

## Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

<b>Basic Course Information</b>		
1.	Awarding Institution:	Nottingham Trent University (NTU)
2.	School/Campus:	School of Social Sciences
3.	Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study:	MSc Management of Fraud Investigation (FT/PT/Blended)
4.	Normal Duration:	1 year FT/2 years PT
5.	UCAS Code:	TBC

6.	<b>Overview and general educational aims of the course</b>
	<p>The growth of fraud and financial crime is characterised by increasing complexity and diversification. It affects private and public sectors, crosses borders, and varies in scale and significance. Drawing on a collaboration that bridges the extensive practical experience of dg Anti-Fraud Consultants (DG) with the law enforcement academic base within the School of Social Sciences, this course provides individuals with the high-quality specialist counter-fraud education that is increasingly sought by organisations.</p> <p>This course aims to develop in-depth knowledge and understanding of the techniques, practices, methodologies and application of the management of fraud investigations. During your studies, you will engage in a process of scholarship and research that will include a critical awareness of current legal and ethical issues and developments in the management of fraud investigations. The course also helps you to build your skills, enabling you to develop your investigative expertise against the professional and industry standards.</p> <p>This course is specifically designed for individuals working in, or seeking to work in, a wide range of fraud investigation organisations including: law enforcement, military police, insurance industry (especially the motor trade), health, as well as private sector organisations including forensic accountants and auditors.</p>

7.	<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.

<b>Knowledge and understanding</b>	
By the end of the course you should be able to:	

<b>PGCert Management of Fraud Investigation (60cpts)</b>	
1.	Critically analyse and reflect upon the challenges faced by organisations, agencies and authorities within the law enforcement, regulatory and investigative sectors when faced with the management of fraud investigations.
2.	Gain a conceptual understanding and critically evaluate evidence and intelligence to demonstrate an ability to extrapolate qualitative and quantitative information to assist in the management of investigations.
3.	Demonstrate a critical understanding of fraud investigation practices, procedures and protocols currently in place in both the public and private sectors and undertake a comparative and detailed analysis of

their effectiveness.

4. Demonstrate critical awareness of ethical dimensions, social values and regulatory frameworks relevant to law enforcement.

#### **PGDip Management of Fraud Investigation (120cpts)**

All of the above and the following:

5. Demonstrate a systematic understanding of research design and methodology, as applied to a law enforcement context.
6. Demonstrate specialist knowledge of aspects of contemporary law enforcement policy and practice.

#### **MSc Management of Fraud Investigation (180cpts)**

All of the above and the following:

7. Demonstrate original thinking in the development, implementation and evaluation of values-driven and ethical investigative and enforcement strategies to achieve effective results.
8. Demonstrate in-depth understanding of how research can address contemporary challenges in law enforcement scholarship, policy and/or practice.

#### **Skills, qualities and attributes**

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

#### **PGCert Management of Fraud Investigation (60cpts)**

1. Apply a critical understanding of the theories, practices and applications to the management of fraud crime investigations.
2. Apply a critical understanding of relevant legal and ethical considerations and practices to the management of fraud investigations.
3. Work independently and collaboratively to tackle complex law enforcement issues.
4. Practice the skills necessary to continue to develop your knowledge and skills after the course to keep yourself at the cutting edge of law enforcement.

#### **PGDip Management of Fraud Investigation (120cpts)**

All of the above and the following:

5. Communicate the conclusions of your work clearly to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.
6. Demonstrate skills in advanced research methodology, applied to your chosen law enforcement context.
7. Demonstrate applied law enforcement skills in your chosen specialist area.

#### **MSc Management of Fraud Investigation (180cpts)**

All of the above and the following:

8. Utilise your mastery of the knowledge base and skills in law enforcement.
9. Produce high quality independent research that contributes to the knowledge base in law enforcement.

10. Critically reflect on and articulate the skills you have acquired for successful leadership in law enforcement.

## 8. Teaching and learning methods

This course will use a variety of teaching methods to help you develop an advanced understanding of the management of fraud investigation and the skills needed to be a leader in this field. The course is delivered on a blended learning platform, with learning taking place both within a classroom environment and through our dedicated online platform.

The flexible design of the course means that there are opportunities for students to achieve either a Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert), Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) or full Masters (MSc). In addition to this, a range of modules are available as single units of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for students to achieve credits or accumulate these towards a final award.

Learning methods will include:

- *Lectures* delivered by academic experts and visiting speakers from the fields of policing, international law enforcement, and the management of fraud investigation.
- *Group workshops* in which students and staff discuss a topic, synthesising professional and academic knowledge to understand its relevance for policing, law enforcement and the management of fraud investigation.
- *Problem-based learning* in which you will be given a law enforcement problem to research and then be guided by staff in developing a solution based on the best-available evidence.
- *Guided independent study* in which staff will guide you in understanding important academic, official and professional sources of information.
- *A capstone project* in which you will be supported by an expert supervisor to produce your own research on a law enforcement topic of your choice.

