

Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

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:	BSc (Hons) Horticulture Top Up – Full-time; Sandwich
4	Normal Duration:	1 Year full-time; 2 years sandwich
5	UCAS code:	D402; D403

6 Overview and general educational aims of the course

The BSc (Hons) Horticulture has been designed as a progression route for FdSc Horticulture graduates and comprises a one year full time course. The content of the course has been driven by the needs of the horticulture sector for graduate level skills. The content reflects the diverse nature of the sector and the need to provide students with knowledge and understanding across the various disciplines e.g. food and crop production, ornamental plants, cut flowers and amenity landscaping.

A key feature of the course is its vocational emphasis which will enable you to embark into a professionally-recognised occupation within the area horticulture. Assessments based on industry scenarios will enhance student exposure and engagement in to the industry. All these aspects will increase your employability in this expanding and vibrant profession.

The BSc (Hons) Horticulture has the following aims:

- To foster and develop in students a knowledge and understanding of the needs of the horticultural and landscape sector
- To enable students to develop the scientific and technical knowledge and skills to tackle the challenge of maintaining crop and food security
- To develop the student's knowledge and understanding of the wider consequences of horticultural activities

Students progressing from the FdSc who wish to carry out work experience prior to commencing their level 6 studies will have the opportunity to undertake the School's Placement Award

The course is committed to providing you with a rich mix of learning experiences to enhance your confidence, knowledge and skills, by including distinctive elements such as:

- Contact with the profession and real-life scenarios

- The opportunity to develop specialist knowledge and skills

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Course outcomes

Course outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do by the end of your course if you take advantage of the opportunities for learning that we provide.

Knowledge and understanding

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

- Demonstrate comprehensive understanding of the scientific factors affecting crop production methods and how systems can be manipulated and managed (B)
- Evaluate and apply specialist knowledge and practices to meet the needs of the landscape or horticulture sector, with confidence and proficiency (B)
- Evaluate the role of social, economic and cultural influences on the development of designed landscapes, and apply the understanding to the creation and management of future sustainable landscapes (B)
- Demonstrate critical analysis, rational enquiry, self-directed learning and the ability to form and justify autonomous judgements (B)

(B) Subject benchmark statements for indicates outcomes having specific reference to the relevant QAA [Agriculture, horticulture, forestry, food and consumer sciences \(2009\)](#)

Skills, qualities and attributes

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

- Apply a range of methods to problem evaluation and amelioration in horticultural and management situations (B)
- Evaluate and apply a range of technological practices and protocols involved in collecting, analysing and presenting data related to horticulture appropriate to site and the audience (B)
- Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills with respect to a range of horticultural issues and apply professional standards and responsibilities in relation to the horticultural industry.

(B) Subject benchmark statements for indicates outcomes having specific reference to the relevant QAA [Agriculture, horticulture, forestry, food and consumer sciences \(2009\)](#)

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Teaching and Learning Methods

The teaching and learning methods you will encounter include: lectures, seminars, workshops, project work, field investigation, practical classes, laboratory work, directed learning, computer-aided learning, library research and others where appropriate. All

modules are supported by web-based learning materials through the University's virtual learning environment (NTU Online Workspace, NOW), including lecture slides/notes, relevant web links and reading lists. Specialist software is integrated into your learning experience with AutoCAD and statistical analysis applications integral to the curriculum.

All modules are designed to develop your skills and competencies, with a view to enhancing your future employability. Learning and teaching support is comprehensive: all modules are supported by module and assessment packs; staff are available for you to seek individual assistance; and you are also encouraged to use electronic communication with module tutors and fellow students. Your feedback is actively sought and your comments inform future development of the course and its modules.

9 **Assessment Methods**

The assessment strategy adopted by the teaching team is flexible and provides diverse, wide-ranging and progressively more challenging approaches to assessment as you progress through your studies. The majority of modules are 20 credit points; modes of assessment do vary, but assessment 'equivalence' between modules is ensured. A number of modules make extensive use of coursework (e.g. reports, reviews, portfolios of practical work and presentations).

