

FAQ – MSc in Sustainable Building Design

(Updated as at 28 Dec 2011)

SN	Question	Answer
(A) About the Course		
1	What is the name of the course?	Master of Science in Sustainable Building Design
2	When will the course start?	The next intake will start in September 2012. Future intakes will also start in September.
3	How long is the course?	The course can be completed within 2 years (including the Dissertation) at BCA Academy, on a part-time basis.
4	What is the cost of the course?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MSc course fee is S\$22,500 (before GST). • The fee excludes non-refundable application fee of S\$50 (before GST) and cost of textbooks. Students will need to pay for the textbooks.
5	Who will award the MSc degree?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MSc degree will be awarded by The University of Nottingham (United Kingdom). • The award (including transcripts) will be the same as those conferred for studies on-campus at Nottingham University.
6	How big will the class size be?	For optimal learning experience, we expect that each cohort will be between 20 to 40 students.
7	How many subjects/modules are there?	<p>There are total <u>8 modules (180 credits)</u>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Principles of Environmental Design (15 credits) 2. Environmental Design Strategies (15 credits) 3. Tall Buildings, Urban Design, Climate and the Environment (15 credits) 4. Architecture, Climate and the Environment (30 credits) 5. Energy Efficient Technologies (15 credits) 6. Renewable Energy Design (15 credits) 7. Energy Efficient Design (15 credits) 8. Dissertation (60 credits) – April to September 2014
8	What are the conditions to be awarded the degree of MSc in SBD?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be awarded the degree of MSc in Sustainable Building Design, <u>all</u> modules (including Dissertation) must achieve <u>at least 50%</u> passing mark. • In the event that the student only achieved between 40% and 49% for each module, he/she may be

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		considered for the award of a Post-Graduate Diploma in Sustainable Building Design.
9	When is the Graduation?	The University of Nottingham will conduct the Graduation ceremony in Singapore in February, tentatively.
10	Can I enroll in individual module?	No. The enrolment is for the full MSc course only.
11	Can GMM or GMP graduates be exempted from certain modules of MSc?	No. The GMM and GMP courses are not university-level courses per se. Hence, the University of Nottingham will not be able to exempt these groups of participants for the MSc course.
(B) Admission / Application Procedure		
1	What are the admission criteria?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A general degree from built environment related course – this include Engineering, Architecture, Building Science, Property & Asset Management, Real Estate, Facilities Management, Building Management • Relevant degree holder with no working experience can also apply • For those whose undergraduate degree is not obtained from an English conducted course, they will be required to submit 1 of the following English language qualification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TOEFL (paper based): 550 with at least 4.0 in TWE ○ TOEFL (internet based): 213 with at least 4.0 in TWE ○ IELTS 6.0 with at least Band 5 in all elements • Application is subject to the university's final approval.
2	What are the supporting documents needed for application?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application form for the programme can be downloaded from www.bcaa.edu.sg/MScSBD.aspx • Application form must be submitted by hard copy, together with all supporting documents and a non-refundable fee of S\$50 (before GST), to Enrolment Office, BCA Academy, 200 Braddell Road, Singapore 579700 by 18 March 2012 during Monday to Friday

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		<p style="text-align: center;">from 8.30am to 5.30pm.</p> <p>At time of application, you must provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. relevant supporting documents including academic transcripts and degree (to be certified true by BCAA), curriculum vitae, two original reference letters, colour photo; 2. Application fee (non-refundable) of S\$50 before GST; 3. English language qualification (if necessary); 4. For non-Singaporean national and PR, a photocopy of the Employment or S-Pass or PR documents must also be included with the application.
3	When is the closing of the application?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2012 cohort will commence on 5 September 2012. • Closing date for application will be on <u>18 March 2012</u>.
4	How long will it take to process my application?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If all documents are in order, the applicant would be able to know the application status in July 2012. • Applicants who are admitted into the programme will receive a <i>Letter of Offer</i> for placement from the University, through BCA Academy. The <i>Letter of Offer</i> must be accepted and signed by the applicant within 2 weeks upon offer to confirm the placement. Enrolment process will follow subsequently.
(C) Selling Points of the Course		
1	What is the benefit of this course? (How does it benefit me? Why should I enroll in this course?)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The University is ranked top 75 globally (<i>Source: QS World University Ranking 2011/12</i>). 2. The university is more than 120 years of history! They are one of the leading institutes with special focus in the sustainable development courses. Its China campus (in Ningbo) has a “Centre for Sustainable Energy Technologies” that focus research on energy efficient technology, renewable energy technology, low-energy high-rise buildings, solar

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		<p>energy utilisation etc.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The course's inter-disciplinary approach to latest sustainable technologies will help students better prepared for the new growth sector of our economy. 4. Graduates would be able to command good career prospects, as it's a first-of-its kind with the focus on sustainable building design. The course covers global perspective in sustainable building design relating to <u>tropical & temperate climatic</u> conditions. Hence, your skills and knowledge will be an asset to your career development. You are in a forefront position for jobs, especially those involving overseas job assignments (e.g., in Middle East, eco-city projects in China etc). 5. All modules are taught by faculty from the University (from their UK campus). There is strong emphasis on developing cross-disciplinary skills, analysis and decision-making skills. Students will be exposed to computer modeling & simulation techniques, renewal energy design, solar passive design, high impact energy efficient systems & integrated environmental design. 6. Every student will be assigned a personal & academic tutor. (100% attention from the faculty!)
2	<p>What are the job prospects for fresh graduates with limited or no working experience? (For fresh/young grads joining the course)</p>	<p>The course covers a <u>global perspective</u> in Sustainable Building Design relating to <u>tropical and temperate</u> climatic conditions. Hence, you will be equipped with relevant knowledge and skills to take up jobs from local/international firms and participate in overseas projects such as in the Middle East / Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-City.</p>
3	<p>How will this MSc degree value add to existing industry practitioners' career? (For those who have been working in the industry for</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current industry practitioners will also benefit greatly from the course. You can <u>become specialists offering niche services</u> in building energy optimization, renewable energy design, solar passive design, or offering computer modeling and simulation services to help clients achieve higher BCA

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	many years)	<p>Green Mark rating to Gold plus and Platinum rating.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The course will further enhance students' analytical and decision-making skills & <u>expose them to best concepts, practices and technology adopted in Europe.</u> Eventually, you can further help to nurture and build up export capabilities of their firms.
(D) Course Delivery		
1	How are these modules conducted?	<p>The course consists of six 15-credit modules, one 30-credit modules, and a Dissertation which is a 60 credit module.</p> <p><u>For 15 credit module (taught over 1 week):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday + Thursday evenings (6pm – 9pm) • 1 Friday (9.00am – 5.00pm) • 1 Saturday (9.00am – 5.00pm) • 2-hour video conference tutorial (6.30pm – 8.30pm) • Thereafter to complete & submit assignment for the module <p><u>For 30 credit module (taught over 2 separate weeks about 3 to 4 weeks apart):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday + Thursday x 2 evenings (6pm – 9.30pm) • Friday x 2 teaching sessions (9.00am – 6.30pm) • Saturday x 2 teaching sessions (9.00am – 6.30pm) • 2-hour video conferencing tutorial (6.30pm – 8.30pm) <p><u>For Dissertation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be introductory & briefing sessions at BCA Academy. • Supervision by university academic through email/video conferencing as appropriate. • The length of the Dissertation would be between 12,000 to 15,000 words.
2	Is there a minimum attendance requirement?	Yes. Student must achieve <u>at least 75% attendance.</u> This is part of the requirement for the programme fee subsidy.

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3	<p>The course requires working people like me to take time off/annual leave to attend the classes during weekdays. It is quite a challenge as we may be traveling/busy. How many days of leave would I need to set aside for the course?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is anticipated that you will need to <u>set aside 8 days off/annual leave</u> for the weekdays training over a 2-year period. <p><u>Workings below</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For 15 credit module, 1 day leave/module x 6 modules = 6 weekdays for classes. • For 30 credit module, 1 weekday/session x 2 sessions = 2 weekdays for classes • Total = 8 weekdays leave over 2 years (which is not a lot for academic study).
4	<p>What if I missed the class due to traveling, MC etc? Is there a make-up session?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no make-up session per se. • However, the University is exploring the possibility of offering online video lesson where students could catch up on the missed lesson. As much as possible, we strongly suggest you not to miss any lesson as you would miss the opportunity to interact directly with the university faculty – nothing can replace the face-to-face / 2-way interaction with the university lecturer. • Also, students must meet at least 75% class attendance.
5	<p>How are students assessed?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The assessments are usually in the form of projects or assignments. • There is no examination as the course focuses on the application of the design concepts/tools. • The lecturers will inform the students during class commencement the format of assessment.
6	<p>What is the minimum passing mark?</p>	<p>Minimum pass mark is <u>50%</u> for each module.</p>
<p>(E) About Subsidy / Payment</p>		
1	<p>Is there any subsidy?</p>	<p>Yes. Limited subsidy placement is available for Singapore Citizen and Singapore Permanent Resident (SPR):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Singapore Citizen, 75% subsidy on programme fee (excluding GST) is available. With the subsidy, the net payable programme fee is S\$6,018.75 (inclusive of

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		<p>GST).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For SPR, 60% subsidy on programme fee (excluding GST) is available. With the subsidy, the net payable programme fee is S\$9,630 (inclusive of GST).
2	What is the eligibility of the subsidy?	The candidate must be a Singapore Citizen or Singapore Permanent Resident working in Singapore's building industry.
3	Is there any conditions tied to the subsidy?	Yes, there trainee must achieve 75% class attendance for the entire duration of the course.
4	How is the payment schedule? How do I pay?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The course fee is S\$22,500 (before GST) per student. 2. Candidates are required to pay the fee in 3 installments to BCA Academy <u>before commencement of the class</u>. 3. At time of application, you must also submit relevant supporting documents including academic transcripts, degree, coloured photo & non-refundable application fee of S\$50 (before GST). <p>For Singapore Citizen who qualifies for 75% Programme Fee Subsidy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1st installment of S\$2,407.50 (inclusive of GST) to be paid to BCA Academy by 15 August 2012; ○ 2nd installment of S\$1,605 (inclusive of GST) shall be paid to BCA Academy by 30 April 2013; and ○ 3rd installment of S\$2,006.25 (inclusive of GST) to be paid to BCA Academy by 31 Jan 2014. <p>For Singapore Permanent Resident who qualifies for 60% Programme Fee Subsidy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1st installment of S\$3,852 (inclusive of GST) to be paid to BCA Academy by 15 August 2012; ○ 2nd installment of S\$2,568 (inclusive of GST) shall be paid to BCA Academy by 30 April 2013; and ○ 3rd installment of S\$3,210 (inclusive of GST) to be paid to BCA Academy by 31 Jan 2014.

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		<p>For candidate who does not qualify for Programme Fee Subsidy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 1st installment of S\$9,630 (inclusive of GST) to be paid to BCA Academy by 15 August 2012;○ 2nd installment of S\$6,420 (inclusive of GST) shall be paid to BCA Academy by 30 April 2013; and○ 3rd installment of S\$8,025 (inclusive of GST) to be paid to BCA Academy by 31 Jan 2014. <p><i>Note: The calculation is based on existing GST of 7%. The installment amount will be adjusted if there is a revision to the GST rate.</i></p>
4	Is there any 0% installment plan?	We do not offer 0% installment plan. The programme fee is paid over 3 installments.