

Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

Basic Course Information		
1.	Awarding Institution:	Nottingham Trent University
2.	School/Campus:	School of Architecture, Design and Built Environment/ City Campus
3.	Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study:	BSc (Hons) in Quantity Surveying and Construction Commercial Management, FT, SW, PT
4.	Normal Duration:	FT 3 years, SW 4 years, PT 5 years
5.	UCAS Code:	K4K2 FT; K240 SW/PT

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

The BSc (Hons) Quantity Surveying & Construction Commercial Management course is designed for students who want to be at the centre of the management of construction procurement processes. The course will develop your knowledge and skills to effectively undertake the role of quantity surveyors and commercial managers in a construction team to secure the right quality scheme, on time and at the right price.

The course takes the knowledge of theory into practice through professional and transferable skills development appropriate for the industry. Such skills development is an essential preparation for the world of work. It includes one year of professional training placement (an integral part of the sandwich mode) for you to sample relevant 'real life' work experience. The course is also accredited by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). The development of this course has been guided by various RICS documentation including the competencies requirements. This is accessible from:

<http://www.rics.org/uk/apc/apc-uk/apc-templates-and-supporting-documents/candidate-guides/apc-requirements-and-competencies-guide/>

The course you will study has not been designed in isolation but alongside the following construction related courses:

- BSc (Hons) Construction Management
- BSc (Hons) Quantity Surveying

Your course therefore, benefits from being an integral part of a common framework. One of the main benefits to you is the flexibility to transfer at the end of your first year studies to any of the above courses within the common framework.

In summary, the course aims to:

- Provide you with the necessary knowledge, skills and attributes to become a key player in the construction team in securing project objectives;
- Equip you with the skills that will support your career and professional development;
- Prepare you for postgraduate study and lifelong learning.

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:

- Analyse and evaluate the technical, financial and contractual concepts, principles and theories associated with the procurement, production,

refurbishment, maintenance and development of construction projects. (B & C)

- Recognise and discuss the legal, economic, financial, political, technological and environmental principles, theories and practices which affect the construction process and within which construction and client organisations operate. (B & C)
- Recognise and explain the role of quantity surveyors/commercial managers and their professional and commercial contribution towards the procurement, production and development of construction projects. (B & C)
- Recognise and explain the roles of quantity surveyors/commercial managers within the project team and other professionals involved in the procurement and delivery of projects for construction clients. (B & C)
- Recognise and discuss ethics, sustainability, health and safety and other values which affect and inform the professional judgement, duty of care and responsibilities of quantity surveyors/commercial managers to all stakeholders. (B & C)

(B) Indicates that the outcome has been mapped to the QAA Building and Surveying benchmark standards accessible from:

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Pages/Subject-benchmark-statement---Building-and-surveying-.aspx>

(C) Indicates that the outcome has been mapped to the Construction Industry Council (CIC) Higher Education Graduate Common Learning Outcomes accessible from:

cic.org.uk/download.php?f=higher-edclopdf.pdf

Skills, qualities and attributes

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

- Provide appropriate advice to the different types of construction clients in meeting their project and business objectives. (B & C)
- Undertake and manage the pre and post contract procedures and processes of construction projects. (B & C)
- Utilise appropriate tools and techniques in pre and post contract risk, value and financial management. (B & C)
- Select and use effectively the necessary range of appropriate written, oral and presentation skills. (B & C)
- Select and use effectively the necessary range of numerical methods for calculating, checking and presenting solutions to problems. (B & C)
- Select and apply the necessary range of IT applications for preparing and presenting information. (B & C)
- Evaluate the appropriateness of various methods of knowledge acquisition and select appropriate research methods. (B & C)
- Evaluate a range of sources including current research, draw on evidence to reflect and evaluate competing explanations to draw appropriate conclusions. (B & C)
- Work effectively in teams through interpersonal relationships and group dynamics to agree goals, plans, and review and evaluate progress. (B & C)
- Define, investigate and analyse problems of a non-routine and unfamiliar nature and apply judgement to devise practical and creative solutions. (B & C)
- Work effectively and independently to develop intellectual curiosity (B & C).

