

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:	MA Interior Architecture & Design FT/PT
4.	Normal Duration:	1 year (53 weeks)
5.	UCAS Code:	N/A

Overview and general educational aims of the course

This Masters course is designed to involve you in a wide range of projects from art installation, built structures, commercial projects, industry research or smaller more intimately focussed design projects, all with an embedded relationship to Interior and Architectural space or practice. This is a largely unique approach to the subject, broadening the focus of study and moving away from that which is traditionally inward looking.

Interior Architecture and Design has long been a thriving area of study at NTU and its undergraduate course is well established and respected, attracting six applicants from the UK and abroad for every place that is available. It focuses mainly on the investigation, control and manipulation of space, research and informed construction; all combined to produce thoughtful, well educated students who typically enter commercial or architectural practice upon graduation.

The Postgraduate course builds on this established path of investigation and research, but demands a far wider range of outcomes with a deeper, more focussed approach.

The course aims to help you to:

- Develop an investigative-based approach to design, which is underpinned by a systematic analysis of project and technological constraints and opportunities.
- Develop advanced knowledge of interior architecture and design and associated practical and critical skills.
- Equip you with the necessary research knowledge and skills to apply a range of methods, techniques and technologies which will enable you to assemble, interpret and analyse design and design related issues.
- Explore the interrelationship between theory and practice.
- Survey and analyse the social and cultural context within which design takes place.
- Examine, critically evaluate, develop and extend the application of research, research knowledge and skills within the context of interior architecture.
- Work both individually and in groups, recognising the pivotal role of appropriate and effective communication as applied to built environment projects and scenarios.
- Enhance the capacity for lifelong learning and engender an independent, collaborative

and reflective approach to future careers.

- Extend specialist knowledge, understanding and skills through integrated project work.

During the course you will expand and develop the principles and techniques necessary for creating design, professional and technological solutions to a range of problems. You will also gain a broad understanding of developing design processes and material technologies in order to challenge established practices.

The course design at M level encourages blended learning; all modules are carefully designed together to create a holistic, creative learning environment.

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:

Within the discipline of Interior Architecture;

1. Develop and apply a reflective, systematic and investigative approach to both theoretical and practical design and technology.
2. Identify critically evaluate and apply knowledge of innovative technologies relevant to current issues in the built environment.
3. Evaluate the social, cultural, environmental and commercial context within which contemporary research, design and construction take place.
4. Take professional and ethical considerations into account in the development of key relationships between built environment stakeholders and the general public.
5. Work both individually and in groups, recognising the pivotal role of appropriate and effective communication as applied to built environment projects and scenarios

Skills, qualities and attributes

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

Within the discipline of Interior Architecture;

6. Learn through reflection on experience, and demonstrate effective working practices using a broad range of measurable criteria in design, professional and technology applications.
7. Critically appraise and synthesise ideas about the built environment from a wide variety of sources.

8. Communicate ideas, concepts, plans and designs, using a variety of approaches including written, oral and computer-based presentations.
9. Undertake design & technical roles within a built environment team and exercise leadership.

Teaching and Learning Methods

A variety of teaching and learning approaches will be used. Learning opportunities will be demanding but endeavour to be enjoyable. A range of assessment tasks will help structure your learning. In addition, through the use of regular formative feedback, reflection and review, your learning will be developed and refined. Within the modules, best practice is nurtured in subject areas in both academic and industrial contexts. The course enables collaborative working across disciplines, including presentations between all students. Learning through doing will be at the heart of the course.

Teaching and learning methods include:

- Lectures and Seminars
- Tutorials
- Critiques
- Case studies
- Workshops
- Industry speakers
- Site visits and field trips
- Directed and independent learning

Teaching materials will be available to support your learning process using e-learning where applicable. The Nottingham Trent Online Workspace (NOW) is the NTU learning and teaching platform for students and staff and contain written information, lecture materials, recommended reading, self assessment tests and teaching instructions. Your study is planned to include occasional input from external professional organisations on a 'visiting' basis.

Assessment Methods

To ensure that you get the support that you need to achieve the relevant module learning outcomes, a review will be undertaken on commencement to appraise your levels of knowledge, skills and attributes (the Skills Audit). Based on evidence through admissions and early induction activities, you will identify strengths, weaknesses and potential for development. This will be ongoing through the first term to ensure that you select the most appropriate focus for your area of study in the Major Study Project. Workshops will be offered

to address individual learning requirements.

In the final term, you will use the information identified through the Skills Audit as a basis for the production of a Learning Pathway Agreement (LPA). This will be developed through the term to define the expected outcomes of your Major Study Project. The LPA is a negotiated document to be developed and agreed by you, your academic supervisor and other potential collaborating parties involved in the project.

The ethos of combining theory and practice is strongly reflected in the nature of assessments. All are coursework based, requiring you to undertake practical work together with research and critical evaluation in order to demonstrate the link between theory and practice.

A wide range of other assessment techniques incorporating reports, case studies and group projects, individual and group presentations are used where appropriate. Details of assessments are provided in each module guide, and care is taken to provide you with timely, constructive, formative and summative feedback. An overall schedule of assessments for the course will be issued at the start of the academic year.

Assessment will be rigorous, based upon specific criteria. This will determine whether you have satisfied the learning outcomes and aims of the individual modules.

The main assessment methods are:

- Individual and group based design projects and reports
- Narrative and visually based essays and reports to demonstrate an ability to focus on a particular area.
- Individual and group presentations to assess abilities to deliver constructive discussions and information orally.

Course structure and curriculum

The course is studied on a one year full time basis.

Modules that will be studied on the course are:

Certificate Phase Block A Weeks 1-15	Diploma Phase Block B Weeks 16-30	Masters Phase Block C Weeks 31-45
Research Methods for IAD (20 credits) 42 hours contact 158 hours self-directed study	Design studio 2 for IAD (40 credits) 98 hours contact 102 hours self-	Major Study Project (60 credits) 98 hours contact 502 hours self-directed study

Design studio 1 for IAD (20 credits) 70 hours contact 130 hours self-directed study	directed study		
Design Communication for IAD (20 credits) 56 hours contact 144 hours self-directed study	Technical Communication (20 credits) 56 hours contact 144 hours self- directed study		

Figure 1 Module delivery for MA Interior Architecture and Design

The modules studied in Block A are intended to provide the student with the core design, management, technical information and detail. During this phase, the different student entry knowledge and skill sets will be balanced; this process takes place with course specific tutorials and will be a two way process.

Block B modules build upon the material delivered in Block A, when students will start to apply the skills in individual and group project situations. The process of defining the students' learning pathway is completed in this phase.

Issues identified from the skills audit will be addressed through the Design Communication for Interior Architecture and Design Module.

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.

Support for Learning

An induction course held at the commencement of your studies will ensure that you are made aware of the full range of support facilities available within the University. Additionally, you will be given information, which is course specific about resources, procedures and practices relating to your area of study. These will include library induction, health and safety, workshop and studio practice, all of which will be closely aligned to your course of study, engendering a 'community' feel from the outset of the course.

During the induction period you will be provided with copies of, or links to the following:

- NTU student handbook
- Course handbook which will include
 - The course structure
 - Module descriptions

- o Assessment

- o Course team contact details

- Timetables of classes, events and assessment submissions
- Health and Safety handbook
- International students welcome pack (where applicable)
- University student support and guidance service details
- Student support packs from University services such as computing services and the library
- Policies relating to equal opportunities, harassment and codes of behaviour.

Throughout your studies you will receive support from an experienced and committed teaching and technical support team. Staff on the course include a range of academics, practitioners and researchers.

The Course Leader is responsible for the day to day operation of the course, but you will be allocated a Personal Tutor who will support and guide you throughout your time at the University.

If you are an international student and English is not your first language, support can be provided by the University where appropriate to enhance your learning experience and to improve your presentation skills. If necessary, English language classes are available from the University Language Centre during the summer months. These classes form a course of English for Academic Purposes and are separate from the post graduate course. A series of induction events will be provided for these students.

Due to the diverse nature of students and the course content we have ensured tutorial and seminar sizes are reflected to suit, thus group sizes ranging from 8 – 10.

The University's central Student Support Services offer any general, specialist and professional support services that you may need. Support within the course is supplemented by effective academic and pastoral support, for part time students in particular, staff operate an 'open door' policy for additional support and guidance.

Teaching materials are available to support your learning, including written information, recommended reading, tutorial questions, and computer based learning and teaching instructions. They will be made available both in the University and externally through NOW, which provides a channel of communication between students and staff. You will have access to presentations, lecture notes and handouts, and will also be able to take part in interactive online learning activities and discussion forums.

External professional staff will be invited to contribute to learning material and to give lectures related to the course framework of the subject areas. This strengthens the links with industry

as well as providing the opportunity to bring you into contact with specific current, high quality expertise.

Graduate destinations / employability

The NTU Postgraduate attributes identified in the Strategic Plan 2010, make reference to :

- Capacity to contribute to knowledge construction in their chosen profession or discipline and to make advances in intellectual and creative endeavour.
- Ability to situate their work within wider theory and practice and to critically reflect on their chosen profession or discipline, including appreciation of the ethical implications of their work.
- Ability to conceptualise novel questions and solve complex problems.
- Aptitude in identifying and creating new opportunities and the capacity to lead collective endeavour.

The course will endeavour to support students in all these respects.

Additionally, the course contributes to the University's mission to shape lives and society.

Applicants with previous cognate or semi-cognate experience are expected to develop their skills and understanding with a view to either entering, or re-entering one of the design professions within the design and construction industry. The increasing recognition of inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary practice in commercial activity around the world ensures that graduates with higher level qualifications will be more attractive to potential employers.

Course standards and quality

Course Management

Quality management of the course is in accordance with NTU regulations (University Academic Standards and Quality Handbook) and School practice.

Systems for quality management of the curriculum within the School of Architecture, Design and the Built Environment are well established, based on observations and feedback from students, staff, external examiners and commercial practice/industry. Feedback is reported, recorded and acted upon in a variety of ways.

Course Team

A Course Leader, Subject Administrator and members of the Course Team manage the course on a day-to-day basis. Module Leaders and / or subject specialists are co-opted into the team as appropriate.

The Course Team is supported by dedicated administrative staff. The Course Leader is responsible for the operation and development of the course in accordance with the decisions of the Course Committee and in accordance with current University Regulations.

Course committee meetings

Course committee meetings, attended by student representatives and academic staff, consider matters in connection with the course, and provide the opportunity for you to raise issues relating to the course. The Course Committee meets at least three times during each academic year, and is responsible for the monitoring and development of the course consistent with the procedures of the University.

Responsibility for standards and quality of the course lies with this committee. The course committee is responsible for the management, delivery, monitoring and evaluation of all aspects of the course.

The course standards and quality report is reviewed on an annual basis. The quality enhancement and assurance action plan is developed annually. The academic standards and quality of the course is monitored and regularly reported on by the School Academic Standards and Quality Committee.

Student feedback and evaluation questionnaires

At various stages in the academic year, you will be invited to review and evaluate your learning experience. This is intended to gauge your satisfaction with the organisation and delivery of your teaching and learning, providing an opportunity to acknowledge good practice, but also offering insights into areas needing improvement. All feedback comment is reported to the Course Committee for consideration. In addition to these formal systems, informal tutorials and social gatherings also provide valuable feedback.

'Minute' opinion surveys

These offer quick snapshots of both your progress and response to academic and organisational issues.

External examiner's report

An external examiner submits an annual report on the standards and quality of the course, based on his/her review of student work, and discussions with students and staff.

Visiting lecturers' feedback

External contributors to modules including visiting academics and/or practitioners are invited to comment both on student progress and on their role with the course. Visiting lecturers' views play a critical role in ensuring the focus and relevance of the course in the context of commercial practice.

Annual monitoring of the course will be undertaken in the Course Leader's annual progress report. The Course Leader will use the External Examiners' reports, Module Leaders' reports and student feedback to produce an annual report, which once approved by the Course Committee is submitted for inclusion in the School Board's review of courses.

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:

There are no course specific exceptions from the University's postgraduate common assessment regulations.

Additional Information

Collaborative partner(s):

Course referenced to national QAA Benchmark Statements:

Course recognised by:

Date implemented:

Any additional information:

December 2013