Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

	Basic Course Information	
1.	Awarding Institution:	Nottingham Trent University
2.	School/Campus:	Science & Technology
3.	Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study:	MRes in Environmental Management Full-time and part-time distance learning
4.	Normal Duration:	1 year full-time - 2 years part-time
5.	UCAS Code:	

6. Overview and general educational aims of the course

This exciting programme in Environmental Management is designed to give you the theoretical and practical skills needed to develop, implement and manage a resource strategy for a public or private sector organisation. In particular, it will show you how to achieve sustainable natural resource development within a framework of economic growth. The programme was developed by Nottingham Trent University in collaboration with Loreus Ltd., an experienced environmental training and consultancy company. This joint venture will ensure that this programme delivers leading-edge theoretical content underpinned by practical consultancy experience.

This course is ideal if you:

- **require a predominantly distance learning course to reduce the amount of time away from work (note, you can replace the seven-day residential module with the Research Methods module to complete the course entirely by distance learning)**

- 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 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;

- are an international client who needs to study outside the UK;

- would like a course written and delivered by experienced academics and practicing consultants.

In summary, the programme aims to:

provide an intellectually challenging and professionally relevant programme at the forefront of strategic resource management, led by academic and professional experts;

- explain how the boundaries of knowledge in this professional discipline are advanced through research and enable you to conduct research through an extended, academically rigorous project;
- give you opportunities to deal with complex issues in a systematic and creative way and show originality in solving problems;
- develop the theoretical, practical and strategic skills needed to manage natural resources sustainably within the context of economic growth;
- provide the majority of the modules in distance e-learning mode to make the course attractive to those in work or studying abroad;
- produce post-graduates who have sound judgement, personal responsibility and initiative, so making them attractive to employers.

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:

- display your comprehensive knowledge, understanding and critical awareness of the issues at the forefront of strategic resource management.

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

- conduct research at the boundaries of knowledge in this professional discipline;
- deal with complex issues in a systematic and creative way and show originality in solving problems;
- demonstrate the theoretical, practical and strategic skills needed to manage natural resources sustainably within the context of economic growth;
- communicate the results of research in an appropriate manner;
- show sound judgement, personal responsibility and initiative, so making yourself attractive to employers.

8. Teaching and learning methods

This programme is largely delivered by distance learning, which allows you to work at a time and at a pace that suits you. It 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.

You will study much of the course by distance learning. However, to allow you to feel part of a coherent group and to meet others on the course as well as your academic and commercial tutors, the Practical Resource Management optional module is delivered as a seven day intensive residential course. This module provides an opportunity to learn from leading academics and practicing professional consultants. The week long course is also an efficient use of time for those of you who are working or studying outside the UK.

The research project is the culmination of this programme. Ideally, you will conduct a research project in your own workplace or with another suitable organisation. Here you will be able to use the latest EMS tools, provided by Loreus Ltd., to help you to conduct an environmental review of an organisa**tion and assess the significance of the organisation's aspects. If you are unable to** work with an organisation, you will do a more theoretically-based project, based on research in a specialist area of resource management. 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
In the first three modules, 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 although there are periodic tests in modules 1 and 2.

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 one or more of the following forms:
-        Research Project thesis

This module tests your ability to design and implement a research programme, 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 conducted on the field course. Work is presented 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 in modules 1 and 2. They will help you to test your understanding of key concepts. Feedback is given after each question, to help you to improve.

- Research proposal

The research proposal is the vehicle by which to persuade the scientific community that a topic or idea is worthy of research and whose objective is to **"make an original contribution to knowledge" within the field of choice. The** research proposal will set out the broad topic you would like to research, what the research would set out to achieve, how you would go about researching it, how you would undertake it within the time available and what the results might be in relation to knowledge and understanding in the subject.

- Statistics assignment

This assessment involves exercises in statistical analysis of data from different sources. Typically, Excel, Minitab & GraphPad Prism are used which are statistical analysis software packages which contain powerful analytical tools for conventional basic biostatistics, curve fitting and scientific graphing

functions. Either package in combination give comprehensive coverage of statistical analysis and are often the programs of choice amongst bioscientists for statistical analysis.

- Research article

Poster production and oral presentation

You are required to select a relevant recent research paper from the literature and construct a 10 minutes oral presentation and poster of the work including an introduction/background, methods, results, discussion/critical analysis and references.

- Article assessment – Critique/Abstract

This element of assessment will involve reviewing a potential research article and highlighting the drawbacks and improvements needed and or summarising scientific information. This assessment involves exercises in the use of bibliographic databases to obtain some general background knowledge and information on the subject area and also build on critical analysis skills to identify areas of improvement and weak experimental design in potential research articles and/or the ability to summarise a piece of work. The exercise will be useful for future research proposals, article writing and assessment and future project plans.

10.   Course structure and curriculum

A summary of the MRes programme is given in table 1. Modules 1, 2 and 5 are compulsory and modules 3 and 4 are options, from which you chose one. The programmes may be taken on a

full-time or part-time distance learning basis over one or two years, respectively, starting in either September or January. Modules 1, 2, 3 and 5 are delivered by distance e-learning, whilst module 4 is delivered on a seven day residential course.

Table 1. The content of the MRes Environmental Management and the credit points

(cp) for each module.

Module	Mode of delivery	Content
1. IEMA Approved Associate Certificate Course in Environmental Management (UK) (This module is approved by the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment)	20cp (Distance learning)	This module provides 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.
2. Environmental Management Systems (ISO14001)	20cp (Distance learning)	This module gives the theoretical skills needed to develop, implement and operate an environmental management system (EMS) conforming to the international EMS standard ISO 14001.
4. Practical Resource Management	20cp (Seven-day residential field course)	Here the theoretical knowledge and skills gained in the previous two modules are applied to real-life situations.
5. Research Project	120cp (Flexible learning)	The research project is an opportunity to investigate a current topic in environmental management.

11.   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.

Ideally you will be a professional in a public or private sector organisation who wishes to obtain further qualifications. It is anticipated that most applicants will be in full-time employment and will wish to take the part-time programme. Alternatively, you may have just completed a first degree to a high standard and wish to research and practice in this area on a full-time programme. In all cases we wish to attract highly motivated and committed students who are seeking to gain skills and professional expertise in strategic resource management.

All recruitment and admission procedures will be conducted in accordance with the **University's policy on equal opportunities. You will have to complete an application** form and provide two references. To join the programme, you will normally be expected to meet one of the following requirements:

- To hold a good undergraduate degree or equivalent in a relevant discipline such as earth or natural sciences, geography, law or business studies. OR
- Such other qualification(s) and experience as the Admissions Panel deem to be equivalent in subject content and level of attainment.

You may have considerable work experience but perhaps lack the academic qualifications required to join a masters-level programme. If this is the case, you may be still able to join the course, but the Admissions Panel will have to assess your prior (experiential) learning. You will be required to provide a detailed CV outlining your relevant experience and asked to undertake an assignment.

A good command of spoken and written English is an essential requirement for the programme. If you are an overseas applicant from a non-English speaking country, the minimum recommended requirement is the British Council IELTS grade 6.5 or its

equivalent. Equivalent experience may include the successful completion of a non-UK degree in the English language or a significant period of residence/work placement in an English speaking country, for which evidence should be provided.

We wish to attract graduate and non-graduate applicants with a particular profile. Individuals who:

- are highly self-motivated and committed;
- can deal with the demands of distance learning;
- have the study skills required to acquire and retain the theoretical and practical knowledge relevant to strategic resource management;
- have effective oral and written communication skills;
- may have work experience in this area; - will benefit from the programme.

The overriding consideration is the extent to which you will succeed on the programme and benefit from it.

12.   Support for learning

You will receive considerable support throughout this programme from administrative staff, the academics and consultants on the teaching team and the Programme Leader. You will 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.

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

- the installation and use of the e-learning system;

- guidance on programme 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, C & IT, Student Support Services, Careers Advisory and Employment Service, Student Union etc.).

Detailed guidance is also provided for each module.

13. Graduate destinations/employability

Many of you will already be in employment and are seeking to further your career within an organisation. This highly vocational programme 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 environmental management. You will work with leading academics and practitioners on your programme so you will have obtained the academic and professional skills necessary to obtain employment in this field. At the end of the programme, you will also have obtained many transferable skills that will commend you to employers. The Research Project 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 Programme Management Team takes day-to-day responsibility for managing the programme, under the overall direction of the Programme 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 Programmes Committee.** Other methods for ensuring the standards and quality of the course include:
- The External Examiner report on the standards and quality of the programme, submitted annually.
- The Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment accredits Module 1 of the programme annually.
- When the course was designed, the QAA descriptors for a qualification at Masters (M) level: Masters degree, informed the learning outcomes of this programme.

-	The University was the subject of a successful institutional audit by the Quality Assurance Agency in May 2004.
	An important measure of quality is the feedback you receive on your work. The Programme Team will ensure that you receive comprehensive feedback on all your assignments.

15.	Assessment regulations
	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:

There is only one programme-specific exception from the University regulations. The Board of Examiners is authorised to compensate a maximum of 40 credit points.

16.	Additional Information	
	Collaborative partner(s):	Loreus Ltd
	Course referenced to Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) Benchmark Statements:	The QAA descriptors for a qualification at Masters (M) level: Masters degree, have informed the design of this programme.
	Course recognised by:	Institute of Environmental Management and
		Assessment (IEMA) 20/04/2005
	Date this course specification approved:	1 September 2005

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 programme 24/7. A unique feature of this course is that you will also be provided with leading-edge Environmental Management System (EMS) software tools. By using these tools, you will be working at the forefront of strategic resource management.

Module 1 has received professional accreditation by the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA). When you successfully complete Module 1, you will be qualified to become an Associate Member of IEMA.