General criteria for assessment are provided and module specific criteria are published in each module guide. These are guided by University and School statements on levels of achievement, but are defined for each module in relation to specific learning outcomes. You are assessed on the basis of your knowledge and understanding, discipline specific skills and intellectual skills. Module teams annually review assessment tasks, and all assessments are internally verified and moderated. All modules include elements of formative and summative assessment and you are expected to pass all summative elements.

Feedback is provided in various ways, including annotations on your work, a coversheet returned with additional formative comments, 'feed forward' comments and individual verbal feedback. Assessments are anonymously marked and moderated also two members of staff independently mark the Keystone Project. Standards are additionally quality assured by the course external examiner.

10 **Course structure and curriculum**

The BSc (Hons) Horticulture course is offered as full-time top up year only. You are required to study modules to a total value of 120 credit points (cp). Modules range in value from 20 to 40 cp, with an accompanying increase in level of assessment.

The order of delivery of the modules and their content has been arranged to address the course learning outcomes, and to allow a logical development of your knowledge and skills. The course follows guidance in embedding the development of attributes of a Nottingham Trent University graduate. Therefore, every module of study contributes in some measure to one or more of these desirable qualities.

The course comprises the following modules:

- Keystone Project 40 cp
- Project Management 20 cp
- Agronomy (H) 20 cp
- Global Politics, Issues and Ethics 20 cp
- International Landscape Strategies 20 cp

11 Admission to the course

Entry requirements

For current information regarding all entry requirements for this course, please see the course information web page.

12 Support for Learning

The academic year begins with a 'pre-teaching' "Welcome week", which includes induction to the course. This gives an overview of the way your course runs and includes introductions to IT and library resources and to the range of student support services available at the University. When fully enrolled you have access to the Nottingham Trent University Online Workspace (NOW), a virtual learning environment which offers all students up-to-date module information, access to a news board, resources, a means of communicating between students and tutors and a diverse range of University services and support.

The course leader oversees all students enrolled on the course and will monitor your individual progress. You can seek academic support from your tutors both through electronic communication and during posted office hours, which allow one to one contact between you and your tutor. Pastoral support is provided through the tutorial process.

The University offers a range of general, specialist and professional support services for students via [Student Support Services](#).

13 Graduate destinations/ employability

Graduate employability is a fundamental aim of both the University and this degree course. Nottingham Trent University is well placed in the the universities league table for graduate employment.

There are excellent employment prospects for BSc H graduates. The horticulture sector comprises both commercial production (food crops, ornamental plants and cut flowers) and amenity landscaping (public parks, gardens and commercial grounds).

14 **Course standards and quality**

There are well established systems for managing the quality of the curriculum within the School and Course Standards are monitored in a variety of ways:

- A Course Committee, which includes membership from undergraduate students at all levels of study, meets three times a year to review the course, agree modifications to the course and engage with student feedback about the course and individual modules.
- Induction questionnaires, Mid-year Reviews, End-of-year Reviews, Module Feedback Surveys and School end-of-year surveys are all used to gather feedback from students on their learning experiences.
- Students will be provided with feedback for all assessed work.
- The Course has an External Examiner from another UK HE institution who submits annual reports on standards and quality of the course.
- The subject benchmarks of the Quality Assurance Agency for [Agriculture, horticulture, forestry, food and consumer sciences \(2009\)](#) have been incorporated into the Course Learning Outcomes.
- The University was the subject of a successful institutional audit by the Quality Assurance Agency in November 2008.

15 **Assessment regulations**

This course is subject to the University's Common Assessment Regulations (located in its [Academic Standards and Quality Handbook](#)). Any course-specific assessment features are described below:

You are required to achieve a pass in the FdSc course (or equivalent) in order to progress onto the BSc (Hons) final top up year. The final award for the BSc (Hons) is calculated independently from previous years of study.

16 **Additional Information**

Collaborative partner(s):	
Course referenced to national QAA Benchmark Statements:	(B) Subject benchmark statements for indicates outcomes having specific reference to the relevant QAA Agriculture, horticulture, forestry, food and consumer sciences (2009)
Course recognised by:	Not applicable
Date this course specification approved:	June 2014
Any additional information:	