

Nutrition and Food

Frequently Asked Questions

What happens if I miss a grade?

We understand that your exam performances might not always go to plan and so we aim to be as flexible as we can be in making you an offer to study with us. Although our typical offer requirements are AAB we also consider students with ABB to be highly competitive applicants for our courses. Our advice is to get in touch with our Admissions Tutor, Dr Kirsten Brandt if you need to discuss your offer in more detail: kirsten.brandt@ncl.ac.uk

What are class sizes like?

The majority of your modules are taken solely by Nutrition and Dietetics students, with class sizes of less than 100 students. You will have a mixture of lectures, smaller seminar sessions, and practical classes. Practical classes take place either in the recently refurbished Biomedical Sciences laboratories or in our new Food Kitchen facility where you will have one lecturer who runs the session and a demonstrator for every 20 students.

How many students drop out?

Our completion rates are very high. Overall approx. 95% of students complete their degree programme.

Is there a reading list to prepare me for the start of the course?

We do not send out a reading list in advance as we feel you should enjoy your summer and come to University refreshed and ready to study. However we are happy to advise students who wish to do additional reading. Please contact us for more information: bns.ugadmin@ncl.ac.uk

How will I be assessed?

We use a range of assessment methods which have been carefully designed to reflect and reinforce the aims and learning outcomes of each of the modules on our degree programme. This will include practical work, oral presentations, essays and exam questions. Our assessments include questions from a variety of types (essays, short answer, numerical questions, data manipulation, data analysis, problem-solving and idea generation) and assess factual knowledge and theoretical understanding.

Are you able to take a placement year?

We strongly recommend students to take a placement year usually between their second and third year of study. If you would like to do this our dedicated Nutrition and Food careers advisor can help you apply for a placement. Students on year-out placements are paid by the company they are working for, or are eligible for a student loan. You will pay a reduced fee during your placement year.

What is the weekly timetable?

Our timetable varies to some extent from week to week, and across the three years of the degree programme. In year 1, students can expect an average of 9 lectures, 1 seminar and 1 half day practical class per week. In addition there may be skills sessions (for example library and IT skills).

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What personal support is available?

When you start university you will be assigned a personal tutor, who will be responsible for guiding and advising you throughout your degree.

Your tutor can help with matters relating to your course and can also advise about sources of support if you have personal difficulties. It is important that you develop a good relationship with your tutor so we allow you to change your tutor on request, or to ask for a tutor of your gender. To ensure you receive excellent support, our tutors are assigned no more than 4 new students each year, so each tutor has a maximum of 12 tutees. There is one dedicated senior tutor for Nutrition (Dr Helen Mason: helen.mason2@ncl.ac.uk) as well as a Degree Programme Director (Gerry O'Brien: gerard.o'brien@ncl.ac.uk) who can also help.

The University has a very well-developed support network, including a student advice centre, counselling service and disability support. Further information is available on the website at www.ncl.ac.uk/wellbeing/

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<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/bns/nutrition-food>
blogs.ncl.ac.uk/bns

School of
Biomedical, Nutritional and Sport Sciences

Will I be able to combine part time work with my studies?

A large number of students have part time jobs, but it is important to balance any commitments to an employer with your university studies so that your work does not suffer and you do not subject yourself to unnecessary stress.

The teaching day runs from 9am-6pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and from 9am-1pm on Wednesdays, so you must ensure that you are available to attend university during these times. Any part time work you take on should be on a weekend, evening or Wednesday afternoon. Whilst we appreciate that many students need to work part-time for financial reasons, it is important that you do not commit to too many hours.

We suggest 15 hours per week as an absolute maximum, and less than this as you progress through the course.

More information about part-time work can be found on our Careers website at www.ncl.ac.uk/careers/jobs/parttime

Further questions?

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact us:
e: bns.ugadmin@ncl.ac.uk
T: 0191 208 8200