

# Brackenhurst College Course Guide

2026 entry



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# Open days

If you want to find out what life at Brackenhurst is really like, come and see us at an open day.

Meet our tutors, look around the facilities and get more information about studying here. Your friends and family are more than welcome to come along too.

You can find out about future open day dates on our website. We also offer a virtual open day so you can visit us from the comfort of your own home.

Go to [www.ntu.ac.uk/opendays](http://www.ntu.ac.uk/opendays) to reserve your place



## Take a closer look

Head to [ntu.ac.uk/virtual-brack](http://ntu.ac.uk/virtual-brack) to explore our courses from the comfort of your home. You can access on demand subject talks, presentations and tours.



# Hello



We know that choosing your next steps is a big and exciting decision.



We hope this guide will help you find the college course that's right for you. If you're looking to study an animal, equine or land-based subject, you'll find it here.

Brackenhurst is set in stunning countryside with easy access from Nottingham city centre, and good transport links. We are part of Nottingham Trent University. We offer college courses alongside our degree courses, all taught by our skilled, experienced and supportive staff.

At Brackenhurst, you'll have access to incredible facilities. These include an animal unit, equestrian centre, farm, library and gardens and fields that are overflowing with plants and wildlife. Studying with us means that you'll be a part of an amazing learning environment. You get all the perks of being part of a big university, but you will still enjoy the comforts of a friendly college.

Most importantly, our courses reward your hard work with valuable qualifications and training. They will prepare you for the world of work, or open the door to further study. It's your future – you decide.

**Julia Mumby**  
Acting Head of Further Education



# Why choose Brackenhurst?



## You can study an amazing range of animal, equine and land-based college courses



- You'll learn from our professional tutors who have lots of experience in their subjects
- Our courses offer exciting work experience opportunities – making you stand out to future employers or universities
- You'll get to go on some fantastic trips and learn from industry experts
- Our courses offer clear routes into jobs or further study
- Our friendly student support team are here if you need help with anything

- You'll be studying and training in some incredible facilities including a working farm, animal unit, equestrian centre and outdoor classroom
- In our last Ofsted assessment we received a 'good' grade with some outstanding features



- It's easy to get here – we're just a bus ride away from Nottingham city centre, Mansfield or Newark.

# Student stories



Lily-mae



## One of the questions we get asked most is 'what's a typical day like?'

Here's Lily-mae, who studies Level 3 Agriculture, and Jaiden, who studies Level 3 Animal Management, to tell you.

### What time do you arrive at Brackenhurst?

**Lily-mae:** On a day when we are doing practical and theory sessions, I need to be on the farm at 9 am sharp. I'll get to college around 8.45 am so I have time to put my belongings in my locker. I find out what the practical activity for the day will be and put on the appropriate boots and overalls. As I do have the privilege of being able to drive myself, I'll leave the house at 7.45 am to drive in.

**Jaiden:** I get up at 6.30 am each morning and leave my house at 7.30 am to ride my bike into Newark. This is where I get a college bus at 8.15 am which gets into college just before 9 am where lessons start at 9.15 am.

### What sort of lessons do you have in the morning?

**Lily-mae:** Mornings tend to be more practical based. These practical sessions can vary from carrying out maintenance on farm machinery, operating farm vehicles, health checking livestock, travelling off campus to neighbouring farms, habitat maintenance across the Brackenhurst estate, and so much more. After a practical, we'll have an hour to an hour and a half to lunch and time to spend in the library completing work.

**Jaiden:** On a Monday morning I have my practical lesson but every other day I will have a class lecture first thing. In between lessons I usually have a half an hour break which is good as it gives me time to eat and chill.

### What do you do in the afternoon?

**Lily-mae:** For lunch, I'll usually head to the canteen to eat and catch up with friends on other courses. But if I have

an assignment due (or I'm just feeling productive) I'll head to the library after I've eaten to catch up on work. In the afternoon, we'll have one or two theory lectures with a break in between. These could be crop production, plant and soil science, livestock husbandry, land-based machinery, managing agricultural environments, or professional working responsibilities (managing agriculture is my personal favourite).

**Jaiden:** Over lunch I usually go to the canteen which serves a variety of hot foods or I go to the Brack Shop and get a meal deal there. After lunch I have more lectures which can either be at the top of campus or in the animal unit area, these usually run until 5 pm which is the end of the day. I use the library if I need to find a book which is relevant to my work or if I'm waiting for another lesson to start.

*"The facilities here topped any of the other surrounding colleges when it comes to studying animals."*

**Jaiden**  
Level 3 Animal Management



*"The campus is stunning! It's such a pleasant place to be no matter the season and all the staff on campus are so welcoming and supportive."*

**Lily-mae**  
Level 3 Agriculture



# Student stories

## What time do you head home?

**Lily-mae:** The time we finish lectures varies from day to day, the latest I finish is at 5 pm. If I finish late, I'll get home for 6 pm (depending on traffic) so I still have daylight left to enjoy my hobbies at home. The earliest I finish is 3 pm and on those days, I'll usually stay in the library for a couple of hours, so I don't have to do any work at home.

**Jaiden:** I get the college bus into Newark at 5 pm, this usually takes about half an hour to 45 minutes depending on the traffic. When I get into Newark I ride my bike home, I usually get in around 6.30 pm to 6.45 pm. I tend to spend time at the weekend doing my assignments as by the time I get home after college I want to chill out.

## Do you have a placement you go to?

**Lily-mae:** For the first year of Level 3 Agriculture, I'm required to complete 150 hours of a farm-based placement. It could be dairy, beef, poultry, pigs, arable, and even alpacas! We get Tuesday off college to complete these hours.

**Jaiden:** I do have a placement and it's currently at Vets4Pets in Newark. I work there from 9 am - 5 pm on a Wednesday. It is fun. I enjoy working there, as I can watch procedures and help in consultations. This helps with my course as the information I learn there, links in with my nursing module at college.

## What is your top tip for someone considering studying at Brackenhurst Campus?

**Lily-mae:** My top tip for you guys considering joining us at Brackenhurst is to bring practical clothing! You will be outside in all weathers experiencing the wonders of your sector and you want to be comfortable doing so. A pair of wellies will be your best friend here!

**Jaiden:** My top tip is just to make the most of your time here. The days can be long but have a laugh when you can and it will fly by, so just make the most of the facilities available and use your time wisely and your time here will be some of the best.

## Why did you choose to study your course at Brackenhurst?

**Lily-mae:** Before finishing my GCSEs at secondary school I knew I wanted to live and breathe the outdoors every chance that I could, so options such as post-16 and A-levels really didn't agree with me. After searching for a little while and a recommendation from a previous student, I landed on Brackenhurst. Every course has its fair share of practical and immersive learning that I think really benefits us as students, maximising our potential.

**Jaiden:** I chose to study Animal Management here at Brack because I knew the facilities here topped any of the other surrounding colleges when it comes to studying animals.



Jaiden



# Study programme

Study with us and you'll get more than just a course



Your study programme is tailored to you. It is designed to give you the skills and knowledge to succeed in your studies and your future career.

## Qualification

You will study either a Level 2 or Level 3 qualification, or an Access to Higher Education Diploma.

Our Level 2 qualifications are equivalent to GCSEs at grades 9 – 4 (A\* – C). Our Level 3 qualifications are equivalent to three A-levels.

Your course will include a mix of practical work and classroom-based study.

## English, maths and IT

Develop your English, maths and IT skills with dedicated study sessions. In addition, if you still need to achieve GCSE grade 4 / C in English or maths, we'll also give you extra support to retake the exams.

## Employability and work experience

You'll take part in CV-writing workshops, mock interviews and get individual support from our specialist Employability team. You'll also undertake work experience with relevant employers.

## Citizenship

Explore important issues such as democracy, freedom, and British values, with lectures from expert guests.

## T-Levels

You may have heard about the introduction of T-levels. This is a new type of qualification designed to increase your technical and practical skills whilst studying. We offer T-levels in Agriculture and Animal Management. If you apply for either of these subjects, we'll talk you through your options.



Alongside your qualification, you'll also get additional sessions including English, maths and IT skills, citizenship, and work experience. We call this your study programme.



## Meet your tutors

Our tutors are here to support your ambitions and help you achieve your dream career. They're all industry experts with a passion and in-depth knowledge of their subjects. You'll also hear from inspirational guest lecturers and industry speakers who will help bring your subject to life.

### Sarah Heckford Subject Leader Animal Management

I am the Subject Leader for the Animal Management and the Animal Care courses at Brackenhurst.

I have been teaching at Brackenhurst for over 20 years and it is a fantastic place to work. I own Springer Spaniels and they come to work with me so you will meet them during your practical lessons. I have a particular interest in birds of prey and I have many years experience working with horses. I am one of a team and we are all experienced and enthusiastic lecturers. Brackenhurst provides a superb learning environment and we are very lucky to have fantastic resources on the campus. I love seeing the students come onto our programmes and develop as individuals. They thrive in our environment.

### Liz Taylor Subject Leader Equine Management

I am the Subject Leader for the Equine Management course. I have been around horses all my life and have worked professionally in the industry since leaving school. I studied the British Horse Society Intermediate Instructor and Stage Four course as a student at Brackenhurst. This really kick started my career and has enabled me to progress to become a Stage Five Instructor (BHSI), a British Dressage Level Three Coach and a British Dressage List Three Judge. I like to think the knowledge I gained whilst studying at Brackenhurst and my experience in the industry, can be passed on to my students and help them in their journey to achieve a career they are passionate about.

### Tanya Bridgeman Subject Leader Agriculture and Apprenticeships

I have a lifelong background linked to agriculture and the equine sector. I have also worked in education in since 2007 and been both a professional and semi-professional rider since 1994. As well as being a subject leader within NTU, externally I am senior professional coach and FEI judge in the sport of eventing. I am also a list three British Dressage Judge. Before coming into education I worked in the Public Sector and have an extensive background in law enforcement and victim care. My passion for the land based sectors is my driving force to teaching and my combined professional standing as well as my sporting and personal experience is something I hope I can pass on to my students to support and nurture their career and personal journey.

# Your future



A key part of your programme is to gain industry skills and experience. This will enable you to progress into a great career or go on to further study.

## Practical sessions

You'll develop important technical skills in practical sessions appropriate to your course, such as horse riding, domestic animal handling, tractor driving, or habitat management on our estate.

## Industry experience at Brackenhurst

You'll have the opportunity to work with our technical teams to develop important employment skills right here at Brackenhurst. These skills will give you more confidence and the ability to take on more responsibility.

## Experience gained in industry

As part of your learning, you'll start a work placement where you will gain valuable industry experience. We will support you in choosing a suitable employer for your placement, and we will work with your chosen employer to ensure you gain the experiences you need to be 'job ready'.

## Weekly careers sessions

In these sessions, you can explore your options and next steps in depth. We will help you write your CV and personal statement to help showcase your skills and experiences.

## Employer visits and speakers

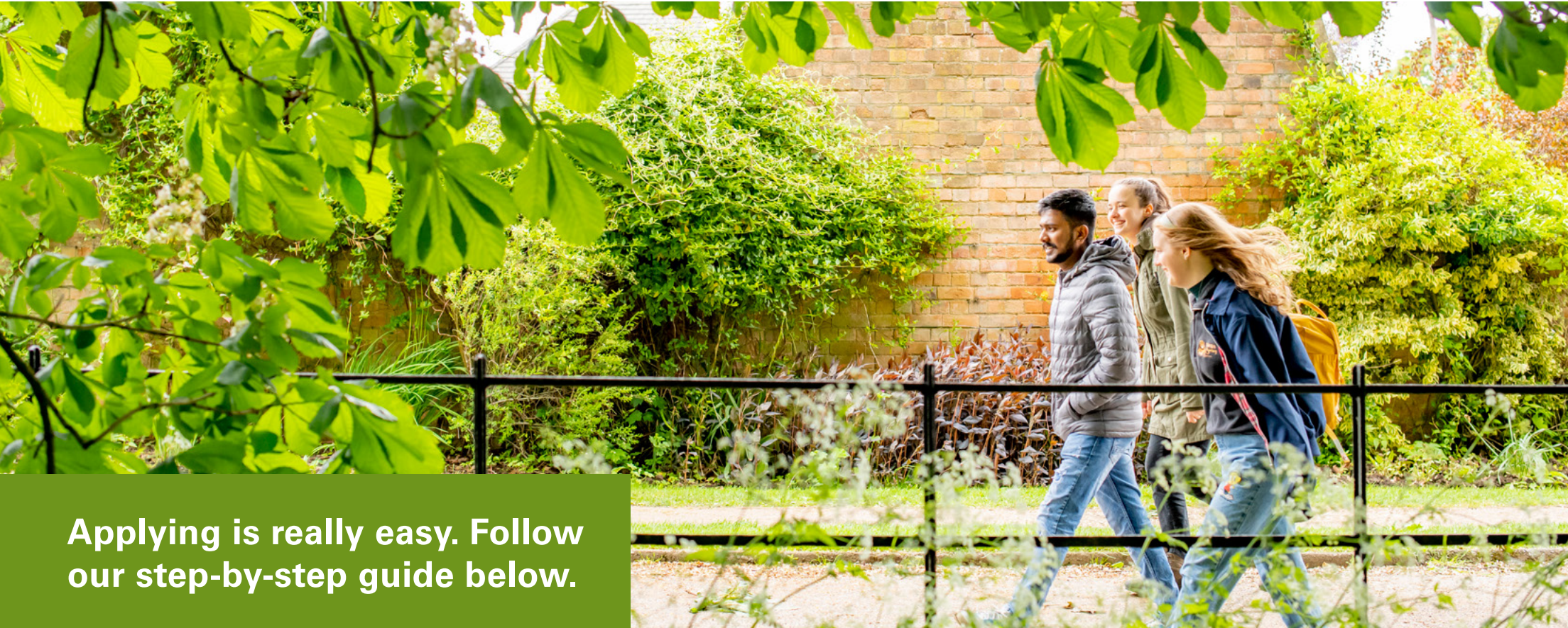
As part of your course, you will have the chance to visit and hear from experts in your field of study. These visits offer valuable insight into employment and what it is like to work in the industry.

## Progress to higher education

If you're already thinking about a career path, sometimes that might require degree-level qualifications. We'll provide you with all the guidance you need throughout the university application process. You can even progress on to study one of NTU's degrees right here at Brackenhurst.



