Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

	Basic Course Information	
1	Awarding Institution:	Nottingham Trent University
2	School/Campus:	School of Science and Technology
3	Final Award, Course Title, and	MSc by Research Environmental Management
	Modes of Study	Full-time, Part-time
4	Normal Duration:	1 year FT, 2 years PT
5	UCAS code:	NA

6 **Overview and general educational aims of the course**

This exciting course in Environmental Management is designed to give you the theoretical and practical skills needed to develop, implement and manage environmental resource strategies for public or private sector organisations, and to engage in meaningful postgraduate research in ecology. The course was developed by Nottingham Trent University in collaboration with Loreus Ltd., an experienced environmental training and consultancy company. This joint venture ensures that this course delivers leading-edge theoretical content underpinned by practical consultancy experience.

This course is ideal if you:

- are working in an organisation and want a masters-level qualification to give you a competitive edge;
- are a recently qualified graduate and are looking for the professional skills needed to obtain a job in environmental resource management;
- require the skills and experience needed to manage resource use in your organisation and improve its environmental performance;
- would like to give added value to your organisation by improving its reputation with its stakeholders whilst saving money;
- want to be able to implement and operate an environmental management system conforming to the international standard ISO 14001 using the latest commercial software tools;
- would like a course written and delivered by experienced academics and practicing consultants.
- are keen to become capable of autonomous and effective research in Environmental Management through a rigorous training in research methodologies.

The broad aims of the MSc by Research Environmental Management are:

- To provide an intellectually challenging and professionally relevant education in the scientific concepts of ecology and its management at Master's degree level;
- to explore and elucidate the approaches required to undertake effective post-graduate research in biosciences;
- to provide training in research methods as applied in modern ecology to students with limited previous practical experience;
- to give you the opportunity to undertake original literature, web and/or database- and laboratory-based research projects leading to the generation of potentially publishable findings;
- to enhance your ability to manage your own intellectual development, building on your own prior knowledge and experience throughout the course.

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:

CLO1…discuss critically and communicate clearly the ideas and concepts inherent in Environmental Management;

CLO2…assess the scientific impact of current and future developments in ecology and ecological management;

CLO3…identify current issues in Environmental Management and demonstrate a critical understanding of research methods required for proposing, planning, and carrying out effective PG level research into these.

Skills, qualities and attributes. By the end of the course you should be able to:

CLO4…apply appropriate scientific methods and reasoning to the analysis of complex problems in Environmental Management;

CLO5…evaluate, critically appraise and use information and approaches in Environmental Management;

CLO6…plan a research investigation in Environmental Management;

CLO7…undertake and communicate the findings of an independent, novel laboratory based project in Environmental Management;

CLO8…work constructively and cooperatively as an individual and as a team member, exercising a range of interpersonal skills.

8 **Teaching and Learning Methods**

This course is delivered by a combination of traditional lectures, seminars, and workshops, and supported by on-line materials. In addition, two of the modules are delivered by e-learning, which allows you to work at a time and at a pace that suits you. This is ideal if you are working or studying outside the UK. You will use a state-of-the-art e-learning system which has

been proven to be highly effective and easy-to-use. This is provided by Loreus Ltd, a University spin-out company.

The benefits of the distance-learning system are that it:

- provides the latest relevant knowledge from academic and professional experts, validated by a professional body;
- provides flexible training at the workplace;
- saves time and money compared with traditional learning methods;
- is easy to use and is available 24/7;
- gives fast access to relevant information and references presented in a logical manner;
- has hot-spots and hyper-text links to information on the web;
- is ideal for both passive and active learners;
- enables you to work at your own pace and in your own way;
- provides self-assessment and instant feedback.

Each module contains case studies for you to work through to help you to understand the theory. There are also quizzes so that you can test your understanding of the concepts involved.

Although you will study much of the course by distance learning, it is important that you feel part of a coherent group, and this will be achieved through the "*Research Methods & Bioethics"*, "*Scientific Analysis, Review and Presentation"* and "*Business & Enterprise"* modules. In addition, the "*Practical Resource Management"* module is delivered as a seven day intensive residential course. Here you will have an opportunity to learn from leading academics and practicing professional consultants.

The research project is the culmination of this course. Part-time students will ideally conduct a research project in your own workplace or with another suitable organisation. If you are studying Full-time or are unable to work with an organisation, you will carry out a research project at the University under the supervision of a member of academic staff. You will be provided with detailed guidance on how to complete this module successfully, the milestones that must be achieved and the timescales involved.

9 **Assessment Methods**

You will be assessed by a variety of different types of course work, whilst the *Research Project* module will involve the design, implementation and reporting of a major research task. There are no formal examinations involved.

You will be assessed in each module in a manner consistent with the aims, objectives and learning outcomes of the module. Assessed work will take the following forms:

- Research Project thesis

This module tests your ability to design and implement a research course, and communicate the findings to an informed audience in a comprehensive thesis, written in an appropriate scientific style.

- Written assignment
  This tests your writing skills. You are expected to consider the scientific problems of the assignment topic and the way in which they have been resolved; this must be fully referenced from the current literature.

- Field course report
  This is a detailed account of the investigations you conducted on the field course. You will present your work in the form of papers in scientific journals.

- Oral presentation
  This assesses your oral communication skills. You will be assessed on your ability to communicate cogently using appropriate visual aids. You will also be assessed on your ability to answer questions with knowledge and authority.

- Poster
  This is a written poster display of the findings of your research project. It tests your ability to synthesise arguments and present them in a highly condensed, accessible and pictorial form.

- Case studies
  These are practical exercises to test your ability to apply your theoretical knowledge and skills in a given area. You will have to deal with complex issues in a systematic and creative way and show originality in solving problems posed in the case studies.

- Computer tests
  There are open-book tests at the end of each section of the e-learning system used. They will help you to test your understanding of key concepts. Feedback is given after each question, to help you to improve.

10 **Course structure and curriculum**

A summary of the course is given in Table 1. All the modules are compulsory. The course may be taken on a full-time or part-time distance learning basis over one or two years, respectively. Modules 1 and 2 are delivered by e-learning, whilst module 3 is delivered on a seven-day, residential course.

Table 1. The content of the MSc by Research Environmental Management and the credit points (CP) for each module.

Module	Mode of delivery	Content
1. Advanced Environmental Management	E-learning 20 CP	This module will give you the background required to understand the earth's natural systems and resources and how they can be managed. It also gives the legal framework for protecting the environment and managing environmental improvement. This module is ideal preparation for IEMA's Associate Membership exam.
2. Environmental Management System (ISO14001)	E-Learning 20 CP	This module will provide you with the theoretical skills needed to develop, implement and operate an environmental management system (EMS) conforming to the international EMS standard ISO 14001.
3. Practical Resource Management	Seven-day Residential Field Course 20 CP	Here you will apply the theoretical knowledge you gained in the previous two modules to real-life situations.
4. Research Methods & Bioethics	Taught module 20 CP	This module introduces you to concepts involved in the design, funding and execution of research
5. Business & Enterprise	Taught module 20 CP	This module introduces you to the concepts of entrepreneurship & innovation, start-up, survival & growth of a business (or project).
6. Scientific Analysis, Review and	Taught module	This module trains you to gain valuable skills in the

Presentation	20 CP	effective use of library, web and data-base resources for research, and in professional presentation techniques.
7. Research Project	60 CP	The research project is an opportunity for you to investigate a current topic in Environmental Management.

11 **Admission to the course**

For admission to this course you will possess one of the following:

- an Honours degree in a biological subject from a United Kingdom or equivalent University, the minimum degree category for entry to the course will normally be at least a 2ii, or its equivalent, consistent with the 50% pass mark required to complete the course successfully;
- a professional qualification of equivalent status;
- such other qualification and experience as the Admissions Panel shall deem equivalent in subject content and level of attainment.

Additionally, overseas students will be expected to have a level of English language capability demonstrated by attainment of IELTS to grade 6.5, or equivalent.

12 **Support for Learning**

You will receive considerable support throughout this course from administrative staff, the academics and consultants on the teaching team and the Course Leader. Your Course Leader will act as your tutor and will contact you by email and/or by telephone. You are encouraged to contact your Course Leader with any queries you have about the course and your progress, including academic and more general queries. You will also have a Project Supervisor who will give you guidance on all aspects of your research project. The University also has many support mechanisms to deal with non-academic problems, with your Course Leader being the usual first point of contact.

When you enrol on the course, you will receive a comprehensive Student Handbook, which includes information on:

- the installation and use of the e-learning system;
- guidance on course aims, outcomes and content;
- advice on time management;
- writing and submitting assignments;
- taking tests;
- assessment criteria;

- completing a Student Progress File;
- regulations for student conduct;
- regulations for health & safety;
- academic and pastoral support;
- careers information;
- accessing University resources (Libraries and Learning Resources, IS, Student Support Services, Careers Advisory and Employment Service, Student Union etc.).

Detailed guidance is also provided for each module on our virtual learning environment, NOW. At induction you will be taught how to use this, and how to engage with the e-learning materials.

13 **Graduate destinations/employability**

You may already be in employment and are seeking to further your career within an organisation. This highly vocational course will give you the skills you need to bring added value to your organisation and further your career.

There is a wide range of career opportunities within ecology and environmental management. You will work with leading academics and practitioners on your course so you will have obtained the academic and professional skills necessary to obtain employment in this field. At the end of the course, you will also have obtained many transferable skills that will commend you to employers. The "*Research Project"*, "*Scientific Analysis, Review and Presentation"* and "*Research Methods & Bioethics"* modules will give you the skills you need to follow a career in research and development.

The University's Career Service has an enviable reputation for finding our graduates employment and offers individual consultations.

14 **Course standards and quality**

The Course Team takes day-to-day responsibility for managing the course, under the overall direction of the Course Committee. You will be represented on this committee by a full-time and part-time student representative, elected by the students. You may wish to stand for election. Student feedback is collected on each module and discussed in an annual Module Leader's Report. These reports are discussed at the Courses Committee. Other methods for ensuring the standards and quality of the course include:

- The External Examiner report on the standards and quality of the course, submitted annually.
- An annual Course Standards and Quality report is written based on your feedback, staff and External Examiner feedback and is scrutinised by the School Academic Standards and Quality Committee to ensure an effective Action Plan is produced to address any issues raised.
- When the course was designed, the QAA descriptors for a qualification at Masters (M) level: Masters degree, informed the learning outcomes of this course.

An important measure of quality is the feedback you receive on your work. The Course Team will ensure that you receive comprehensive feedaback on

all your assignments.

15 **Assessment regulations**

This course is subject to the University's Common Assessment Regulations (located in its Academic Standards and Quality Handbook). The pass mark is 50% but if you achieve 60-69% overall you will be awarded the MSc by Research with Commendation, or the MSc by Research with Distinction if you obtain a final marks aggregate of 70% or above.

16 **Additional Information**

Collaborative partner(s):	Loreus Limited
Course referenced to national QAA Benchmark Statements:	The QAA descriptors for a qualification at Masters (M) level: Masters degree, have informed the design of this course.
Course recognised by:	
Date implemented:	

Any additional information:

You will be using a start-of-the-art commercial e-learning system provided by Loreus Ltd. This means that you can work on your course 24/7. Loreus Ltd is a leading provider of environmental management system consultancy and training. This means that you will be working with practicing consultants and environmental management system experts. Loreus Ltd provides two of the modules (Advanced Environmental Management and Environmental Management Systems ISO 14001) as part of a collaborative agreement.