

**Practice Certificate in Independent and Supplementary Prescribing for Nurses (PGCert)
For students entering in 2016/17**

Awarding Institution:	The University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	The University of Reading
Faculty:	Life Sciences
Programme length:	26 days over 6 months
Date of specification:	January 2016
Programme Director:	Prof. Angela Alexander
Board of Studies:	Pharmacy
School:	Centre for Inter-Professional Postgraduate Education and Training (CIPPET), SCFP
Accreditation:	Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)

Summary of programme aims

To prepare nurses, midwives and health visitors to prescribe as Independent Prescribers and as Supplementary prescribers.

The programme is intended to develop practitioners who can assess, manage and treat conditions without recourse to a doctor. This will enhance the quality of care offered to patients/clients. They are required to demonstrate advanced decision making skills and a critically evaluative approach to their practice.

Transferable skills

Nurses entering this programme come with a wealth of skills developed in many areas of clinical practice. The programme enables them to undertake differential diagnosis and then to prescribe medicines from the British National Formulary and as supplementary prescribers. Students having completed this programme will be able to offer patients/clients an enhanced level of care.

Programme content

The course has a strong practice focus and will emphasise and develop nurses' skills in consultation and examination. The use of evidence based practice will be encouraged throughout and the principles of clinical pharmacology and influences on the psychology of prescribing will also be addressed. The legal, ethical and accountability issues around prescribing will be examined and great emphasis will be placed on the students working within their level of competence.

<i>Module code</i>	<i>Module title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
PMMNIP	Independent / supplementary prescribing for nurses	60	7

Summary of teaching and assessment

As students will come from a wide range of professional nursing experience they will be supported in reflecting on experience and identifying individual learning needs. This will be facilitated by a personal tutor and a Designated Medical Practitioner (DMP) in the practice placement. Students will be required to maintain a portfolio of learning throughout the course.

Both teacher-centred and student-centred approaches will be employed, depending on a number of influencing factors, *e.g.* nature of topic, learning environment *etc.* Teacher-centred methods will include appropriately guided discussion and demonstrations, case studies, lectures and tutorials. Student-

centred methods may include brainstorming; buzz groups, debate-discussion groups, interview, role play, seminars, workshops, clinical practice and relevant visits.

There will be four elements to the assessment

<i>Element</i>	<i>Criteria of success</i>
1. Portfolio assessment, to include Therapeutic Profile(s), Reflective reports, and Clinical Management Plan(s)	Evidence of achievement of all learning outcomes at a Level 7 pass
2. Exam, comprising short and long answers and multiple choice questions (MCQs) and a numeracy exam	50% for long answers and 80% or more for short answers and MCQs, 100% for the numeracy exam
3. Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)	Evidence of achievement of all essential outcomes and 50% or more for other assessed outcomes
4. Statement of competence and completion of period of learning in practice by the Designated Medical Practitioner (DMP)	Pass/Fail

Work will be assessed on a University wide scale, as follows:-

Passing categories:

- ≥70% Work of distinction standard
- 60-69% Work of merit standard
- 50-59% Pass/ work of good standard

For all assessed elements, original work will be expected in the sense that the synthesis of the material will have to be original to the student.

Failing categories:

- 40-49% Work below threshold standard (BTS)
- <40% Unsatisfactory Work

University regulations for re-sitting assessments and re-submissions will be followed.

Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained a first degree or provide evidence of the ability to study at Masters level.

They must also demonstrate:

Registration on Part 1, 2 or 3 of professional register of Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC)

The course is for **experienced** nurses working in primary and secondary care who need to prescribe medication for patients in order to complete an episode of care. This could include nurses working in general practice, family planning clinics, Macmillan nurses, those working in NHS Walk in Centres and nurses working in the secondary care *i.e.* nurse consultants, clinical nurse specialists and emergency nurse practitioners. Students must have the equivalent of three years full time experience following registration and meet the NMC admissions criteria for such programmes.

Admissions Tutor: Angela Alexander

Support for students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support includes IT Services, which has several hundred computers and the University Library, which across its three sites holds over a million volumes, subscribes to around 4,000 current periodicals, has a range of electronic sources of information and houses the Student Access to Independent Learning (S@IL) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, the Careers Advisory Service, and the University's Special Needs Advisor, Study Advisors, Hall Wardens and the Students' Union.

Career prospects

Having completed this course, nurses will have enhanced skills. It will enable them to provide a better standard of care for patients/clients and will also improve their career prospects.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

Not Applicable

Programme Outcomes

The course aims to provide nurses with the skills to diagnose, manage and treat patients who fall within their sphere of competence.

Programme Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

<p>A. Knowledge and understanding of: Assessment and diagnosis</p> <p>Safety Netting</p> <p>Critically assess the limits of their competence</p> <p>The BNF</p> <p>Examine the different roles when prescribing as an Independent or a supplementary prescriber</p>	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies The knowledge required is delineated through formal lectures, guided discussion and case studies of case studies in which prescribing may be a possible outcome.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i> Portfolio OSCE Written examination</p>
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Skills and other attributes

<p>B. Intellectual skills – able to: Differentiate minor illness from more serious conditions</p> <p>Analyse their own level of competence in relation to prescribing and determine appropriate strategies to overcome these.</p> <p>Reflect on their responsibilities with regard to the legal limitations of prescribing.</p>	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies “Red flag” cases highlighted through case studies Accountability and professional Code of Conduct addressed Vicarious liability and job descriptions Limits of formulary addressed</p> <p><i>Assessment</i> OSCE Portfolio Written examination</p>
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<p>C. Practical skills – able to: Initiate holistic assessment, carry out clinical examination and discuss findings</p> <p>Able to write accurate prescriptions and understand the implications of PACT data</p>	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies Undertaken within practice setting</p> <p><i>Assessment</i> Portfolio OSCE</p>
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<p>D. Transferable skills – able to: Demonstrate the use of audit within clinical practice</p> <p>Explore the use of clinical evidence and research to support decision making in treatment options.</p> <p>Work effectively to enhance client care as part of a multi-disciplinary team</p>	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies Case studies Review of evidence</p> <p><i>Assessment</i> Portfolio OSCE Presentations</p>
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Please note - This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. It reflects the NMC Standards of proficiency for nurse prescribers (NMC 2006). More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module description and in the programme handbook. The University reserves the right to modify this specification in unforeseen circumstances, or where the process of academic development and feedback from students, quality assurance processes or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.