The teaching on this course is 'blended', meaning there will be a mixture of face-to-face and online teaching. This is designed to support our students whose personal and professional commitments, or geographical distance, may mean that attending in person is not always possible.

The School of Social Sciences is experienced in developing and delivering online curricula. The methods employed provide you with opportunities to engage in synchronous and asynchronous learning; enabling the development of, and reflection upon, your theoretical knowledge and law enforcement skills. By deploying carefully staged activities to facilitate progressively ambitious learning, a key feature of the learning experience is that, though you may be at a distance from the University's campus, you are able to learn from each other, as well as from the tutors, in a safe and supportive environment. Through these activities you are able to develop a course identity and a sense of belonging, which is a critical aspect of distance learning.

Interactive/group learning is a major method used within the modules for both face-to-face and online delivery. It is designed to enhance confidence

in your own learning and future practice by enabling you to explore and develop ideas and methods, and to support others in doing so. It reflects the course aim to develop your understanding of the relationship between theories, concepts and practice.

The course is structured to provide you with the flexibility to study alongside other responsibilities. Students can enter the programme either in January or October, and study full time or part time.

The staff who teach this course are all active researchers in policing, law enforcement and the management of fraud investigation. They publish articles and books on policing and present their work at leading national and international conferences and convene events for practitioners and policy makers. This means they can help you understand and evaluate cutting-edge work in this field, as well as train you to produce your own research. Teaching materials are frequently updated to take account of the latest information gained from research both in this department and elsewhere. In addition to this academic expertise, we are proud to count a number of leading authorities from international law enforcement policy and practice as our partners. You will come into contact with guest lecturers, supervisors and speakers throughout your studies with us.

#### **9. Assessment methods**

Assessment plays a key role in the learning process, providing an impetus to learning and enabling you to get feedback for personal development and growth. The course is assessed through the University's Grade Based Marking Scheme. We use a varied, fair, and consistent assessment regime based upon clearly specified criteria and use a variety of assessment techniques to ensure that the range of learning outcomes are met. Whilst many of your assessments will be written, we will also use presentations and group work tasks to help develop your communications skills.

Every module will have at least one formative assessment that does not count towards the final grade but provides an opportunity for you to get feedback to help improve your work. Summative assessments, which determine your grade for each module, are designed to help you develop the skills that you will need for the future. This includes, for example, the ability to produce structured reports that synthesise information from different sources.

The approach of the team to assessment is driven by our commitment to deliver a curriculum that is exciting, innovative, and which reflects the needs of today's NTU graduate attributes. These include 'intellectual curiosity, enthusiasm for learning and an aptitude for self-directed learning'. Many modules also adopt an explicitly global or international perspective on a range of law enforcement and criminological issues. The modules allow for a responsive and varied curriculum that reflects the individual and collective research interests of the team.

Information about each assessment can be found in your individual module specifications and handbooks.

#### **10. Course structure and curriculum**

This course is run in collaboration between Nottingham Trent University (NTU) and dg Anti-Fraud Consultants (DG). DG draw on their extensive and

highly specialised experience in managing fraud investigation across the public and private sectors, internationally.

This course is designed to equip you with the knowledge and skills need to become a leader in the field of fraud investigation and to drive continual improvement in fraud investigation policy and practice. The flexible design of the course means that there are opportunities for students to achieve either a Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert), Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) or full Masters (MSc). In addition to this, a range of modules are available as single units of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for students to achieve credits or accumulate these towards a final award.

At full Masters, the course consists of 180 credits at level 7 on the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications. You will study six taught modules, each of 20 credits, and complete a 60-credit capstone project.

**The course is structured as follows:**

### **PGCert Management of Fraud Investigation**

Core modules:

- Principles of Fraud Investigation (20cpts)
- Proceeds of Crime and Financial Investigation (20cpts)
- Fraud Investigation Interviewing (20cpts)

### **PGDip Management of Fraud Investigation**

All of the above and the following:

Core modules:

- Research methods (20cpts)

Plus, **two** options from the following list:

- Complex Frauds: Investigating Organised Crime & Terrorist Financing (20cpts)
- Leadership and management in law enforcement (20cpts)
- Crime, Community and Neighbourhood (20cpts)
- Applied Research Methods for Policing (20cpts)
- Crime Prevention (20cpts)
- Anti-Corruption: Global Trends, Issues and Resolutions (20cpts)
- Advanced Forensic Investigations (20cpts)

### **MSc Management of Fraud Investigation**

All of the above and the following:

Core module:

- Capstone Project (60cpts)

The core modules will give you the key knowledge and skills that you need to successfully complete the course, to get the most out of the optional modules and to complete the research project.

