



**Nottingham Business School**

**Doctorate of Business Administration  
(DBA)**

## **A full-service business school**

Established in 1979, Nottingham Business School was one of the first full-service business schools in the UK, providing undergraduate, postgraduate and professional courses. We are also part of Nottingham Trent University, a leading new university in the UK, we provide first-class teaching and learning facilities.

## **Specialist centres**

The School has a number of specialist centres which comprise teams of dedicated business academics who bring together specialist knowledge in general and sector-specific corporate management education.

These cover a variety of sectors, including:

- talent management and development
- business performance and lean leadership
- public service management



Nottingham Business School's mission is to transform business and industrial performance by development, application and diffusion of innovative business practice and education.

## About Nottingham Business School

Our full-service approach involves the application of knowledge, applied research and action learning through strong links with business, industry and the professions. We are committed to providing Business education and research in an environment of partnership and collaboration, with both businesses and other educational providers in the UK and overseas.

We are dedicated to the provision of in-company management education and development solutions, where we offer award-bearing programmes, accreditation, training and consultancy to a wide range of blue-chip and public-sector organisations.

Because we are able to be flexible and responsive to business needs, we provide high-quality student and client experiences that are capable of having a transformational impact on individual and organisational success.

## Thinking globally; acting locally

The Business School's impressive working relationships with public and private-sector organisations in the UK and overseas provides our students with enviable opportunities for work-based learning and career progression. Our excellent reputation for applied research in the international arena demonstrates our commitment to maintaining a global presence and real-world vision that ensure the communication of new perspectives and innovative thinking at the heart of all our courses.

Our international work is central to our mission of transforming business and industrial performance through world-class research, education and consultancy. The School has links with more than 600 companies and institutions across 40 different countries, providing management development, collaborative educational partnerships, international internships, faculty mobility and student exchange.

## Professional excellence through accreditation

Nottingham Business School enjoys accreditation from a range of prestigious organisations, providing direct benefits to participants of our courses:

- Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) recognition for the DBA and post-graduate research programmes.
- Courses accredited by the Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM) and the Chartered Institute of Public Financial Accountants (CIPFA).
- Members of the European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD), the Association of Business Schools (ABS) and a member of the confederation of British Industry.

# Doctorate of Business Administration

The DBA is designed to improve business and managerial practice through the development of the personal, intellectual and academic abilities of participants; via a research based project. It has a strong and committed focus on managerial and professional practice, and seeks to link the rigorous study of work-based problems and issues to personal and professional development, thereby ensuring transfer of learning into organisational and managerial practice.

## The DBA:

- Is a research based programme. Students identify a work or industry based research project which they undertake over the duration of the programme.
- Is a professional doctorate that has the dual aims of making a contribution to both knowledge and practice.
- Research project is broken up into sequential chunks. Each chunk, or document, is assessed when completed so that students receive frequent summative feedback.
- Requires students working on document 3 to look at an aspect of their project using qualitative research and document 4 requires them to look at an aspect of their project using quantitative research. This is to ensure that they have a broad competence in management research. For document 5 students can make their own choice of research methods to answer the remaining research question of their project.
- Makes considerable use of learning sets as a form of peer support.
- Provides research methods workshops at appropriate points in the programme to develop the capabilities needed at each stage of the project.
- Provides each student with two supervisors to guide them in their research. One supervisor will be based in the local region and the other will be based at Nottingham Business School.
- The first four assessed documents are assessed by the students' supervisors, the final two documents are assessed by independent internal and external assessors in a viva voce examination.
- Allows students, as a right, to have a fourth year, if necessary, to complete their DBA.

## Why study for the DBA at Nottingham Business School?

The Doctorate of Business Administration has the same academic standing as a PhD. It is similarly a research-based qualification. Participants can therefore expect a challenging, stretching and demanding experience conducted in a stimulating atmosphere of intellectual and academic debate.

### Practical perspective

Established approaches to advanced study through independent research are traditionally focused on academic training. The Business School's DBA focuses on meeting the professional and personal needs of those working in demanding managerial roles. The DBA is also enriched through the contribution of distinguished visiting staff and speakers, exploring issues in alternative management contexts.

### Challenging traditional management understanding

The DBA encourages participants to challenge currently assumed knowledge and understanding of management. We support individuals' commitment to finding new, innovative and personal responses to their organisational and managerial roles.

## Supportive research community

Nottingham Business School's DBA provides a supportive environment, encouraging networking between peers, academics and guest speakers.

## The DBA aims:

- To help participants explore the relationship between theory and practice; between understanding the world and changing it.
- To help participants develop their judgement, foresight and problem analysis by applying theoretical and forensic skills to the research material derived from their investigations.
- To help participants develop as reflective practitioners who have the intellectual and personal adaptability to be able to deal with organisational change and ambiguity.
- To develop communication skills which enable participants to communicate effectively with both the academic and the managerial / business communities, and to act as interpreters between the two.
- To help participants to design and implement a research project at the boundaries of knowledge in their professional and managerial fields.

## Course overview

Nottingham Business School's DBA demands commitment, energy and hard work. In return it offers a stimulating and enjoyable development experience with the award of an increasingly valued and valuable qualification.

The delivery has been specifically designed to meet the needs of participants in demanding jobs. There is a series of six workshops, two of which last 2 days and four of which last 3 days. The two day workshops will be held on a Friday and Saturday and the three day workshops will be on a Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

## Assessment

The award of the DBA will be on the basis of successful completion of the six pieces of assessed work detailed in the table across.

Nottingham Business School recognises that some individuals may not complete the final thesis of 30,000 words. In the event of non-completion of the thesis, where all other assessment requirements have been met, participants can exit the programme with a Master of Philosophy (MPhil).

Examination of each participant's thesis will involve a *viva voce* and an external assessor with expertise in the subject or topic area of the thesis.



## Structure

| Year          | Module                              | Workshops   | Location      | No of days | Students' Documentation   | Words                 |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|---|---------------|------------|---|-----------------------|
| Year 1        | Module 1                            | 1. Introduction to the DBA and the researcher / supervisor relationship | Dubai         | 2 days     | Document 1: scoping and planning of the DBA project                       | 5,000 words min.      |
| Year 1        | Module 2 part 1                     | 2. Theories and management research                                     | Nottingham UK | 2 days     | --  | --                    |
| Year 1        | Module 2 part 2 and module 3 part 1 | 3. Critical literature review & introduction to qualitative research    | Dubai         | 3 days     | Document 2: A critical literature review and initial conceptual framework | 10,000 - 15,000 words |
| Year 2        | Module 3 part 2                     | 4. Qualitative & interpretive research                                  | Nottingham UK | 3days      | Document 3: A report on a piece of qualitative research                   | 10,000 - 15,000 words |
| Year 2        | Module 4                            | 5. Quantitative research methods  | Dubai         | 3 days     | Document 4: A report on a piece of quantitative research                  | 10,000 - 15,000 words |
| Year 3        | Module 5                            | 6. Planning for the thesis and reflexive critique                       | Dubai         | 3 days     | Document 5: A research based thesis                                       | 30,000 words min.     |
|               |                                     |   |               |            | Document 6: A reflective journal  | 5,000 words min.      |
| <b>Totals</b> |                                     | 6 workshops   |               | 16 days    | 6 assessed items  | Approx. 80,000 words  |

### Annual DBA Conference

It is an optional one day conference to be held in Nottingham to which all DBA graduates and current students will be invited. It will provide recent DBA researchers an opportunity to learn from the experience of others who are doing or have done the programme.

In addition to the above, participants will form Action Learning Sets at the start of the programme which will operate throughout the three years. Sets are intended to provide a mechanism for mutual support and will be required to meet for a minimum of once per term.

Each participant will be assigned two supervisors to support them in their research, and will be entitled to a specified minimum number of hours for supervisory meetings.

# World-class facilities and recourses

Nottingham is a busy cultural centre which boasts some of the best art galleries, theatres, museums, cinemas and live performance venues. A vibrant city for students, Nottingham has bustling shopping areas, sites of historical interest, great entertainment venues and surrounding countryside.

Nottingham also enjoys good transport links with an international airport nearby and road and rail links to major cities within the rest of the country. Nottingham Trent University is situated right in the centre of this exciting city.

We want our students to have a rich, enjoyable experience studying at Nottingham Business School. We realise that returning to study after some years away may be a daunting experience, so we pay great attention to ensuring that all students have access to the best support, facilities and resources.

## Facilities

Over the past three years the University has invested in creating what we believe to be the finest city centre campus in the UK. At the heart of this is the redevelopment of two iconic and historic buildings – Newton and Arkwright. In addition to lecture theatres, catering and IT resources, the Newton building houses a one-stop-shop giving students access to a comprehensive range of support services covering everything from enrolment to careers advice, counselling to volunteering.

## Library and Learning Resources

Whether you study full or part-time, all students have access to our outstanding Library and Learning Resources centres. With over 400,000 books, 28,000 journals, thousands of hours of audio-visual material and an array of special collections, all the information you need is right here for you. Many of these resources are available online and can be accessed from anywhere in the world. Our on-campus computer facilities are plentiful, with Internet access at all terminals and some available 24 hours a day. You can also access learning resources and network with fellow students and tutors via our cutting-edge virtual learning environment, NOW (NTU Online Workspace).

## Support

We want all students to feel comfortable in our well-supported environment. As well as day-to-day support from your lecturers, we also offer a wide range of support services for any specific concerns you may have. We have specialist advisors available in careers, finance, counselling, disabilities and international support among others.





## Entry requirements

Candidates for the DBA should normally meet all of the following criteria:

- Hold a MPhil, MBA or other Master-level degree in the field of Business and Management or Organisation Studies.
- Hold, or have held, a post which includes managerial responsibilities OR have been in a position to be able to observe organisational and managerial practice.
- Have the potential to conduct research and write a thesis at doctoral level.

Prospective candidates not meeting any of the above criteria should contact the Course Leader to discuss the possible relevance of alternative qualifications.

**International students will need to provide evidence of English language proficiency, to the following levels:**

IELTS (International English Language Testing Service): 6.5 minimum with at least 6 in reading and writing.

TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language): 600 minimum with a TWE (Test for Written English) of at least 5.

Applicants with a first degree and / or Masters qualification taught and assessed in English are exempt from IELTS / TOEFL requirements.

## How to apply

All applicants are required to complete a Nottingham Trent University application form, submit copies of their qualifications and provide two confidential references.

The application form and explanatory notes can be downloaded from:

[www.stafford.ae](http://www.stafford.ae)

Before completing the application form, please ensure that you read the Notes for Guidance carefully.

In order to ensure that your application is dealt with as efficiently as possible, please return your application form and all associated documentation (including references) to our partners in the Middle East **Stafford Associates**.

## Stafford Associates

Knowledge Village  
Block 6, Office F01

Dubai - United Arab Emirates  
Tel: **+971 4 3901685**

Beirut - Lebanon  
Tel: **+961 4 546777**

Email: **dba@stafford.ae**  
**www.stafford.ae**

## Graduate profile - DBA Matt Stephenson

"I feel that undertaking postgraduate study can increasingly improve your career prospects. With its excellent reputation, Nottingham Business School is a forward-thinking institution.

"I currently work for Saint Gobain Building Distribution as a project manager and am certain that the qualification will be of great value to me.

"I chose to study at Nottingham Trent University as I had studied here previously and enjoyed the teaching style. I was impressed with the professional emphasis of the course and would recommend it to other prospective students.

"Nottingham Business School is constantly adapting to demands from the market. The highly skilled teaching staff effectively relate academic concepts to real-world scenarios. The learning experience is improved by fellow students, all offering mutual support, and we all share a great sense of humour.

"Studying the DBA has helped me to improve my skills in communication, lateral thinking and analysis.

## Our partners in the Middle East



Stafford Associates was formed in 1993 with the sole intention of providing assistance to the business professionals in the Middle East to achieve good quality internationally recognised qualifications that would mark them as serious managers and advance their careers.

Starting with 7 students in 1993 over a decade later they are involved with an average of 2000 students a year. All are serious minded busy managers proving to the world that they mean to succeed.

Located in Dubai Knowledge Village, Stafford is entirely focused on assisting full-time professionals in business to accelerate their careers through independent and blended learning.

### A WORD FROM STAFFORD

With associate offices in Dubai, Beirut and Saudi Arabia, we pride ourselves on our commitment to the academic and business success of our students, our excellent relationships with our UK universities, our integrity and the high quality of our academic and administrative support staff.

And now with over 3500 graduated professionals as friends, we aim to carry our mission forward to the next generation of students.

Our pride in our students is doubled every time we attend their Graduation ceremonies at the University itself.

### OUR MISSION

We exist to add value to the community and the economy of the region through improving the performance of people and companies.

Why not join us?

## Nottingham Business School

Nottingham Trent University  
Burton Street  
Nottingham  
NG1 4BU

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

This leaflet can be made available in alternative formats.

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