(B) Indicates that the outcome has been mapped to the QAA Building and Surveying benchmark standards accessible from:

<http://www.gaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Pages/Subject-benchmark-statement---Building-and-surveying-.aspx>

(C) Indicates that the outcome has been mapped to the Construction Industry Council (CIC) Higher Education Graduate Common Learning Outcomes accessible from: cic.org.uk/download.php?f=higher-edclopdf.pdf

8. Teaching and Learning Methods

In the majority of modules an innovative selection of teaching and learning methods are used. Classes are a mixture of formal lectures supported by smaller group classes such as seminars, workshops, surgeries, laboratory sessions, project meetings and tutorials. The smaller group sessions are designed to be more student-led than lectures. The university also provides an online resource to support teaching and learning, called the Nottingham Trent University Online Workspace – NOW. This course and all associated modules are represented on the NOW and it is used to assist the School team in providing you with various information associated with the course and modules delivered by the tutors. Although the NOW is a useful tool for the above, it is not a substitute for your attendance in the timetabled classes.

Certain exercises based on real work problems are used in various project-based modules on the course. Collaboration and working in a team is an important skill for the profession working in a multi-disciplinary global environment. Therefore, a collaborative working and/or teamwork element is included in such modules. Analysis and problem-solving skills are further developed through the individual dissertation and project modules in the final year.

Your class contact time (timetabled lectures, seminars and the like) equates to between 25 and 30% of your learning requirements on the course. Therefore, the majority of your learning of between 70 and 75% is undertaken independently outside timetabled classes. You will progress through stages of learning as you become an autonomous learner. At Level 1 (NQF 4) you will 'learn by doing', Level 2 (NQF 5) you become an 'independent' learner, and a 'reflective' learner at Level 3 (NQF 6).

9. Assessment Methods

The assessment is based on coursework and projects as well as examinations – including electronically assessed tests. Coursework assignments can be in various forms such as essays, reports, portfolios, class presentations, laboratory work and assessments undertaken under time constrained conditions. Projects can either be individually assessed or based on one assessment for the whole group. Some of the assessments will involve you grading yourselves either for individual or team activities. Examinations and electronically assessed tests are scheduled appropriately throughout the academic year.

Different modules have different combinations of innovative assessment methods. They are designed to give you a variety of ways in which to demonstrate achievement of the range of learning outcomes and the extent to which each of these is attained to establish your degree classification.

Work Placement Year Diploma/Certificate of Professional Practice

Between Levels 2 and 3 (NQF 5 and 6) you have the opportunity of undertaking a period of work placement. Working in conjunction with the work placement office, you are assisted in identifying appropriate work placement opportunities which are then

secured through a process of application and competitive interview. In order to qualify for the Diploma of Professional Practice you will normally have:

- Completed 36 weeks (minimum requirement) of Professional Practice Placement with an approved organisation.
- Received a satisfactory report from the employer.
- Successfully completed the Professional Practice submission requirements.

A Certificate in Professional Practice is available for the successful completion of shorter periods of placement work experience (a minimum of 10 weeks).

NOTE: A Sandwich award will not be conferred with a Certificate in Professional Practice

Further information regarding the placement learning framework can be found by visiting the Placement Information area of the NOW Workspace.

10. Course structure and curriculum

The course can be studied in three different modes namely full-time, sandwich and part-time. This takes three, four and five years to complete respectively. The placement year is an integral part of the sandwich degree. The part-time route requires students to be working in appropriate employment while not in attendance at the University. Students following the part-time mode of study normally are expected to be in attendance one day per week for the duration of the academic year.

You will study a diet of modules to develop the course outcomes as follows:

Modules	Modes of study / years of study	
	Full-time / sandwich	Part-time
Level 1 (NQF 4) [120 credit points (CPs)]	Year 1	Year 1
Architectural Science & Building Engineering Services (20CPs)	✓	✓
Fundamentals of Construction and Practice (40CPs)	✓	✓
Introduction to Measurement & Costing (20CPs)	✓	✓
Law and Health & Safety (20CPs)	✓	✓
Numerical and Professional Skills(20CPs)	✓	
Practice in the workplace (20CPs)		✓

Modules	Modes of study / years of study	
	Full-time / sandwich	Part-time
Level 2 (NQF 5) [120 credit points (CPs)]	Year 2	Year 2
Measurement (20CPs)	✓	✓
Construction Technology (20CPs)	✓	✓
Law & Contemporary Economics (20CPs)	✓	✓
		Year 3
Contract Administration: Control and Finance (20CPs)	✓	✓

Project Development and Cost (20CPs)	✓	✓
Sustainable Technology with Environmental Control (20CPs)	✓	✓
Modules	Modes of study / years of study	
	Full-time / sandwich	Part-time
Level 3 (NQF 6) [120 credit points (CPs)]	Year 3	Year 4
Professional Practice and Management (40CPs)	✓	✓
Industrial Practice Quantity Surveyors (20CPs)	✓	✓
		Year 5
International Project Appraisal (20CPs)	✓	✓
Dissertation (40CPs)	✓	✓

11. Admission to the course

Entry requirements

For current information regarding all entry requirements for this course, please see the 'Applying' tab on the course information web page.

