

## Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

### Basic Course Information

1.	Awarding Institution:	Nottingham Trent University
2.	School/Campus:	School of Architecture, Design and the Built Environment / City
3.	Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study:	Master of Science / MSc Building Surveying / FT/PT
4.	Normal Duration:	1 year FT / 2 years PT
5.	UCAS Code:	

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

This course is one of a suite of five Masters courses in the general fields of real estate and construction, and provides the academic foundation for suitably qualified undergraduates in non or semi cognate disciplines, who wish to pursue a career in the real estate and construction industries and professions, potentially as Chartered Surveyors. Each course in the suite can be undertaken on full-time or part-time study bases, or in exceptional cases, a combination of the two.

The suite of MSc degrees provides partially common and partially differentiated courses of study that will facilitate your involvement with the different courses and study modes, as well as enabling specialisation in distinctive elements of the curricula. The design and structure of the suite provides flexibility for cross study mode transfer, should your individual circumstances make this appropriate; opportunities for transfers between study courses are more restricted, but can be facilitated in some circumstances.

Each of the courses in the suite provides broad based insights into the real estate and construction industries and professions. Through study of distinctive elements of the curricula, you will develop specialism and expertise in the more focused area of your chosen field of study. On graduation, you will be equipped with a blend of knowledge, understanding, skills and attributes that will enable you to pursue and develop your career in the real estate and construction industries and professions.

The general educational aims of the full suite of Masters courses are:

1. To provide an intellectually challenging and professionally relevant education at Masters Level underpinned by leading edge academic and professional expertise, for holders of first degrees in non or semi cognate disciplines or fields who wish to pursue careers in the real estate and construction industries and professions, and who may have aspirations to become Chartered Surveyors.
2. To enable you to develop your practical and theoretical knowledge and critical understanding of issues and subjects relevant to your chosen field of study; and

your personal, interpersonal and professional skills and capabilities, including those of self direction and self management.

3. To produce graduates who meet the academic and professional expectations and standards of relevant professional bodies and potential employers within the real estate and construction industries and professions, and who are imbued with the target attributes for graduates of the Nottingham Trent University.

If you wish to pursue a career in the real estate and construction business, MSc Building Surveying (MSc BS) will be of particular interest to you. The course has a focus on existing buildings, their condition assessment, maintenance, adaptation, alteration and extension. As a student on the course you will undertake a postgraduate dissertation/consultancy project or professional internship which specifically relates to your chosen course in Building Surveying. If you wish to undertake a period of internship as part of the course the University will support you in your attempts to secure one, but cannot guarantee that one will be available to you; if you are unable to obtain a suitable internship then you will complete a dissertation/consultancy project instead. The course is suitable for those wishing to pursue careers in either the public or private sectors.

#### 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:

1. Critically explain the nature and workings of the real estate and/or construction industries, related legislation and law, and the roles, activities and skills of Chartered Surveyors and other key real estate and/or construction professionals.
2. Apply knowledge, understanding and critical awareness of real estate and/or construction issues, theoretical perspectives, conceptual frameworks and business ethics, and selectively draw upon appropriate professional skills and procedures, to produce proposals and solutions for the construction, development and management of complex real estate and construction scenarios.
3. Advise on the structure and operation of the real estate and/or construction industries and how they contribute to the wider economy, the land use planning systems and the property development process, and the importance of sustainability; incorporate this understanding in the formulation of real estate and/or construction management plans and strategies.
4. Evaluate the condition of existing buildings and be able to report to clients in a variety of industry standard formats.
5. Act for clients, in the private and public sectors, who require their buildings conserved, maintained, adapted, altered or extended.
6. Conduct research into real estate and/or construction issues, in a manner that reflects and takes account of knowledge and critical understanding of research

paradigms, philosophies, styles, processes and methods; evaluate and appraise the outcomes of research in a logical manner, developing principles, knowledge and/or applications and innovations as appropriate.

If you do not complete the full course of studies, but achieve at least 120 credit points at level M and meet the specified course learning outcomes, and skills, qualities and attributes, you will be eligible for the award of a **Postgraduate Diploma** in Building Surveying.

If you do not complete the full course of studies or achieve sufficient credit points of study to be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma, but achieve at least 60 credit points at level M and meet the specified learning outcomes, and skills, qualities and attributes, you will be eligible for the award of a **Postgraduate Certificate** in Real Estate and Construction.

**Note:** Postgraduate Diploma and Post graduate Certificate awards are not accredited by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

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

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

1. Collect and integrate information and data from a variety of sources, analyse, evaluate and interpret complex factual information and issues in a systematic, critical and creative manner, and evaluate alternative processes/measures against relevant criteria; make logical recommendations based on analysis of the information and circumstances. (Analytical and numerical skills)
2. Identify and solve problems; generate new ideas, innovations and/or solutions for problem resolution where appropriate. (Problem-solving skills)
3. Communicate information, ideas and concepts effectively in clear, articulate fashion, utilising information technology and aids where appropriate. (Communication skills)
4. Utilise developed personal and interpersonal skills and competencies, and work constructively and cooperatively in teams, applying ethical and professional values to situations encountered. (Interpersonal and team working skills)
5. Undertake specialised and advanced research relevant to your course and field(s) of study, and act autonomously in planning, organising and directing your personal academic and professional development. (Independent study skills)

### **8. Teaching and Learning Methods**

A range of methods for teaching and learning are employed within the course; these include a balanced mix of contact and non contact study time activities ranging from lectures and interactive seminars, student presentations, group based projects and exercises, and independent directed and self directed study and research.

The following table shows the breakdown of module study time between the principal modes of learning and teaching activities:

<b>Table 8.1: Module Study Time and Teaching Methods</b>					
<b>Module</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Credit Points</b>	<b>Direct Contact Time</b>	<b>Non Contact Hours</b>	<b>Total Hours</b>
Law and Ethics	M	15	36	114	150
Property and Construction Economics	M	15	36	114	150
Research Methods and Study Skills	M	15	36	114	150
Building Technology	M	15	36	114	150
Professional Practice	M	15	16-34	116-134	150
Conversion, Adaptation and Care of Buildings	M	15	36	114	150
Building Pathology	M	15	36	114	150
Contract Administration	M	15	36	114	150
Postgraduate Dissertation / Consultancy Project OR	M	60	6-9	591-594	600
Internship	M	60	16	584	600
<b>Key:</b> M = Masters Level					

Modules within the course are generally 'taught' modules with the exception of the 'Professional Practice' and 'Postgraduate Dissertation / Consultancy Project, and Internship' modules. Whilst all of the taught modules seek to encourage you to develop independent learning in an interactive, supportive and structured environment, the 'Internship', 'Professional Practice' and 'Postgraduate Dissertation / Consultancy Project' modules place even greater emphasis on autonomous and independent learning. These three modules are instrumental in enabling you to develop, improve and demonstrate your abilities to undertake high quality research and critical analysis and reflection; although not 'taught', you will continue to receive academic supervision and guidance during the course of your research activities. The 'Professional Practice' module will enable you to embed, integrate and apply knowledge, understanding and skills developed during the course through the completion of a complex industry focused assignment. This assignment will be based on a period of field activity which may be individual or group based, and involve an optional period of residential study away from the university, possibly overseas.

## 9. **Assessment Methods**

You will be assessed in a manner consistent with the aims, objectives and learning outcomes of the modules. The course utilises a variety of assessment methods to ensure that you will be able to demonstrate achievement of the course's knowledge and understanding learning outcomes and skills, qualities and attributes. The majority of modules are assessed by an integrated coursework submission covering a range of themes and involving a variety of activity. The remaining modules are assessed by either a single examination or a combination of examination and

coursework.

Where used, examinations will be sat at the end of the module and will be summative in nature; they may be of either two or three hour duration, seen or unseen, closed or open book. Additional reading time may be allocated in examinations where appropriate. Examinations will assess your knowledge and understanding, skills, and problem solving abilities within the context of a time and resource constrained, and controlled environment. You will be expected to draw from previously studied material to undertake critical examination and review of topics and issues, as well as solve problems and formulate solutions.

Coursework submissions may involve a range and variety of activities/tasks which may include some of the following: project work (individual and group based); independent written assignments and reports; work portfolios; research proposal and dissertation; oral presentations; and poster presentation. These forms of assessment are considered further below:

**Project work:** Group based project activity is undertaken to encourage and help develop your team working abilities, as well as enabling you to engage in challenging multidisciplinary activities, which otherwise might not be possible and achievable if undertaken individually.

**Independent written assignments and reports:** These will test your knowledge and understanding of specific topics and your ability to undertake research into topics, evaluate ideas and arguments, and communicate your views in written form. Work of this nature should command academic authority and therefore should be extensively substantiated and referenced from literature/sources.

**Work portfolios:** These may include a range of activities and materials that you produce during the course of the module and collate and present for formal assessment. You will find this type of assessment helpful in enhancing the level of ongoing and continuous engagement with learning activities during the course of the module.

**Research proposal and dissertation:** These will assess your ability to specify and plan a research inquiry, undertake a critical literature review, conduct research in an area of study relevant to the course of study, and evaluate evidence and present findings.

**Oral presentations:** These will assess your knowledge of specific issues and topics as well as oral communication skills and abilities. Oral presentation is a vital skill for most professionals and you will be assessed on your ability to communicate cogently,

accurately, and effectively using appropriate visual aids, as well as on your ability to answer questions with knowledge and authority.

**Poster presentation:** These will test your ability to synthesise arguments and present them in a highly condensed, accessible, pictorial form. Posters are used at academic conferences and are particularly appropriate (but not exclusively so) for the assessment of the research proposal, dissertation, and consultancy report.

Note: Whilst assessment will always involve a range of methods, the above list is indicative, and the actual mix/balance of assessment methods may vary from year to year.

## 10. Course structure and curriculum

The MSc Building Surveying can be undertaken on a full-time basis over one calendar year, or on a part-time basis over two calendar years. The course learning outcomes and curriculum for the two modes of study are the same regardless of the attendance mode. There is a single start date for the course which is usually early in October, coinciding with the commencement of the normal undergraduate academic year; the teaching course will include breaks for public holidays, University closure days etc. Summaries of the course structures for each of the two attendance modes are provided in tables 10.1 and 10.2 below:

<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Duration (Weeks)</b>	<b>Year of Delivery</b>	<b>Module Delivery - Timing (Course Teaching Weeks)</b>	<b>Core module within Suite or Course Specific Module</b>
Law and Ethics	15	1 <sup>st</sup>	1-15	Core
Property and Construction Economics	15	1 <sup>st</sup>	1-15	Core
Contract Administration	15	1 <sup>st</sup>	1-15	Shared (with QS)
Building Technology	15	1 <sup>st</sup>	1-15	Shared (with QS)
Building Pathology	15	1 <sup>st</sup>	16-30	Course Specific
Conversion , Adaptation and Care of Buildings	15	1 <sup>st</sup>	16-30	Course Specific
Research Methods and Study Skills	15	1 <sup>st</sup>	16-30	Core
Professional Practice	15	1 <sup>st</sup>	16-30	Core (but course specific)
Postgraduate Dissertation / Consultancy Project OR	15	1 <sup>st</sup>	31-45	Core (but course specific)
Internship	15	1 <sup>st</sup>	31-45	Core (but course specific)

<b>Table 10.2 – Course Structure (Part-time Mode – 2 Calendar Years)</b>				
<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Duration (Weeks)</b>	<b>Year of Delivery</b>	<b>Module Delivery - Timing (Course Teaching Weeks)</b>	<b>Core module within Suite or Course Specific Module</b>
Building Technology	15	1 <sup>st</sup>	1-15	Shared (with QS)
Contract Administration	15	1 <sup>st</sup>	1-15	Shared (with QS)
Law and Ethics	15	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1-15	Core
Property and Construction Economics	15	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1-15	Core
Research and Study Skills	15	1 <sup>st</sup>	16-30	Core
Building Pathology	15	1 <sup>st</sup>	16-30	Course Specific
Conversion, Adaptation and Care of Buildings	15	2 <sup>nd</sup>	16-30	Course Specific
Professional Practice	15	2 <sup>nd</sup>	16-30	Core (but course specific)
Postgraduate Dissertation / Consultancy Project OR Internship	60	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	31-45 (Yr1) & 1-45 (Yr2)	Core (but course specific)
	60	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	31-45 (Yr1) & 1-45 (Yr2)	Core (but course specific)

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

For current information regarding entry requirements, please see the 'Applying' tab on the course information web page.

#### **12. Support for Learning**

As a student at Nottingham Trent University you will have full access to Student Support Services. In addition, School based academic and pastoral support networks will provide you with support, guidance and advice on academic and personal issues.

The University's electronic learning platform, (NTU Online Workspace – NOW) will be used to support your academic studies on the course, as well as providing an interface with personal development planning facilities, university intranet, library and e-mail services.

During the course of your study of 'taught modules' you will be able to consult with and discuss subject issues with members of the module teams.

During the research for and preparation of your postgraduate dissertation or consultancy project, you will be allocated a research supervisor who you will be able to consult and meet with to discuss your ideas, proposals and progress during the formative and developmental stages of your work.

If you elect to undertake the Internship module you will be supported by the College of Art & Design and Architecture, Design & the Built Environment's Placement Office, as well as academic staff from the Internship module team when searching for and

arranging your internship. However, it is your responsibility to secure an internship and the School of AD&BE does not guarantee their availability. During the Internship module (if you choose this option), you will be allocated an internship tutor who you will be able to consult and discuss your work and progress with; this tutor will also act as your supervisor during the formative and developmental stages of enquiry and research that you will undertake as part of the assessment of this module.

**13. Graduate destinations / employability**

There are a wide range of career opportunities in the real estate and construction industry and professions, which successful study and completion of the course will prepare you for. Specifically the course will prepare you for a career in building surveying, either in the public or private sectors, which is interdisciplinary in nature requiring knowledge, understanding and application of the principles and practice of a diverse range of subjects. Because of the interdisciplinary nature of the course and careers in real estate and construction, you should find that you are not restricted in your specific career path, and that career opportunities in related areas of the business, and in areas of business and commerce more generally, may be available to you.

Employment opportunities as a building surveyor exist at local, regional, national and international levels, with employers as diverse as private property and construction partnerships and companies, corporate organisations, public bodies, and international corporations and institutions.

The support and facilities of the University's Careers Service will be available to you if you require help, support and guidance in finding employment on graduation.

Whilst economic conditions affect the level of recruitment to the real estate and construction industries and professions, given the cyclical nature of real estate and construction activity, and the role that property plays in society, there are good career prospects for real estate and construction graduates.

**14. Course standards and quality**

The course is subject to, and fully complies with, the University's requirements in respect of course standards and quality; this involves:

1. The appointment of external examiners to the course.
2. Annual monitoring of the course and the production of an annual course Standards and Quality Report. In this respect one report will be produced covering all of the courses within the suite of Masters Degrees.
3. Periodic review of the course.



4. Formation of a Course Committee covering the full suite of MSc courses, which will include student representatives from the courses.

Additionally, the course will comply with the requirements of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) as specified in their Partnership Agreement with the University and in particular in respect of threshold standards; satisfactory performance in these standards being a condition of the RICS recognition of the course under the terms of its Partnership Agreement with the University. The course will comply with the reporting requirements of the RICS.

The value of student feedback both during and on completion of studies is recognised by the Course Team as it helps in identifying issues/situations that might benefit from immediate responses and actions, as well as assisting in the longer term operation and strategic direction and development of the course. Student feedback will be collected formally and informally through a variety of mechanisms that will include formal and informal individual and group discussions, formal course committees, and module feedback questionnaires.

**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:

None

**16. Additional Information**

Collaborative partner(s):	None
Course referenced to national QAA Benchmark Statements:	Specific QAA Masters Benchmarks in Construction, Property and Surveying have yet to be established. In the absence of these, the undergraduate subject benchmark in Construction, Property and Surveying (2008), and the postgraduate Masters benchmark in Business and Management (2007) have been considered in the design of this course. The course is also aligned with appropriate RICS APC Pathway competencies.
Course recognised by:	Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
Date implemented:	September 2014
Any additional information:	

Revised September 2013