

APM Academic

ACCREDITATION

CASE STUDY



NOTTINGHAM BUSINESS SCHOOL

NOTTINGHAM TRENT UNIVERSITY 

Introduction

Nottingham Trent University (NTU) is one of the largest universities in the UK, with nearly 28,000 students from around 100 different countries. It employs more than 3,500 staff across four campuses.

Nottingham Trent University has been named Modern University of the Year in *The Times* and *Sunday Times Good University Guide 2018* and has been shortlisted for the prestigious 'University of the Year' title in the Times Higher Education Awards 2017.

NTU is rated gold for the quality of its teaching and learning, the highest award in the government's Teaching Excellence Framework. Its pioneering, world-class research earned a 2015 Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher

and Further Education. The university is one of the most sustainable universities in the world and since 2009, all its electricity has been generated by renewable sources. Eighty nine per cent of NTU students would recommend studying there, according to the National Student Survey 2017.

Students can choose from a wide variety of courses at NTU, from traditional arts, humanities, sciences, business and languages to the more vocational such as teaching, journalism and construction. A range of different study options including full and part time, distance learning and short courses helps students fit their learning around their other commitments.

The university is passionate about creating opportunities and its extensive outreach programme is designed to enable Nottingham Trent to be a vehicle for social mobility. NTU is the sixth biggest recruiter of students from disadvantaged backgrounds in the country and 95.6 per cent of its graduates go on to employment or further education within six months of graduating.

A leading business school

The APM-accredited MSc Project Management is one of the latest courses to be offered by NTU's Nottingham Business School (NBS). The School has been ranked in the top five per cent of business schools worldwide by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). NBS works closely with more than 900 companies and public sector organisations nationally and internationally, ensuring an intimate understanding of today's rapidly changing business environment. This influenced its decision to introduce the MSc Project Management to its prospectus from 2017/18.

"The MSc Project Management has been designed to help students develop all the necessary skills required to design, plan and execute projects successfully," said Dr John Israilidis, course leader. "The knowledge gained from this course is transferable across a number of industries including, but not limited to, automotive, oil and gas, aerospace and defence, IT, engineering and healthcare."

Like all the courses in NBS's large and diverse faculty, the MSc Project Management is taught by expert academics and business leaders with outstanding international reputations. They provide innovative theories, huge business experience and inspiring, supportive teaching to help students combine academic achievement with practical learning that will benefit their careers from day one.

The programme modules are mapped and aligned to the *APM Body of Knowledge 6th edition*, ensuring students access the latest thinking from around the world.

Candidates for the course are expected to have a good undergraduate honours degree or equivalent and be able to demonstrate how their chosen programme of study will benefit them in their future career.



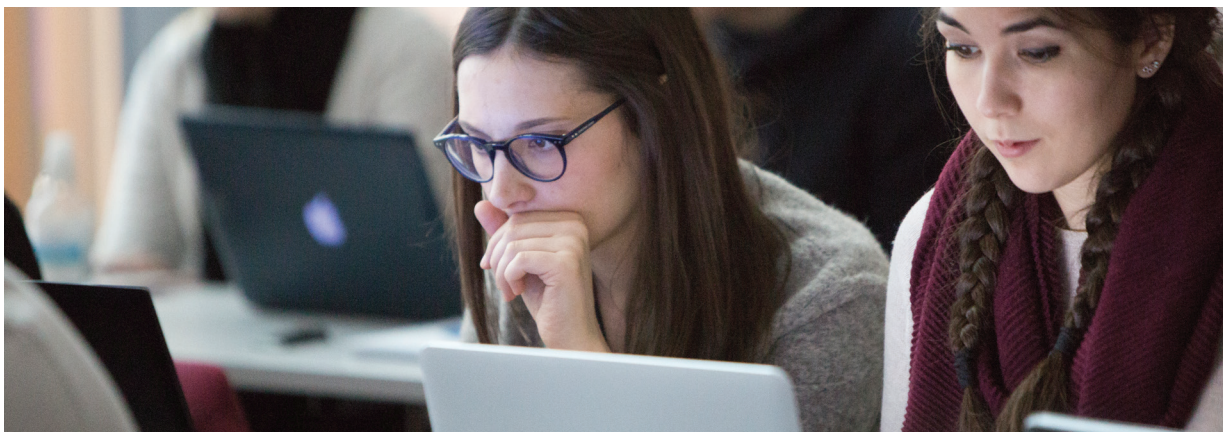
Student story 1

Shalom Bako, UK

NTU MSc Project Management students
2017-18

"I was attracted to the MSc Project Management course as it focuses on concepts that are critical for success, whether working for a company or establishing your own project or business. I also value the opportunity to gain skills that are transferable in a variety of industries. I know I won't be limiting myself with this course."

"I decided to continue my studies at Nottingham Trent University because of the incredible level of support, guidance and resources available to me during my undergraduate studies. I anticipate that the MSc Project Management will set me up with all the skills I need for a bright management future. My immediate career aspiration is to acquire a project management role in a strong firm where I will be able to apply my critical thinking, problem solving and negotiation skills attained from the course."



MSc Project Management – inspiring the future

The MSc Project Management at NBS is a full-time, one-year course with the option of a further one-year placement. It aims to give students a strong theoretical background in project and programme management and equip them with all the necessary skills and knowledge to design, plan and execute projects successfully.

The course has been designed with employers' requirements in mind, offering a broad understanding of all elements of project management such as stakeholder management, scope management, time management, cost management, quality management, risk management and people management, amongst others.

Students are encouraged to put theory and contemporary thinking into practical project management settings and acquire skills that are transferable across a number of different industries.

The MSc Project Management course has two major components: the core modules and a major project. Firstly, the core modules provide a basis for the study of project and programme management at a higher level and offer an integrated entry to modern project management principles and practice. In addition to the subject-specific modules, students are supported in managing their continuous personal and professional development to achieve sustained career success and become effective and transformational leaders.

Secondly, the course gives students the opportunity to design and undertake a major project specific to their own postgraduate goals. Whether these goals are to progress into a managerial role, become an academic researcher, or join a global company, NBS offers a relevant route through a choice of consultancy experience projects, internship experience projects and business research projects. Putting what they've learned to the test in a true-life situation, students make recommendations to the senior managers of a real organisation on how to best manage a project or programme, applying the knowledge and analytical skills they have acquired on the course.

Those studying the two-year option with a placement can take this even further, channelling everything they have learned into a final business research project.



Student story 2

Mai Quyen Le, Vietnam

**NTU MSc Project Management students
2017-18**

"I chose to study MSc Project Management because I wanted to build my skillset and open up more job opportunities. I have worked in a start-up company where we represented our partner in the EU to complete some projects in Vietnam.

"The course modules are well designed, providing students with both theoretical and practical knowledge. A plus of this course is the opportunity of a one-year work placement.

"In my opinion, Nottingham Business School is one of the top business schools in delivering a varied experience for students with different optional modules. Hence, students can personalise their learning experience to achieve their specific career goals.

"My career aspiration is to start up my own business, delivering executive projects for European SMEs to develop their businesses in Vietnam. I think the first step I need to take to achieving this goal is to equip myself with knowledge and skills to manage projects effectively which is why I feel that studying MSc Project Management is essential for me to achieve my goals."



Student story 3

Muhammad Moqarrab Abbas Raza, Pakistan
NTU MSc Project Management students
2017-18

"As a mechanical engineer, my aim is to become completely knowledgeable about managing a project and how to control different aspects of it. I had some professional project management experience recently and that's when I realised a Masters in Project Management would be the perfect way to stand out and have that edge over my fellow engineers and managers.

"Nottingham Business School has a 95 per cent employability rate for its graduates, which says a lot about the institution. That is the reason why I chose Nottingham Trent University over other universities. I have found that it's very hard to get real experience while studying and for me, the option of adding a placement year was a key selling point.

"I believe that my MSc Project Management will help me gain a project manager job either back home in Pakistan or in Dubai, where some of my family lives. Most of the jobs in gulf countries are project based and I hope that having a project management degree will open up opportunities for senior management position in a multinational company."

Making connections

Nottingham Business School students enjoy a diverse teaching and learning environment similar to that of the international organisations many of them aspire to work with after graduation. Fellow students and academic staff are from a wide variety of educational and cultural backgrounds, offering different perspectives and stimulating an innovative approach to problem solving. The group work that's a particular feature of the MSc Project Management course exposes students to different teaching, learning and assessment styles. Through this they gain a number of essential skills for their future careers including learning to work effectively with others, communication, presentation, negotiation, report writing, analytical and, most importantly, critical thinking skills.

Each MSc Project Management module is delivered over a four-week period, with teaching delivered in three weeks and the fourth week left clear for assessment work. This enables students to focus on one subject at a time, while allowing time for preparation and assessment work.

Thanks to NBS's extensive business partnerships, MSc Project Management students benefit from valuable extra-curricular opportunities such as the Business Leader Lecture Series. This sees students learn from senior leaders of major organisations including IBM, Experian, Unilever, Santander, Ford, Alliance Boots, Toyota and the Chartered Institute of Marketing.

As well as being supported to find the right career move after completing the course through NBS's business connections, graduates can also go on to register for a PhD or Doctorate of Business Administration.

Valuable partnership

Nottingham Business School seeks to be an active participant in and connected with internationally renowned project management networks. Therefore it saw APM as a natural choice with which to start a partnership.

The learning outcomes and philosophy of NBS's MSc Project Management course was designed to reflect and support APM's professional values as well as being in line with the School's own mission and values.

The partnership gives MSc Project Management students at NBS a real advantage. As well as a professional, APM-accredited qualification making them more marketable to prospective employers, they enjoy a range of other benefits. These include access to a substantial database of practitioner resources and APM events and an opportunity to apply for formal membership status.

Testimonials

"Nottingham Business School introduced the new MSc Project Management in response to employers' increasing calls for graduates with specialist skills in this area, and consequently students' and alumni requests for project management specialisations in business and management degrees. Over the past five years we have seen a number of graduate level students go on to careers in this field. By studying a rigorous curriculum, accredited by the APM, characterised by experiential learning in which there are a number of opportunities to apply learning to real projects and work, graduates will be fully equipped to enter this growing segment of the graduate jobs market."

Dr Alex Hiller

Head of postgraduate courses at NBS



"We are truly delighted to have received recognition from APM through accreditation of our new MSc in Project Management. This is an active demonstration of our commitment to providing the highest possible standards in learning and ensuring that our course remains up-to-date with the latest project management developments."

Dr John Israilidis

Course leader



"Many of today's project managers started off in another discipline and were 'rewarded' for being recognised as a competent manager by being given the opportunity to manage a project 'off the side of their desk', with on-the-job training at best. Too many projects failed to deliver what they could have as a result. As growing organisations become bigger, they outgrow this approach and recognise the need for broader and deeper education as preparation for specialist project managers. It is in this environment that I believe employers in the region will value the expertise of those completing the MSc in Project Management from the Nottingham Business School."

Julian Bond

Head of ICT, Hillarys, one of the business partners working with Nottingham Trent University to support the project management course

Association for Project Management

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FIVEDimensions of Professionalism

APM Corporate Accreditation

APM Corporate Accreditation will help you stand out as an exemplar in the development of project management professionals. It provides assurances to your customers and suppliers and allows you to attract and retain the best project management talent in the country.

APM Corporate Accreditation recognises the commitment of organisations and professional development services to the defined APM FIVE Dimensions of Professionalism, each of which is supported by an APM standard:

Breadth

The *APM Body of Knowledge* defines the knowledge needed to manage any kind of project. It underpins many project management standards and methods including the National Occupational Standard in Project Management.

Depth

The *APM Competence Framework* provides a guide to project management competences. It is part of your professional toolkit; mapping levels of knowledge and experience to help you progress your skills and abilities.

Achievement

APM qualifications take your career in new and exciting directions. They are recognised across the profession and aligned with IPMA's 4 level Certification Program.

Commitment

Continuing Professional Development helps develop your project management practice. A targeted development plan will enhance your project management career.

Accountability

The APM Code of Professional Conduct outlines the ethical practice expected of a professional. Becoming an APM member shows your commitment to the Code and sets you apart from others.