11. Support for Learning

Students are required to attend the induction course at the beginning of the first year. You will be provided with an overview of the way the course runs as well as an introduction to the IT, library and other teaching and learning resources. You will also receive a course handbook which contains the essential information about the course and the support we provide for your learning.

The course leader oversees the smooth running of the course and also serves as a source of guidance and advice for you. He/she is supported by the first year tutor, an important point of contact for you especially during the first year of your study on the course. Your subject tutors will assist you in subject specific matters. A dedicated placement advisor will assist you to find suitable employment for your placement year (for students undertaking the sandwich mode of study).

The University has an electronic resource called the NTU Online Workspace (NOW) which is also used to provide course and module information to assist your learning. Further details can be found at:

http://www.ntu.ac.uk/current_students/studying/now/index.html

The library and learning resources and IT facilities are regularly updated to meet the teaching and learning requirements of the course. Further information can be accessed from:

<http://www.ntu.ac.uk/llr/>

The University central Student Support Services offers extensive support and advice on a range of matters. Further information can be obtained from:

<http://www.ntu.ac.uk/ssss/index.html>

12. Graduate destinations / employability

Employment opportunities for our graduates within the construction industry are excellent, with 95% of Nottingham Trent University's graduates* with first degrees from full-time study are employed or engaged in further study within six months of leaving, NTU is one of the top universities in England and Wales for its graduate employment rate.

*of those available for work, HESA survey 2008/09

The university is consistently placed to the top of the league table of all UK universities for graduate employment. Stats on the unistats website show that the subject 'Building' (based on K2 JACS code) has 85% of grads working or in further study.

Generic info about employability can be found at:

<http://www.ntu.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/employability/index.html>

The following are some of the articles that highlight the excellent employability of our graduates.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2009/may/10/universityguide-nottingham-trent-uni>

http://www.ntu.ac.uk/about_ntu/

The university is ranked 2nd in the UK (top in England) for number of students on year-long work placements in Architecture, Building and Planning. The university is also 2nd in the UK for number of students on year-long work placements in Building (HESA 08/09). The placement opportunities will give you the chance to develop the transferable skills you need to succeed in the employment market.

As a University overall we are healthily placed in the top 10 across all schools and colleges for placement opportunities for students.

13. Course standards and quality

- Course and staff/student consultative committees monitor student feedback about the course and modules delivered.
- Tutors give feedback on your work.
- There are two external examiners, one of whom is an academic and the other a professionally qualified practitioner. Both the external examiners submit annual reports on the standards and quality of the course.
- The course is accredited by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and their partnership requirements are adhered to. Further information can be obtained from:
<http://www.rics.org/>
- The subject benchmarks (Building and Surveying) of the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) and the Construction Industry Council (CIC) Higher Education Graduate Common Learning Outcomes have been incorporated into the course's learning outcomes.
- The Centre of Academic Development and Quality (CADQ) provides a central resource for the introduction, maintenance and enhancement of courses of study within the University. Its guidance is sought for any quality assurance matters relating to the course. Further information is accessible from:
<http://www.ntu.ac.uk/cadq/>

14. Assessment regulations

This course is subject to the University's Common Assessment Regulations (located in its [Academic Quality Handbook](#)). Any course specific assessment features are described below:

You need to obtain 360 CPs (120 CPs in each of the years) to obtain the honours degree award. Students who do not obtain 360 credit points may be eligible for one of the following awards:

- Certificate of Higher Education – 120CPs at Level 1 (NQF 4);
- Diploma of Higher Education – 120CPs at Level 1 (NQF 4) and 120CPs at Level 2 (NQF 5);
- Ordinary degree – 120CPs at Level 1 (NQF 4), 120CPs at Level 2 (NQF 5), and 60 CPs at Level 3 (NQF 6).

Your final degree classification will be based on your level 2 and level 3 aggregated marks (30% and 70% at levels 2 and 3 respectively).

15. **Additional Information**

Collaborative partner(s):

Course referenced to national QAA Building and Surveying

Benchmark Statements: Higher Education Graduate Common Learning Outcomes - CIC

Course recognised by: RICS The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
Board of Quantity Surveyors Malaysia

Date implemented: May 2011 revised March 2012 and April 2013. Implemented September 2013

Any additional information: