

## Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

Basic Course Information		
1.	Awarding Institution:	Nottingham Trent University
2.	School/Campus:	Social Sciences, City Campus
3.	Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study:	Postgraduate Certificate, Policing Research, part-time
4.	Normal Duration:	12 months
5.	UCAS Code:	Not applicable

1. Overview and general educational aims of the course
<p>The Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) in Policing Research forms part of a wider programme of collaborative activity known as the East Midlands Policing Academic Collaboration (EMPAC). EMPAC is a regional collaboration of seven universities, five police forces and five Police and Crime Commissioners. The PGCert forms one part of the EMPAC programme of work to accelerate understanding of policing issues and evidence-based problem-solving approaches. While the development of the programme was undertaken in consultation with EMPAC, the delivery and award of the programme is the sole responsibility of Nottingham Trent University (NTU).</p> <p>This programme addresses the need for the development of high calibre policy advisors and researchers with the skills to accelerate understanding of particular crime and policing issues.</p> <p>The overarching aims of the PGCert in Policing Research are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. to deliver a programme at postgraduate level that develops a critical and informed understanding of policing-related research and the evidence based policy-making context in which it is undertaken;</li><li>2. to provide you with the conceptual knowledge, theoretical frameworks, and methodological insights that underpin effective critical engagement with policing-related research;</li></ol>

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. to enable you to critically evaluate a particular aspect of crime reduction or operational policing drawing upon your prior knowledge or experience through previous study or employment;</li> <li>4. to produce graduates who possess knowledge of research methods, and a critical awareness of the current philosophical, theoretical and methodological problems, debates, and insights that shape policing-related research; and</li> <li>5. to enable you to adopt an independent and reflective approach to your learning and to contribute to policing-related policy, practice and research.</li> </ol>
<p>2. <b>Course outcomes</b>  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.</p>
<p><b>Knowledge and understanding</b>  By the end of the course you should be able to:</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Critically evaluate current knowledge, problems and practices in policing from an evidence-based perspective;</li> <li>2. Critically evaluate methods/frameworks to assess the validity and reliability of policing-related research;</li> <li>3. Demonstrate a critical awareness of the political, policy-making, and organisational issues (both structural and cultural) that shape policing-related research and responses to policing issues.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Skills, qualities and attributes</b>  By the end of the course you should be able to:</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Produce coherent, scholarly and policy-relevant arguments in relation to policing-related research and research methods;</li> <li>5. Apply appropriate and realistic research methodologies and techniques to address particular policing-related problems;</li> <li>6. Design a research proposal; and</li> <li>7. Carry out a small piece of applied policing-related research.</li> </ol>
<p>3. <b>Teaching and learning methods</b></p>

A wide range of teaching and learning methods will be used.

**Module 1 Evidence-Based Policing** will develop your understanding of evidence-based policing, and the policy and organisational context within which policing-related research takes place. It will introduce you to a variety of evaluative frameworks and research methods used to conduct policing-related research. The teaching and learning methods used in Module 1 will include:

- Workshops at the university
- Directed study
- Group discussions that will enable you to share your policing knowledge and operational experience

**Module 2 Policing Research in Practice** will allow you to put the learning from Module 1 into practice. This will involve carrying out your own small piece of pilot research on a topic of your choice. You will be encouraged to develop your research idea with police priorities/needs in mind. This may involve carrying out a small piece of research or identifying (/developing a better understanding of) a particular problem. The teaching and learning methods will include:

- Directed study
- One-to-one supervision (either online (e.g. Skype) or in person)

#### 4. **Assessment methods**

In Evidence-Based Policing, the summative assessment will take the form of a report and presentation which provides a critical discussion and analysis of an existing approach to evidence-based policing which will inform your pilot research project in Policing Research in Practice. You will be required to present this report to a panel. The role of academics on the panel will be to assess the academic quality of your presentation. The role of any external partners on the panel will be to offer comments in light of their experience.

Prior to the summative assessment, you will be given the opportunity to undertake a formative assessment which will (a) assess your understanding of the issues explored in Module 1 to date; and (b) prepare you to undertake a critical analysis of an approach to evidence-based policing. The optional formative assessment will take the form of a 1000-word written critique (via the completion of a template) of an evidence-based approach to policing provided in a research report or article.

Module 2 (focusing as it does on skills development and application) will involve writing a 5,000-word report which outlines the findings from your pilot project and a proposal for a future larger piece of research.

Feedback will be provided by your project supervisor on a regular basis. You will be encouraged to undertake a short progress presentation as part of your formative assessment.

## **5. Course structure and curriculum**

The course will be delivered through two 30-credit modules.

### **Module 1 Evidence-Based Policing**

This module is designed to enable you to understand the nature of evidence-based approaches to policing in terms of their evolution and objectives, and how they are intended to help inform strategic and operational decision-making regarding responses to crime within a police force context. As well as developing the required knowledge and skills to critique different approaches to policing-related research, the module is also designed to enable you to communicate in a relevant way to a wide range of policy stakeholders.

Issues explored in this module include:

- The wider context within which policing research takes place;

- Different approaches and debates in relation to evaluating the effectiveness of policing responses;
- Communicating research findings/outcomes to a diverse range of stakeholders, and ways of translating research findings into practice.

### **Module 2 Policing Research in Practice**

This module is designed to provide you with an opportunity to undertake a piece of research in the form of a small pilot study of a crime reduction or operational policing issue faced now, or in the near future, by your police force or crime reduction agency. The module is intended to enable you to put into practice the evaluation and research issues explored within the Evidence-Based Policing module within an operational context. You will have to design and implement a small-scale research project which may involve the analysis of crime-related or operational data, critically reviewing relevant academic research and policy documentation, surveying or interviewing crime victims, offenders, organisational staff or members of the public. Having completed your pilot study, you will be required to write up the findings of your research in the form of a proposal to undertake a larger scale piece of research or evaluation which draws, and expands, upon your pilot study. Supervision will be provided to guide your research project in both planning and preparation stages, and subsequently at regular intervals in the process of writing up the project proposal.

The modules have been designed to be studied in a logical sequence. Module 2 allows you to progress and use the knowledge and skills learnt in Module 1 to carry out a small piece of pilot research.

#### **6. 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.

<p>Students joining the programme will normally be required to possess an Honours degree. Applicants will be considered on their individual merits.</p>
<p><b>7. Support for learning</b></p>
<p>An induction event will introduce you to key staff teaching on the programme. At this event, we will discuss university support services (such as the Library and IT Services) and key university policies/procedures.</p> <p>Other additional 'support' events will be held over the duration of the course which will bring the whole cohort together in a manner which will hopefully support the creation of a collegiate and supportive environment.</p>
<p><b>1. Graduate destinations/employability</b></p>
<p>You are likely to be a current employee of a police force, regional policing unit or local authority with relevant experience in policing. Upon completion of the course, you will be equipped with the skills to accelerate understanding of particular crime and policing issues whilst, at the same time, accrediting your learning.</p>
<p><b>2. Course standards and quality</b></p>
<p>The programme has been designed so as to be fully aligned with both the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications of Degree-Awarding Bodies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FEHQ) and the NTU Quality Handbook (Section 4: Postgraduate Taught and Research Awards).</p> <p>Compliance with particular standards will be monitored via the following measures:</p> <p><b>1. Student Feedback:</b> experience of the content, teaching, assessment and feedback for both modules will be assessed using Evasys (or equivalent) and informal mechanisms;</p>

<p><b>2. Course Committee:</b> student representatives will be sought to sit on this Committee to ensure student views are fully represented. This committee will meet at least three times per academic year to discuss matters of quality and the running of the course;</p> <p><b>3. External Examiners:</b> this individual will act as an independent reviewer of the course to ensure it meets relevant standards. To do this, they will review a sample of work and feedback to ensure it is meeting appropriate standards (in line with other Higher Education Institutions);</p> <p><b>4. Interim Course Report:</b> annual reports are produced to ensure robustness of teaching; and</p> <p><b>5. Periodic Course Review:</b> the course will be reviewed periodically to confirm the standard, relevance and quality of the course.</p>									
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>Assessment regulations</b> 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:</p>								
<p>This course is subject to the University's Common Assessment Regulations Quality Handbook Section 16C: Common Assessment Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Degrees. Once you are enrolled as a student, you will have access to this document. There are no course specific assessment features to be aware of.</p>									
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Collaborative partner(s):</td><td>EMPAC is a course sponsor but not an official collaborative partner. NTU will be fully responsible for delivery of the programme</td></tr> <tr> <td>Course referenced to Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) Benchmark Statements:</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Course recognised by:</td><td>N/A</td></tr> <tr> <td>Date this course specification approved:</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Collaborative partner(s):	EMPAC is a course sponsor but not an official collaborative partner. NTU will be fully responsible for delivery of the programme	Course referenced to Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) Benchmark Statements:		Course recognised by:	N/A	Date this course specification approved:	
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