# How to apply



Applying is really easy. Follow our step-by-step guide below.

## Any questions?

Just drop us a line – we're here to help every step of the way. You can email us at [fe.enquiries@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:fe.enquiries@ntu.ac.uk) or give us a call on 0115 848 5299.



### 1 Choose your course

Use this guide to help you decide. You can find more information on our website, so take a look there too. We also recommend attending one of our open days. They will help you get a feel for what it's like to study here.

### 2 Fill in an application form

You can apply online via our website. Contact us if you require assistance or to apply in a different format. Remember to show your passion for your chosen subject in your personal statement.

### 3 Get your offer

Hopefully we'll be able to offer you a place on the course. This offer might be conditional on your upcoming exam results – for example GCSEs. Anyone who requires student support / disability assessment needs to be referred before an offer can be made.

### 4 Accept your offer

You need to tell us that you want to accept your offer of a place by emailing [fe.enquiries@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:fe.enquiries@ntu.ac.uk) or by calling us on 0115 848 5299.

### 5 Get your exam results

If you're taking GCSEs, you'll get your results in August. Other exam results will also come out over the summer. Once you've got your results you need to let us know what they are. Then we can confirm your place.

### 6 Start at Brackenhurst!

We'll send out all the information you need to start with us at the end of August. We hold an enrolment day in the first week of September. This allows you to get your student ID and start meeting your new friends and tutors.

Apply online at  
[www.ntu.ac.uk/college-application](http://www.ntu.ac.uk/college-application)

# Animal courses

## Courses

Level 2  
Animal Care

Level 3  
Animal Management

Animal Care and  
Management (T-level)

Access to Higher Education  
Diploma in Land-based  
Studies (Animal Science)



**Love animals? So do we! Our range of animal courses will help you turn your passion into a career.**



## Your classroom

Study an animal course at Brackenhurst and you'll have access to some fantastic facilities.

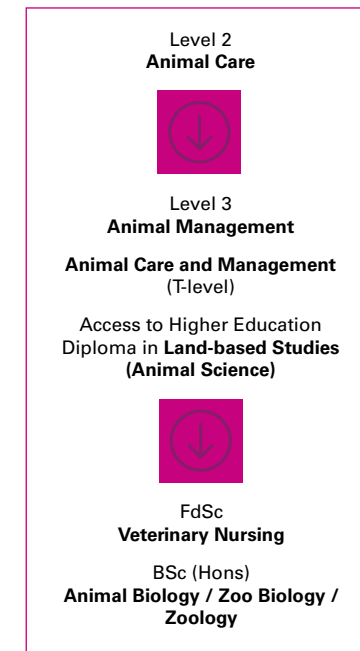
Our specially designed Animal Unit is home to over 250 animals from around 70 different species. These include small animals such as rabbits, cats, dogs, reptiles and birds, as well as larger animals like goats and donkeys. All our animal courses include hands-on, practical lessons at the unit. You'll also help our technicians to care for the animals on a day-to-day basis.

As well as your subject-specific facilities, you'll also find:

- a library, including fully equipped computer rooms
- modern classrooms and teaching areas
- laboratories
- our careers and employability service
- a refectory and Costa Coffee
- our student shop.

## What can I do when I finish?

Our animal courses have great progression routes to fantastic careers or further study. You can even study one of NTU's degrees right here at Brackenhurst.



*"My top tip for someone considering studying at Brackenhurst is to make sure that you have fun and enjoy yourself."*

**Felicity**  
Level 2  
Animal Care



# Animal Care

## Level 2 Course

### Are you?

- Passionate about animals
- Into practical work and being outdoors
- Interested in looking after the environment
- Reliable and responsible



### About the course

This practical, hands-on course will give you the skills to care for a wide range of animals. You'll study the feeding, handling and housing of animals. You'll also learn about protecting the natural environment, wild plants and animals.



### Some things you'll study...

#### Animal Feeding and Accommodation

Study a range of practical skills for the day-to-day care of animals, including feeding, handling and providing appropriate accommodation.

#### Animal Breeds and Grooming

Identify common breeds of animals, groom mammals and know the history of domestication and breed development.

#### Animal Behaviour and Handling

Develop the skills to recognise normal and abnormal behaviours in a range of animal species. You'll also learn how to apply safe handling and restraint techniques that minimise stress in animals.

#### Principles of Animal Biology

Gain knowledge and understanding of animal biology. Understand classification of living things.

#### Maintain Animal Health and Welfare

Study the approaches to animal welfare, identify signs and symptoms of common diseases. Understand the principles and practices of animal first aid.

#### Caring for Horses

Develop skills handling horses, carry out stable management routines, feed and care for horses.

#### Care of Exotic Animals

You will feed, care for exotic animals and monitor their health and behaviour.

#### How you'll study

You'll learn in our fantastic facilities and be taught by tutors who have real-life experience of working within the animal industry. You can expect the course to be split so that you learn through a combination of theory and practical work. You will be taught through lectures, group discussions and practical demonstrations. You'll also get to go on trips to various locations.

The course includes a work placement. This allows you to develop your skills and knowledge in the animal industry, and looks good to future employers. You can work at places like veterinary centres, boarding kennels, catteries, or zoos.

#### How you'll be assessed

You'll be assessed using a combination of internal assignments and tests, which are set and marked by tutors, and external assessments.

#### Next steps

If you get a Distinction you'll be able to do the Level 3 courses in Animal Management, or Countryside Management (Wildlife Conservation).

#### Future jobs within the animal industry include:

- animal carer
- cattery / kennel technician
- wildlife reserve worker
- dog groomer
- farm worker.

#### You could earn

- £24,250 as an Animal Carer Assistant
- £26,000 as a Cattery/Kennel Technician
- £27,500 as a Dog Groomer
- £24,000 as a Wildlife Reserve Worker

(Indeed.com, 2025)

### Duration: One year course

For more information about the course and entry requirements visit [ntu.ac.uk/courses](https://ntu.ac.uk/courses) and search Animal Care.



# Animal Management

## Level 3 Course

### Are you?

- Passionate about animals
- Into practical work and being outdoors
- Interested in handling and training animals
- Organised and punctual

### About the course

Learn about animal-related subjects, including biology, health, behaviour, nutrition and breeding. You'll also develop practical skills for handling and caring, and gain the knowledge needed to start your career within the animal industry, or for further study.



### Some things you'll study...

#### Animal Health and Disease

This module will teach you to recognise the signs of good and ill health in animals and to carry out health checks on animals and produce animal health plans.

#### Practical Animal Husbandry

This module will teach you how to handle and care for a wide variety of domestic and companion animals.

#### Animal Behaviour

Develop knowledge and skills to interpret animal behaviour and understand the factors which influence such behaviour.

#### Animal Welfare and Ethics

You will learn about the ethics, regulations and legislation associated with animal welfare in animal-related industries.

#### Zoological Animal Health and Husbandry

Learn about the role of the modern zoo and the techniques used to improve the lives of zoo animals, including health and safety.

In addition you'll study English and maths and complete relevant work experience. If you do not yet have a GCSE grade 4 / C in maths or English, we'll also support you with extra classes so you can retake the exams.

#### How you'll study

You'll learn in our fantastic facilities and be taught by tutors who have real-life experience of working within the animal industry. You can expect the course to be split so that you learn through a combination of practical and theory work.

You'll be taught through lectures, group discussions and practical demonstrations.

You'll also get to go on trips to different locations. Previous examples include Twycross Zoo and Yorkshire Wildlife Park.

The course includes a work placement. This allows you to develop your skills and knowledge in the animal industry, and looks good to future employers. You can work at places like Cats Protection, Twycross Zoo, RSPCA, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, Stonebridge City Farm and more.

#### How you'll be assessed

You'll be assessed through written external assignments, practical assessments, and external exams.

#### Next steps

If you are successful and achieve the right combination of results, you'll be able to progress on to the FdSc Veterinary Nursing, BSc (Hons) Animal Biology,

BSc (Hons) Zoo Biology or BSc (Hons) Zoology degrees right here at NTU's Brackenhurst Campus.

#### Future jobs within the animal industry include:

- animal carer
- welfare assistant
- industry sales person
- veterinary nurse
- laboratory assistant.

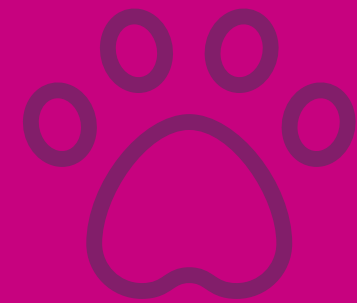
#### You could earn

- £22,500 as an Animal Care Assistant
- £22,500 as a Welfare Assistant
- £28,000 as a Veterinary Nurse
- £26,000 as an Industry Sales Person

(Indeed.com, 2025)

### Duration: Two year course

For more information about the course and entry requirements visit [ntu.ac.uk/courses](https://ntu.ac.uk/courses) and search Animal Management.



# Animal Care and Management

Level 3 – T Level

## Are you?

- Passionate about animals
- Interested in a bespoke work placement
- Ready to learn about everything from animal handling to anatomy
- Committed and passionate

## About the course

T-levels are new courses that are the equivalent to three A Levels. They have been developed with employers so they are ideal to prepare you for work and higher education. T Levels are two year courses that combine classroom theory and practical lessons with work placements to give you real-world experience.



## Duration: Two year course

For more information about the course and entry requirements visit [ntu.ac.uk/courses](https://ntu.ac.uk/courses) and search Animal Care and Management.

## Some things you'll study...

Over two years, you will undertake classroom-based learning, developing an understanding of a broad range of issues relevant to employment, such as sustainability, ethical principles, communication, business and health and safety.

You will also study animal related subjects, including:

- practical animal handling
- animal behaviour
- nutrition
- anatomy and physiology
- animal health.

The course includes a work placement. This allows you to develop your skills and knowledge in the animal industry, and looks good to future employers. You can work at places like veterinary centres, boarding kennels, catteries, or zoos.

### Specialist pathways

There are two specialist pathways available:

- Animal Management and behaviour
- Animal Management and science

In addition you'll study English and maths and complete relevant work experience. If you do not yet have a GCSE grade 4 / C in maths or English, we'll also support you with extra classes so you can retake the exams.

### How you'll study

You'll learn in our fantastic facilities and be taught by tutors who have real-life experience of working within the animal industry. You can expect the course to be split so that you learn through a combination of practical and theory work. You'll be taught through lectures, group discussions and practical demonstrations.

### How you'll be assessed

You'll be assessed through written external assignments, practical assessments, and exams.

### Next steps

If you are successful and achieve the right combination of results, you'll be able to progress on to the FdSc Veterinary Nursing, BSc (Hons) Animal Biology, BSc (Hons) Zoo Biology, or BSc (Hons) Zoology degrees right here at NTU's Brackenhurst Campus.

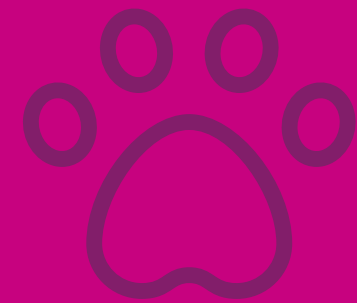
### Future jobs within the animal industry include:

- animal care assistant
- welfare assistant
- animal behaviourist
- zoo keeper
- veterinary nurse.

### You could earn

- £24,250 as an Animal Care Assistant
- £24,500 as a Welfare Assistant
- £29,000 as a Veterinary Nurse
- £30,000 as an Industry Sales Person

(Indeed.com, 2025)



# Land-based Studies (Animal Science)

Access to Higher Education Diploma

## Are you?

- Aged 19 or over without traditional qualifications
- Wanting to progress to study a degree in animal or land-based studies
- Passionate about practical hands-on experience with animals
- Keen to develop your skills for higher education



## About the course

This one year course is a chance to learn how to care for, handle and house animals and to develop skills in science, writing and giving presentations. If you would like to study at degree level but haven't got the usual qualifications needed, then this course is the perfect solution.



## Some things you'll study...

### Higher Education Study Skills

You'll develop your skills in referencing, note-taking and be encouraged to contribute to group discussions. You'll also be able to undertake your own piece of research.

### Bioscience

Study how a range of body systems function in animals to ensure their health and allow survival in the wild. You will also look at breeding and genetics.

### Animal Science and Welfare

You'll learn how to describe the function of the animal body, its diseases and cures, and how to develop a plan for the handling, housing and training of animals.

### Animal Management and Behaviour

Develop an understanding of the housing of healthy and sick animals and examine legal and ethical aspects of animal management.

### Land-based Practical Skills

Study the importance of health and safety in the land-based sector. Build your practical skills in a range of animal, wildlife, equine and agriculture environments.

### How you'll study

You'll learn in our fantastic facilities and be taught by professional and experienced tutors. You can expect the course to be split so that approximately 30% is practical work and 70% is theory work.

You'll be taught through lectures, group discussions and practical demonstrations. You'll need to commit to 15 hours a week of contact time during the course. You'll also be expected to invest a similar amount of time in your personal study. Teaching will usually take place three days a week.

### How you'll be assessed

You'll be assessed through written assignments, presentations, class tests and two internal exams.

### Next steps

On successful completion of each unit, you'll gain credits towards your Diploma. If you pass the course, you'll be able to do degree courses in animal and equine science, environmental science, and conservation based right here at NTU's Brackenhurst Campus.

### Future jobs within the animal industry include:

- zoo keeper
- ecologist
- industry sales person
- veterinary nurse
- laboratory assistant.

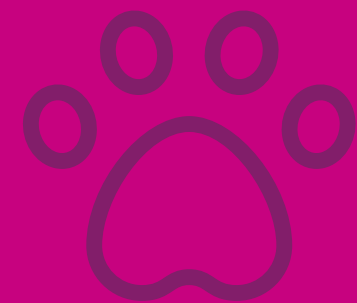
### You could earn

- £24,250 as an Animal Carer Assistant
- £24,500 as a Zoo Keeper
- £23,500 as a Laboratory Assistant
- £29,000 as a Veterinary Nurse

(Indeed.com, 2025)

## Duration: One year course

For more information about the course and entry requirements visit [ntu.ac.uk/courses](https://ntu.ac.uk/courses) and search Access to Higher Education.



# Agriculture courses

## Courses

Level 2  
Agriculture

Level 3  
Agriculture

Agriculture,  
Land Management and  
Production (T-level)



**If you're interested in a career in farming and looking for a course that will give you unbeatable practical experience, you're in the right place.**



## Your classroom

Study an agriculture course at Brackenhurst and you'll have access to some fantastic facilities.

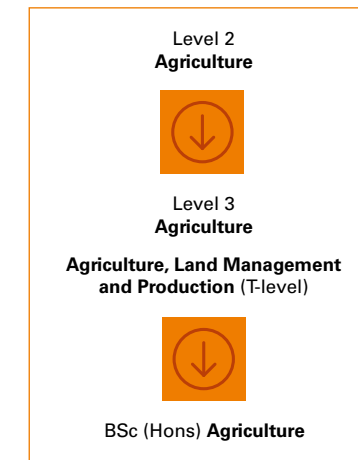
Our campus is home to a working farm that grows a mixture of crops including wheat, barley and oilseed rape. We have a herd of award-winning pedigree cattle, as well as a flock of sheep. We also have a range of farm machinery that you'll get to learn with, including tractors fitted with modern self-steering equipment. Your course includes hands-on, practical lessons at the farm.

As well as your subject-specific facilities, you'll also find:

- a library, including fully equipped computer rooms
- modern classrooms and teaching areas
- laboratories
- our careers and employability service
- a refectory and Costa Coffee
- our student shop.

## What can I do when I finish?

Our agriculture courses have great progression routes to fantastic careers or further study. You can even study one of NTU's degrees right here at Brackenhurst.



*"The farm at Brackenhurst is good. All the staff are so friendly and good at what they do. They always offer extra help and teaching."*

**Archie**  
Level 3 Agriculture



# Agriculture

## Level 2 Course

### Are you?

- Into practical work and being outdoors
- Keen to work in farming
- Interested in technology and machinery
- Able to work as part of a team



### About the course

This practical, hands-on course teaches you all about the farming industry. You will learn about livestock, crops and machinery. There are opportunities to do work experience and go on visits to various farms.



### Some things you'll study...

#### Working in Land-based Industries

You will learn about key job roles in the farming and land-based industries and the exciting activities these include.

#### Estate Maintenance

Learn how to carry out inspections, and select, use and maintain tools, equipment and materials to carry out estate tasks safely and efficiently. You'll focus on livestock and crop farming and will learn how to work to a standard expected in the industry.

#### Introduction to Plant and Soil Science

You'll learn just how amazing plants are and what they need to survive. You will explore the internal and external structures of plants and crops. You will also investigate soil types, texture, structure, pH, nutrients and care.

#### Livestock Husbandry

Develop the practical skills needed to work with farm animals safely and confidently. This includes learning how to maintain high standards of animal welfare at all times.

#### Agriculture Work Placement

Gain work experience at a farm or in another agricultural industry business.

In addition you will study English and maths and complete relevant work experience. If you do not yet have a GCSE grade 4 / C in maths or English, we'll also support you with extra classes so you can retake the exams.

#### How you'll study

You'll learn in our fantastic facilities and be taught by tutors who have real-life experience of working within the agricultural industry.

You will be taught through lectures, group discussions and practical demonstrations. You'll also get to go on trips to different locations, including dairy and crop production farms.

The course includes a work placement. This allows you to develop your skills and knowledge in agriculture by working on a farm or at another business related to the agricultural industry. It also looks great to future employers.

#### How you'll be assessed

You'll be assessed through written assignments, presentations, practical assessments, class tests and external exams.

#### Next steps

If you get a Merit or higher, you'll be able to progress on to the Level 3 course in Agriculture here at Brackenhurst.

#### Future jobs within the agricultural industry include:

- machinery salesperson
- livestock assistant
- tractor driver.

#### You could earn

- £25,000 as an Apprentice
- £24,000 as a Stockperson
- £25,000 as a Farm Worker
- £28,000 as a Tractor Driver

(Indeed.com, 2025)

### Duration: One year course

For more information about the course and entry requirements visit [ntu.ac.uk/courses](https://ntu.ac.uk/courses) and search Agriculture.



# Agriculture

## Level 3 Course

### Are you?

- Looking for a career in the land-based sector
- Interested in the science behind farming
- Keen to learn how to run a successful farming business
- Into practical work and being outdoors



### About the course

This course will prepare you to work in the agriculture industry or progress on to higher education. Through both classroom and practical activities, you will learn about livestock, crops and machinery. You'll also engage with the farming community through visits and work experience.

### Some things you'll study...

#### Land-based Machinery Operations

You will learn the practical skills to safely set up and operate a range of agricultural machines.

#### Managing Agricultural Environments

You'll study the changes in farming practices and their impact on the environment. You will carry out habitat surveys in order to reduce the impact of agriculture on the environment.

#### Crop Production

You'll learn about a range of crops and how growth is maintained through the production cycle. This will include recognising weeds, pests, diseases and deficiency symptoms, together with what to do about them.

#### Farm Livestock Husbandry

You'll develop the knowledge

and practical skills to plan and manage a range of conventional livestock species, including cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry, as well as unconventional species, such as alpaca.

#### Agricultural Enterprise

You'll explore the purpose and objectives of various agricultural activities and carry out evaluations to prepare recommendations for possible improvements.

In addition you will study English and maths and complete relevant work experience. If you do not yet have a GCSE grade 4 / C in maths or English, we'll also support you with extra classes so you can retake the exams.

#### How you'll study

You'll learn in our industry leading facilities through a mixture of lectures, group discussion, practical demonstrations and hands



on experience with livestock, crops and machinery.

You will also get to go on visits to leading vegetable growers, organic dairy farmers and industry events.

The course includes a work placement. This allows you to develop your skills and knowledge in agriculture by working on a farm, enhancing your chances of employment after you complete your studies.

You can work with local farmers, agronomists, nutritionists or in connected industries and organisations such as the National Farmers Union.

#### How you'll be assessed

The majority of your assessments will be written work and practical assessments but there are some modules for which the assessment is an external exam.

#### Next steps

If you are successful and achieve the right combination of results, you'll be able to go straight into employment, or progress on to our BSc (Hons) Agriculture degree right here at NTU's Brackenhurst Campus.

#### Future jobs within the agricultural industry include:

- livestock manager
- feed company representative
- agronomist.

#### You could earn

- £35,000 as a Machinery Salesperson
- £43,000 as a Dairy Herd Manager
- £45,500 as an Agronomist
- £55,000 as a Senior Tractor Driver

(Indeed.com, 2025)

### Duration: Two year course

For more information about the course and entry requirements visit [ntu.ac.uk/courses](https://ntu.ac.uk/courses) and search Agriculture.



# Agriculture, Land Management and Production

Level 3 – T Level

## Are you?

- Looking for a career in the land-based sector
- Interested in the science behind farming
- Keen to learn how to run a successful farming business
- Into practical work and being outdoors

## About the course

T-levels are new courses that are the equivalent to three A Levels. They have been developed with employers so they are ideal to prepare you for work and higher education. T Levels are two year courses that combine classroom theory and practical lessons with work placements to give you real-world experience.



## Some things you'll study...

Over two years, you will complete agriculture topics, including practical learning on our award winning Farm and Estate.

Topics will include;

- livestock husbandry
- health and disease
- managing crops and grass land for nutrition and welfare
- business management
- safe machinery use.

You will also undertake classroom-based learning, developing an understanding of a broad range of issues relevant to employability, such as sustainability, ethical principles, communication, business and health and safety.

## Amazing facilities

Our specialist cattle roundhouse houses a herd of award-winning Lincoln Red Cattle and it can be used for animal observations and to develop your handling skills of larger breeds. We also have a machinery pool with advanced tractors, fitted with self-steering equipment to develop your machinery knowledge and general use of modern systems. Our equipment has the latest technology for crop establishment and nutrition.

In addition you will study English and maths and complete relevant work experience. If you do not yet have a GCSE grade 4 / C in maths or English, we'll also support you with extra classes so you can retake the exams.

## How you'll study

You'll learn in our fantastic facilities and be taught by tutors who have real-life experience of working within the agricultural industry. You can expect the course to be split so that you learn through a combination of practical and theory work.

You'll be taught through lectures, group discussions and practical demonstrations.

The course includes a workplacement. This allows you to develop your skills and knowledge in agriculture by working on a farm, enhancing your chances of employment after you complete your studies.

## How you'll be assessed

You'll be assessed through written external assignments, practical assessments, and exams.

## Next steps

If you are successful and achieve the right combination of results, you'll be able to go straight into employment, or progress on to our BSc (Hons) Agriculture degree right here at NTU's Brackenhurst Campus.

## Future jobs within the agricultural industry include:

- farm worker
- tractor driver
- agronomist.

## You could earn

- £35,000 as a Machinery Salesperson
- £43,000 as a Dairy Herd Manager
- £45,500 as an Agronomist
- £55,000 as a Senior Tractor Driver

(Indeed.com, 2025)

## Duration: Two year course

For more information about the course and entry requirements visit [ntu.ac.uk/courses](https://ntu.ac.uk/courses) and search Agriculture.



# Equine courses

## Courses

Level 3  
Equine Management



**If you've got a passion for horses and you'd like a career working with them, we've got the course for you.**



## Your classroom

Study an equine course at Brackenhurst and you'll have access to some fantastic facilities.

Our British Horse Society (BHS)-approved Equestrian Centre has stabling for 65 horses. There is even the option to keep your own horse here. It also features indoor and outdoor riding arenas, turnout fields, a horse walker and a mechanical horse simulator – great for perfecting your position.

You'll use the Equestrian Centre throughout your studies. Your course will include both riding and stable management sessions at the centre. You'll also help our technicians to care for the horses on a day-to-day basis.

As well as your subject-specific facilities, you'll also find:

- a library, including fully equipped computer rooms
- modern classrooms and teaching areas
- laboratories
- our careers and employability service
- a refectory and Costa Coffee
- our student shop.

## What can I do when I finish?

Our courses have great progression routes to fantastic careers or further study. You can even study one of NTU's degrees right here at Brackenhurst.

Level 3  
Equine Management



BSc (Hons)  
Equine Science

*"When I visited Brackenhurst Campus on my Open Day, one of the first things that caught my eye were the amazing facilities and beautiful surroundings."*

Eleanor  
Level 3  
Equine Management



# Equine Management

## Level 3 Course

### Are you?

- Passionate about horses
- Into practical work and being outdoors
- Keen to improve your knowledge of working with horses
- Dedicated to horse welfare and care



### About the course

This course includes horse science, stable management and riding. It will provide you with the knowledge required for a career in the equine industry. You'll work on the yard to develop a range of skills while studying towards the British Horse Society (BHS) examinations.



### Some things you'll study...

#### Riding Horses on the Flat

You will ride a wide variety of horses of all ages and levels and be encouraged to engage with the theory of training horses to enhance their abilities.

#### Horse Behaviour and Welfare

Gain an understanding of horse behaviour, the effects of domestication and welfare. You'll observe horses and record the results to analyse the findings.

#### Competition Grooming

Develop the skills and knowledge to be able to prepare a horse for competition. Learn about the necessary equipment and the importance of aftercare including exercise, transport, tack and clothing.

#### Working and Training Horses from the Ground

You'll investigate a range of techniques, including Parelli,

Join Up, lungeing, long reining and loose schooling.

#### Introduction to Equestrian Coaching

This module focuses on developing your teaching skills with practical and theory sessions. You'll learn how to deliver riding lessons on the flat and over ground poles, plus lead rein and lunge lessons. You'll also look at how to deliver a short lecture.

In addition you'll study English and maths and complete relevant work experience. If you do not yet have a GCSE grade 4 / C in maths or English, we'll also support you with extra classes so you can retake the exams.

#### How you'll study

You'll learn through practical demonstrations, group discussions, and lectures in our fantastic facilities. You'll be taught by tutors who work within the horse industry as competitors, judges and British Horse Society (BHS) assessors.

You'll go on trips to competition yards, rehabilitation centres and British Eventing competitions. You'll hear from guest speakers from the equine industry.

You can also take the BHS Challenge Awards and the Ride Safe exam in Year One. In Year Two, you can work towards BHS Stage 2 or higher.

The course is split so that approximately 40% is practical work and 60% is theory work. It also includes a work placement. This will develop your skills and knowledge and look good to future employers. You can work at places like local competition yards, yards specialising in natural horsemanship, or in tack shops or feed merchants.

#### How you'll be assessed

You'll be assessed through written assignments, presentations, practical assessments, class tests and external exams.

#### Next steps

If you are successful and achieve the right combination of results, you'll be able to progress on to the BSc (Hons) Equine Science degree right here at NTU's Brackenhurst Campus.

#### Future jobs within the equine industry include:

- competition or stud groom
- equine retail worker
- veterinary equine nurse
- riding instructor or coach
- yard manager.

#### You could earn

- £23,000 as a Competition or Stud Groom
- £22,500 as an Equine Retail Worker
- £29,000 as a Riding Instructor
- £34,000 as a Yard Manager

(Indeed.com, 2025)

### Duration: Two year course

For more information about the course and entry requirements visit [ntu.ac.uk/courses](https://ntu.ac.uk/courses) and search Equine Management.



# Conservation courses

## Courses

Level 3  
**Countryside Management  
 (Wildlife Conservation)**



**If you're passionate about conserving our planet's precious wildlife, we've got the course that will turn your passion into a career.**



## Your classroom

Study a conservation course at Brackenhurst and you'll have access to some fantastic facilities.

Our rural campus is made up of grassland, hedgerows, woodlands and ponds. It also includes a working farm. It is home to a wide range of wildlife species that you will observe, handle and study. You'll use the campus and its habitats for hands-on, practical lessons during your course.

As well as your subject-specific facilities, you'll also find:

- a library, including fully equipped computer rooms
- modern classrooms and teaching areas
- laboratories
- our careers and employability service
- a refectory and Costa Coffee
- our student shop.

## What can I do when I finish?

Our conservation courses have great progression routes to fantastic careers or further study. You can even study one of NTU's degrees right here at Brackenhurst.

Level 3  
**Countryside Management  
 (Wildlife Conservation)**



BSc (Hons) **Wildlife Conservation**  
 BSc (Hons) **Ecology and Conservation**



*"For my course work placement, I continued with a volunteer placement I already had which was volunteering with the RSPB, which is always the highlight of my week, I love it so much."*

**Indy**  
 Level 3  
 Countryside Management



# Countryside Management (Wildlife Conservation)

## Level 3 Course

### Are you?

- Interested in managing wildlife and habitats
- Passionate about conservation and the environment
- Into working outside
- Able to work as part of a team

### About the course

This course will develop your knowledge of wildlife conservation and the environment. You'll also study different wildlife habitats and take part in classroom activities to learn about how to protect and save rare wildlife.



### Some things you'll study...

#### Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

This unit explores ecosystems, plants and animals and how these have changed through time. You'll take part in wildlife and habitat surveys, as well as wildlife rehabilitation, to learn about conservation management.

#### Woodland Management

You'll explore the history and theory of woodland habitat management and how to manage these habitats, both on campus and with local charities.

#### Plant and Soil Science

Gain an understanding of the theory of soil and plant science and how these relate to protecting habitats and wildlife.

#### Coastal Habitat Management

Develop the skills to investigate coastal habitats, the threats these habitats face and solutions for their future management.

#### Countryside Estate Skills Activities

Gain practical industry skills to manage countryside environments.

In addition you will study English and maths and complete relevant work experience. If you do not yet have a GCSE grade 4 / C in maths or English, we'll also support you with extra classes so you can retake the exams.

#### How you'll study

You'll learn in our fantastic facilities and be taught by tutors who have real-life experience of working within wildlife and conservation. You can expect the course to be split so that approximately 40% is practical work and 60% is theory work.

You will be taught through lectures, group discussions and practical demonstrations. You'll also get to go on trips to different locations, including nature reserves, farms, estates and rehabilitation centres.

The course includes a work placement. This allows you to develop your skills and knowledge in ecology, the environment and wildlife conservation, and looks good to future employers. You'll get to take part in volunteering projects at local conservation organisations, including The Wildlife Trusts, private environmental consultants, and environmental and countryside management organisations.

#### How you'll be assessed

You'll be assessed through written assignments, presentations, practical assessments, class tests and external exams.

#### Next steps

If you are successful and achieve the right combination of results, you'll be able to progress on to the BSc (Hons) Wildlife Conservation or BSc (Hons) Ecology and Conservation degrees right

here at NTU's Brackenhurst Campus.

#### Future jobs within the wildlife conservation, countryside management and environment industry include:

- marine conservationist
- countryside / game ranger
- ecological assistant
- nature conservation officer
- wildlife rehabilitator.

#### You could earn

- £33,000 as a Researcher
- £25,000 as a Nature Conservation Officer
- £28,000 as a Countryside or Game Ranger
- £29,000 as an Ecological Assistant

(Indeed.com, 2025)

### Duration: Two year course

For more information about the course and entry requirements visit [ntu.ac.uk/courses](https://www.ntu.ac.uk/courses) and search Countryside Management.



# Student support



As a student at Brackenhurst, you'll get lots of support. From when you apply, to up to three years after you complete your course, our teams are here to help you.

## Learning support

We work hard to provide an inclusive learning environment. If you've got a physical or sensory disability, specific learning difficulty, an autism spectrum condition or long-term health condition we encourage you to tell us when you apply. This information helps us provide you with advice and support so you'll enjoy learning at Brackenhurst.

## Library services

The library at Brackenhurst will play a big part in your studies. It's open seven days a week during term-time. Our friendly library team are here to make sure you can make the most of the books and resources available.

## Employability services

Our dedicated Employability team are here to help you with anything job or career-related. You can get advice on career plans, CV-writing and preparing job or university applications. Their support doesn't stop when you leave either. You can access our employability services for up to three years after you complete your course.



## Fees and funding

### If you are aged 16 – 18 and applying for a Level 2 or 3 course

There are no course fees if you're aged under 19 on 31 August of the year you start your course.

### If you are aged 19+ and applying for a Level 2, Level 3 or Access to Higher Education course

If you're studying your first full Level 3 or Access to Higher Education qualification you may be eligible for free tuition.

If you are applying for the Level 2 qualification or have already completed a full Level 3 qualification, tuition fees will apply.

To cover the cost of tuition when applying for a Level 3 and Access to Higher Education qualification, you can apply for an Advanced Learner Loan from the UK Government. It is easy to apply, your household income is not taken into account and there is no credit check. You will not have to pay anything back until your income is over £25,000.

## Additional financial assistance

We have a bursary fund (which does not need to be repaid) to help with costs relating to your study. This includes things like books, clothing, equipment and travel.

To be eligible, there are some conditions that you, or your parents / guardians must meet. Funds are limited and will be awarded to those in greatest financial need.



For further information on support, fees or funding email [fe.enquiries@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:fe.enquiries@ntu.ac.uk) or call us on 0115 848 5299.



# Getting to Brackenhurst

Brackenhurst is easy to get to. We're just 14 miles from Nottingham city centre, next to the town of Southwell.

## Bus routes

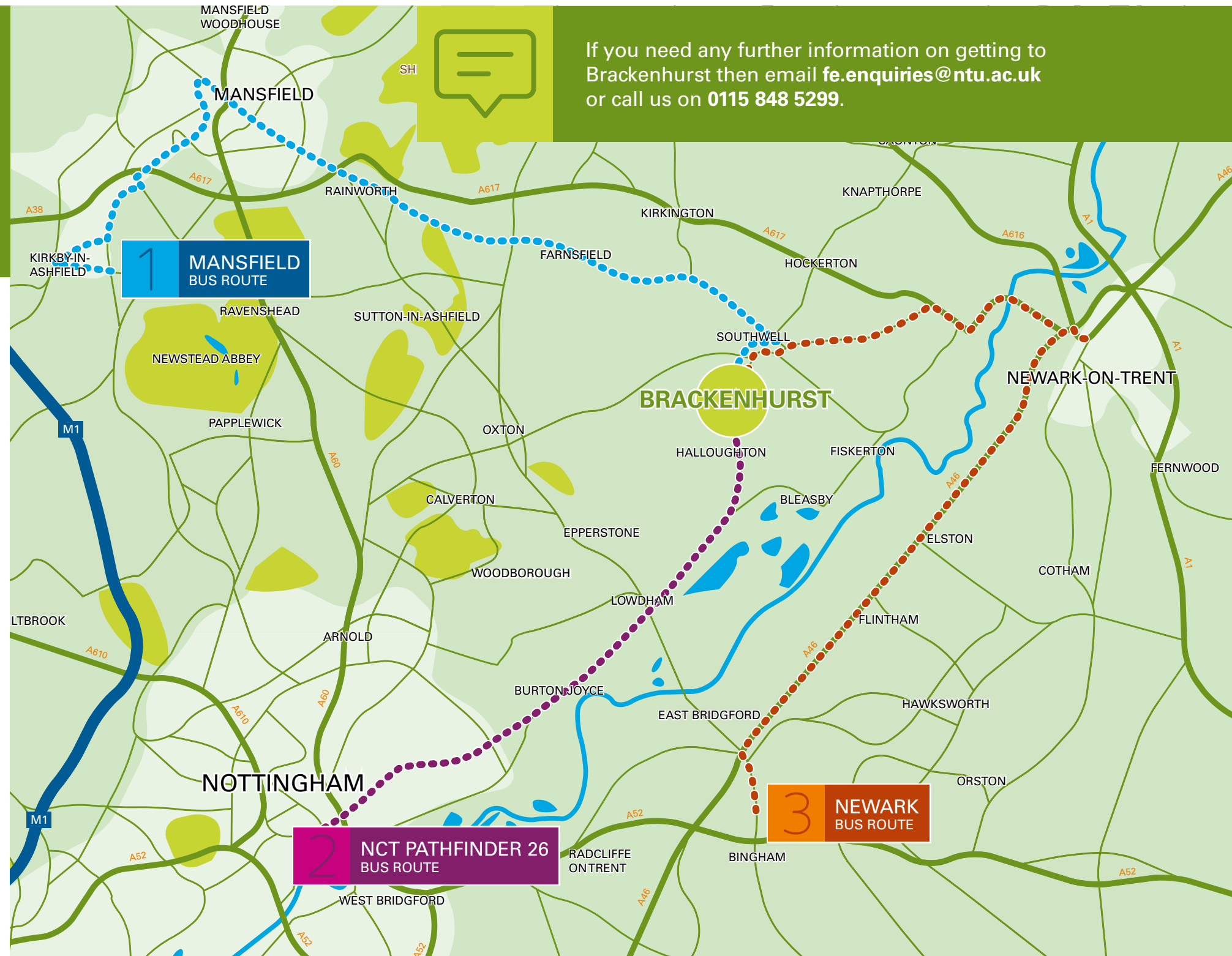
The NCT Pathfinder 26 bus service runs regularly from Nottingham city centre and stops right outside the campus. The journey takes about 45 minutes.

We also offer additional bus services from locations including Mansfield and Newark. These bus services are partly subsidised.

## Driving

If you're driving to Brackenhurst, there is free parking available.

If you need any further information on getting to Brackenhurst then email [fe.enquiries@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:fe.enquiries@ntu.ac.uk) or call us on **0115 848 5299**.



# Next steps

Now that you have read about what you can do at Brackenhurst, what next?

Remember we are always here to help! If you need any support, whether you have a question about a course, or need advice about your application—call or email us and we'll be happy to support you!

Hope to see you soon!

**Research.**  
Have a look at all the courses on offer and see what interests you most

**Explore our website.**  
View our facilities and hear from teaching staff and students

**Come visit us!**  
Whether it's for the first time or another visit, book an open day

**Apply!**  
Fill in the application form online and read our tips on how to complete it

**Get ready.**  
Confirm your place by calling us so you can make your next step.



# Supporting your young person

We know that choosing the right college course can be a big next step in your young person's journey, and we're here to make it easier for both of you every step of the way.

We are all passionate about giving each student the best experience they can get, from providing hands-on learning in university-standard facilities to one-to-one support and career guidance, all to help them be ready for what they choose next.

You can receive occasional email updates advising you on how to support your young person in their education journey and address any concerns you may have, right up until GCSE Results Day.



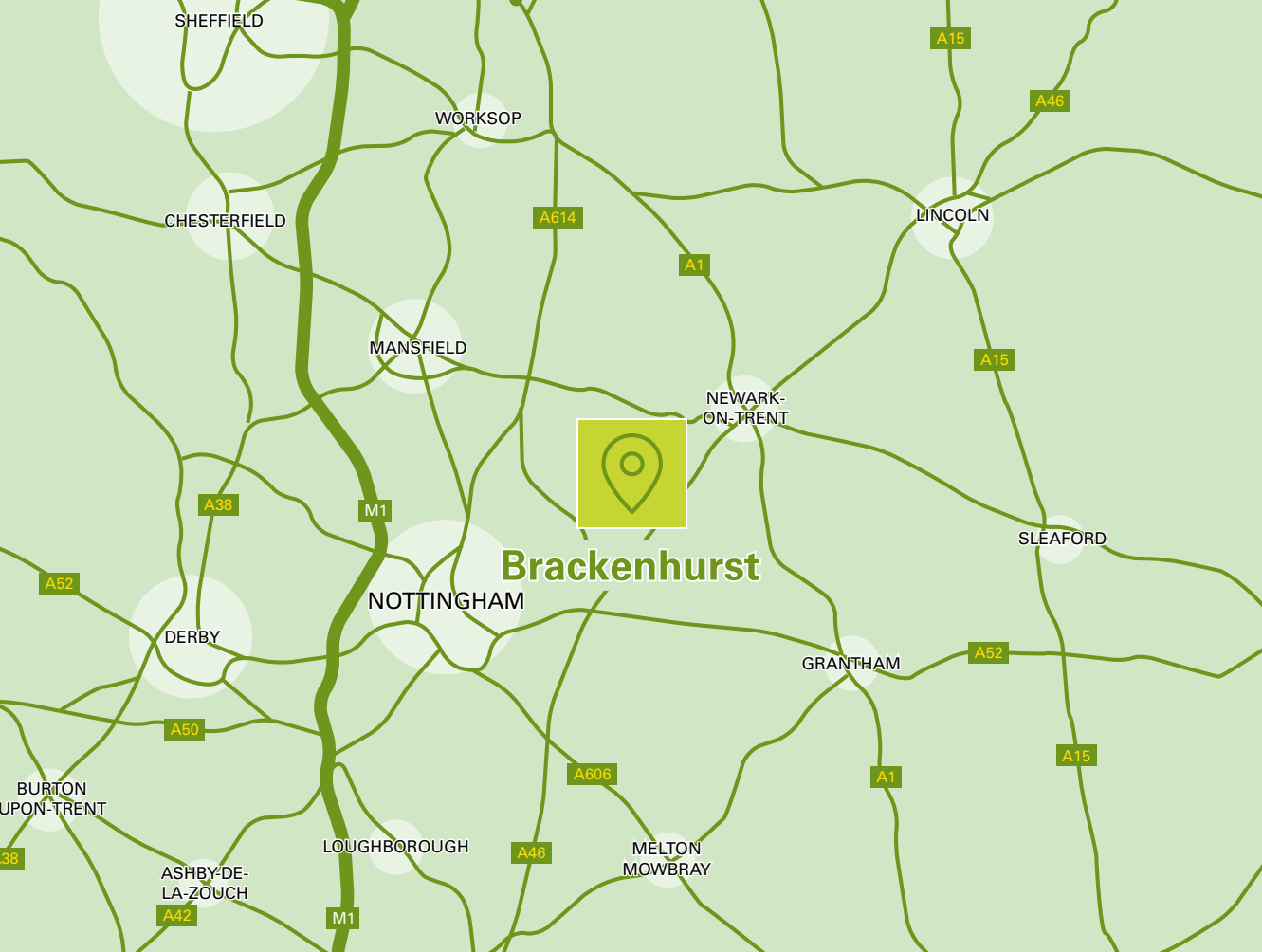
Visit our FAQs page to answer any of your concerns





**“The tutors are very supportive and will always try their best to help you.”**

**Jan**  
Level 3  
Equine Management



## Contact us

[fe.enquiries@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:fe.enquiries@ntu.ac.uk)

0115 848 5299

[www.ntu.ac.uk/brack](http://www.ntu.ac.uk/brack)

## Find us

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University**  
Brackenhurst  
Southwell  
Nottinghamshire  
NG25 0QF



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