In *Principles of Fraud Investigation*, you will learn about the statutes, case law and professional practices that underpin the investigation of fraud in a global context. In *Proceeds of Crime and Financial Investigation*, you will

develop your understanding of how criminal proceeds are obtained and disseminated and how international organisations tackle money laundering. In *Fraud Investigation Interviewing*, you will explore legal and theoretical perspectives to further develop the advanced skills of interviewing suspects, witnesses and victims in fraud investigation cases.

In the *Research Methods* module you learn about different approaches to research, including issues such as ethics, accessing or gathering data, data analysis and how to draw valid conclusions from your data. This will help you prepare for the *Capstone Project*, during which you will be paired with an academic supervisor to help you complete research that generates new evidence and insight on a topic of your choice. Students wishing to further enhance their knowledge and skills in statistical research can work alongside our specialist Quantitative and Spatial Criminology Group by choosing to take the option module entitled *Applied Research Methods for Policing*.

Option modules have been designed to align with both the specialist academic research areas of our team and the most pressing challenges faced by law enforcement agencies in your jurisdiction. You will work alongside academics and external organisations to develop specialist knowledge and skills, and in many cases, will have the chance to apply these during your studies through real-world case examples.

#### **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.

For APL arrangements please visit the course page on the NTU website.

#### **12. Support for learning**

The course begins with an induction programme which will explain its aims, delivery and expectations. You will be provided with a course handbook which explains how the course works and outlines the support provided by the teaching team and the University.

During the course, communication between staff and students is done both on a face-to-face basis and online. In addition to regular contact with the module team, you will be assigned a personal tutor who will provide both pastoral and academic support. This role will be supplemented by your dissertation supervisor.

You will have access to the University's libraries and computer facilities, and the further computer, technical and administrative resources provided by the School of Social Sciences. There will also be dedicated support to enable you to engage fully with our online platform. All learning materials are made available online, for example through the NTU Library or other sites. Good communication between library staff and the course team continues to ensure that appropriate and up-to-date material is available to you.

Support from your personal tutor and the academic team is supplemented by university-wide academic and pastoral support (such as short courses on academic skills), which is widely publicised and well used by existing students. If you are an international student you will also have the option of in-session English support to help you with developing and sustaining your

writing skills. We actively encourage all of our international students to take full advantage of the additional support and welcoming environment provided by the NTU Global Lounge.

The Course Committee, made up of staff and student representatives, meets regularly to discuss any issues and monitor the continual development of the course to ensure it continues to meet student needs. We encourage all our students to share their experiences and provide on-going feedback to help us improve our teaching.

### 13. **Graduate destinations/employability**

This course is suitable for those who currently work in a wide range of organisations where fraud is of concern. It will also be suitable for those looking to enhance their career opportunities and for students seeking employment in the field. Highly trained fraud investigators and specialists can be found in a diverse range of organisations including central, regional and local government departments, law enforcement organisations, private sector organisations including insurance and banking, and an increasing number of public services – such as health services.

Graduate employability is fundamental to the strategic aim of NTU, as reflected in the fact that NTU is consistently placed close to the top of the league table of all UK Universities for graduate employment. The School of Social Sciences has strong links with the fraud investigation sector both nationally and internationally and the course is delivered in partnership with consultants and specialists in the field. Through student professional membership of associations and participation in annual conferences and other events, there will be opportunities alongside the course to develop professional networks and relationships. The staff team conduct research in these areas and consult such organisations about the type of knowledge and skills they are looking for in potential employees so this can be reflected by the course content.

### 14. **Course standards and quality**

Course standards are monitored and maintained in a variety of ways:

- A course committee of staff and students monitors your feedback on module delivery and the learning experience.
- One or more external examiner(s) supports the course team and ensures quality in the delivery and assessment of the course.
- You are given detailed feedback on each piece of assessed work, and on non-assessed diagnostic work.
- You will have a personal tutor with whom you can discuss your progress and gain additional feedback or advice on learning.
- The course sits within the School of Social Sciences and is managed within the guidelines and standards set and assured by the School.

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

### 16. **Additional Information**

Collaborative partner(s): dg Anti-Fraud Consultants Ltd  
Course referenced to

Quality Assurance Agency  
for Higher Education  
(QAA) Benchmark  
Statements: none that is  
applicable  
Course recognised by:  
not applicable  
Date this course  
specification approved:  
December 2018

Any additional information: