

Operation of Design Sprints: Guidance for stakeholders

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The NTU Course Lifecycle Project is transforming the way NTU courses are designed, managed and reviewed. The main aim of this Project has been to reduce documentation and, instead, focus on the innovation and design that makes NTU courses great for students. A significant part of the project has been the introduction of 'Design Sprints'. Design Sprints embody the new vision for course design at NTU of a collaborative and supportive process with the course team firmly at its centre. Significant time is allocated to an integrated design and approval phase rather than separate advice and scrutiny events. The course team is supported in the course design process by individuals with specific expertise, and the course design is refined in conversation with a range of stakeholders.

2. The Stakeholder event

- 2.1 This event follows an intensive period of design work by the course team and is an opportunity for them to discuss their ideas with a range of individuals who have not been close to the design process.
- 2.2 The event lasts 2.5 - 3 hours and will start with a 'walk-through' of the student journey. There will then be opportunity for discussion about aspects of the proposal. The event will be directed by a Design Sprint Facilitator.

3. Your Role

- 3.1 You will be joined by other stakeholders, invited because of the important perspective they will bring to the table (see below). As you reflect on the student journey you may notice exciting and unique features of the course, you may have questions about the rationale of the decisions that have been made, or you may identify an aspect of the course that could be improved. Courses designed at NTU reflect the University's expectations for, for example: employability, sustainability, flexible and online learning; active collaborative learning; civic engagement; and personalisation. You may notice aspects of course design that reflect these or have questions related to these themes
- 3.2 **Students:** Students bring expertise in studying at NTU, you have very current and relevant experience to bring to the discussion. It is likely that students may have

questions about the lived experience of teaching, learning and assessment. You may be able to imagine what it would be like to study this course and those course features that are exciting and those which you might find less attractive to students. You may have questions about support for students and opportunities for students.

- 3.3 **Employers:** Employers are the ultimate arbiters of graduate employability and experts in the current and future direction of their industry sector. The course team will have drawn on advice from the sector to identify skills and attributes which are necessary for a profession or range of professions. As you reflect on the course design presentation you may notice course design features that are helpful in the development of students as professionals in your industry and in other related fields: this could relate to any aspect of the course design from approaches to learning, teaching and assessment; to placements, visits and guest speakers. You may be able to identify ways in which student preparation for employment could be strengthened and opportunities for students and staff to grow their connection with industry.
- 3.4 **Professional, Statutory, Regulatory Body (PSRB) representative:** As a representative of the professional or accrediting body your close work and engagement with leaders in the profession is invaluable. You have a sense of the future direction of the profession and can see how the course team is helping to meet current and future needs. You will also notice the ways in which the course has been designed to meet current professional standards and any expectation that they could more fully addressed.
- 3.5 **Academic colleague from another institution:** An external colleague is critical in providing an independent, objective and informed perspective on the quality of the course. You bring an awareness of national standards and of sector expectations. It is likely that, by comparing the course with other similar courses, you will have a view on the effectiveness of the proposed learning, teaching and assessment practices; you will notice the currency of the course content and research that underpins it; and you may identify unique and positive features of the course design.
- 3.6 **A senior member of the School and Head of Department:** With oversight of the portfolio of courses to which this course belongs you have a strategic view of the role of the course and its market. Your awareness of School practices, expectations and priorities is also important as you consider the course design. You may have questions or observations about course fit; collaboration within/across the School; Success for All; and strategic priorities.

4. How the session will work

- 4.1 The event starts with a 'walk-through' of the student journey by the design team. This provides an opportunity for you to (i) consider how the course design will meet the needs of students, employers, PSRBs and other stakeholders and (ii) offer your expertise and thoughts on specific areas of the course.
- 4.2 After the student journey 'walk-through', there will be an opportunity for you to interact with individual members of the design team and other stakeholders to engage in open dialogue within a spirit of collaboration. Depending on the size of the course team, small group discussions will be convened to address specific areas or themes such as course structure, curriculum content and student experience.



5. Preparation

5.1 There is nothing you need to do ahead of the event: the session is designed to provide the course team with first impressions and objective feedback. The diversity of the group of stakeholders brings fresh perspectives and expertise to the project and helps to promote lively and creative discussion. For those of you who have previously been involved in course approval activities either here at NTU or elsewhere, you will notice that this is significantly different from the traditional approach – not least because there is no preparation for you to do prior to the event! We hope that you will share our view about the advantages afforded by this alternative way of designing and approving courses and will be interested to hear your views after the event.

6. Post-event

6.1 After the morning event, the course team will spend some time considering the outcomes of the discussion and may decide to amend aspects of the design of the course. They will work on this in the immediate days after the stakeholder event, and there will follow a formal approval of the documented course by the University. There will be no further requirement from you at this stage.

6.2 Thank you for agreeing to participate in this event. We are excited to be in a position to be able to work with you to ensure the design of really excellent courses at NTU.

Policy owner
CADQ

Change history			
<i>Version:</i>	<i>Approval date:</i>	<i>Implementation date:</i>	<i>Nature of significant revisions:</i>

Equality Impact Assessment		
<i>Version:</i>	<i>EIA date:</i>	<i>Completed by:</i>