (20CPs)
Numerical and Professional Skills(20CPs)
Architectural Science & Building Engineering Services (20CPs)
<b>Level 5 120 credit points (CPs)</b>
Measurement (20CPs)
Construction Technology (20CPs)
Law (20CPs)
Contract Administration: Control and Finance (20CPs)
Cost Planning & Estimating (20CPs)
Sustainable Technology (20CPs)
<b>Level 6 120 credit points (CPs)</b>
Project and Financial Management (20CPs)

Quantity Surveying Project (40CPs)	
Contract Practice (20CPs)	
Dissertation (40CPs)	

## 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.

Non-standard / mature applicants will be considered on an individual basis. Students may be considered for advanced entry if they possess appropriate prior qualifications or experience.

All full-time and sandwich modes applications are made via the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). Part-time mode applicants can apply direct to the University. All applications must be supported by documentary evidence of academic qualifications, attainments and references. All applicants are also invited to attend open days.

## 12 Support for Learning

Students are required to attend the induction course at the beginning of the first year. You will be provided with an overview of the way the course runs as well as an introduction to the IT, library and other teaching and learning resources. You will also receive a course handbook which contains the essential information about the course and the support we provide for your learning.

In addition to this, the course team runs a series of activities during the first week of term, including construction site visits, team building and practical hands on experiences. These will help you to meet fellow students from your course, and can be the start of some lifelong friendships. This week is where you will be assigned a personal tutor, who will run icebreaking sessions to get to know their tutor group and offer one to one meetings with individual students. Scheduled meetings will take place throughout your first year, but your tutor will be available at any point should you need them. Your personal tutor will be a key point of contact for you during your time at NTU, and will be on hand to offer advice and guidance on all aspects of your degree journey. In addition, all first year students will be assigned a student mentor throughout the first term who will be able to help you navigate your way through that transitional period.

The course leader oversees the smooth running of the course and also serves as a source of guidance and advice for you. Your subject tutors will assist you in subject specific matters. A dedicated placement advisor will assist you to find suitable employment for your placement year (for students undertaking the sandwich mode of study).

The University has an electronic resource called the NTU Online Workspace (NOW) which is also used to provide course and module information to assist your learning. Further details can be found at:

[http://www.ntu.ac.uk/current\\_students/studying/now/index.html](http://www.ntu.ac.uk/current_students/studying/now/index.html)

The library and learning resources and IT facilities are regularly updated to meet the teaching and learning requirements of the course. Further information can be accessed from:

<http://www.ntu.ac.uk/llr/>

The University Central Student Support Services offers extensive support and advice on a range of matters. Further information can be obtained from:  
<https://www.ntu.ac.uk/study-and-courses/starting-at-ntu/services-and-support/student-support-services>

### 13 Graduate destinations / employability

The course is designed in consultation with both the professional bodies and industry employers, to ensure that the content is relevant to the quantity surveying profession, and to ensure that our students are in the best possible position to gain employment at graduation.

The course is designed around the employability of our students, and the academic team will host events throughout your studies to help you to secure either a summer placement, year long placement or a graduate position.

In addition to the specific events, the modules also focus on your employability. This includes the development of an online employability portfolio, that you will start to develop in the first year of study, and will include your aspirations, personal development targets, and help you to develop your CV, interview techniques, and job applications. This will build during your second year towards helping you secure a placement opportunity if you so wish, and will culminate in an assessed piece of work in your final year that will ready you for the workplace.

Employment opportunities for our graduates within the construction industry are excellent, with 92% of Nottingham Trent University's graduates\* with first degrees from full-time study are employed or engaged in further study within six months of leaving, NTU is one of the top universities in England and Wales for its graduate employment rate.

\*of those available for work, DLHE survey 2015/16

The university is consistently placed to the top of the league table of all UK universities for graduate employment. Stats on the unistats website show that the course has 95% of grads working or in further study.

Information about ADDBE placements can be found:  
<https://www4.ntu.ac.uk/adbe/courses/placements/index.html>

Information about NTU Employability Team can be found:  
<https://www4.ntu.ac.uk/employability/>

The following are some of the articles that highlight the excellent employability of our graduates.

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/ng-interactive/2016/may/23/university-league-tables-2017#S500>

[http://www.ntu.ac.uk/about\\_ntu/](http://www.ntu.ac.uk/about_ntu/)

The university is ranked 2nd in the UK (top in England) for number of students on year-long work placements in Architecture, Building and Planning. (HESA 15/16).

The placement opportunities will give you the chance to develop the transferable skills you need to succeed in the employment market.

As a University overall we are healthily placed in the top 10 across all schools and colleges for placement opportunities for students.

## 14 Course standards and quality

There are well-established systems for managing the quality of the curriculum within the School. The course is subject to, and fully complies with, the University's requirements in respect of course standards and quality; this involves:

- The appointment of external examiners to the course. External examiners are appointed to each course and report annually on the appropriateness of the curriculum, the quality of student work and the assessment process.
- Monitoring of the course and the production of an annual Interim Course Report. At the end of each year the Course Leader writes an evaluative report, informed by staff and student feedback. This is then discussed by the Course Committee and the School Academic Standards and Quality Committee and actions are identified.
- Periodic review of the course. Periodic Course Review is the mechanism by which course teams reflect on the validity, currency, and the academic quality of the provision once every three years. This is a face-to-face discussion with external stakeholders and students centering on key data sets provided in advance of the meeting to enable appropriate consideration of the current and future quality and standards of the course. The outcome of the review is a three-year Course Development Plan.
- A Course Committee covering all undergraduate courses within the department of construction management are held three times a year, student representatives, elected by their peer group, attend and contribute to discussion.
- Staff/Student liaison committees are held three times a year where all undergraduate students are invited to attend.
- The course is accredited by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and their partnership requirements are adhered to. Further information can be obtained from:  
<http://www.rics.org/>
- The course has been designed to comply with the accreditation requirements of Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB). Further information can be obtained from:  
<http://www.ciob.org.uk>
- The subject benchmarks (Land, Construction, Real Estate and Surveying (October 2016)) of the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) and the Construction Industry Council (CIC) Higher Education Graduate Common Learning Outcomes have been incorporated into the course's learning outcomes.

## 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:

There are no course specific exceptions from the University regulations

## 16 Additional Information

Collaborative partner(s):  
Course referenced to Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA)

Benchmark Statements:

Land, Construction, Real Estate and  
Surveying (October 2016)

Course recognised by:

- RICS The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
- CIOB Chartered Institute of Building

Date this course specification approved: **31 July 2017**

Any additional information: