

Programme Specification

Postgraduate Certificate Independent and Supplementary Prescribing for Pharmacists (part-time) PPTZISFP7HC

For students entering in 2021/22

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	Postgraduate Certificate Independent and Supplementary Prescribing for Pharmacists (part-time) - 6 months
Accreditation	General Pharmaceutical Council
Programme Start Dates	January and May 2020

Programme information and content

The aim of this programme is to enable pharmacists to practise and develop as independent and supplementary prescribers and to meet the standards set by the General Pharmaceutical Council.

The programme is based on a philosophy of student led, practitioner centred, workplace-based learning. Practitioners are expected to take responsibility for managing their learning and achieving the programme objectives. The ethos and culture of the programme is to enhance and develop self-reliance and an independent approach to learning in support of continuing professional development.

The programme has a strong practice focus and will emphasise and develop practitioners skills in consultation, examination and clinical decision making. 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 emphasis will be placed on the students working within their level of competence.

The programme is formed of compulsory modules as detailed below. Students can also discuss with the programme team the opportunities to transfer their learning to the MSc in Advancing Healthcare Practice programme.

Module information

There are two routes to qualification, one contains a compulsory module and one allows students to choose between optional modules. Only one route is available per cohort in line with the current General Pharmaceutical Council accreditation.

Compulsory modules (Option 1)

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
PMMPP1	Preparing to prescribe for pharmacists	20	7
PMMIP2	Independent and Supplementary Prescribing for Pharmacists	40	7

Compulsory modules (Option 2)

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
PMMCE1	Clinically Enhanced Skills	20	7
PMMIP2	Independent and Supplementary Prescribing for Pharmacists	40	7

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

The programme is delivered as a part-time approach to deliver a total of 60 credits. One academic credit represents 10 hours of participant effort spent on learning activities, which includes all forms of study, taught contact time, preparation of assignments, revision and assessment. The taught and research components of the programme are intended to fit within the participant's existing workload with additional study as required. The programme is integrated into the practitioners' existing employment.

Additional costs of the programme

Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus at a cost of £0.05 per page.

As part of ensuring the safety of students, patients and the public, some students will be required to undergo police (Disclosure & Barring Service) checks. The initial DBS check costs approximately £40.

Costs are indicative and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. The estimates were calculated in 2020.

Optional modules

This programme is composed of compulsory modules only. Students who study via option can choose to study for a clinically enhanced qualification by choosing PMMCE1.

Students can discuss opportunities to transfer their learning to the MSc/PGDip/PGCert in Advancing Healthcare Practice which is a flexible modular programme allowing individualised learning pathways using a mixture of optional and compulsory modules.

Placement opportunities

To study on this programme students must be in existing healthcare employment. There are no University organised opportunities for study abroad or placements.

Study abroad opportunities

N/A

Teaching and learning delivery

The modules may involve a combination of lectures, tutorials, workshops, seminars and practical sessions, delivered as blended learning including face-to-face teaching and distance learning where appropriate to learning outcomes. Students will have appropriate support in their workplace from their Designated Prescribing Practitioner.

Total study hours for the taught element of the programme will be 600 hours. The contact hours for this programme are stated in the relevant module description. In addition to the scheduled contact hours, students will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

This programme is accredited by the General Pharmaceutical Council. As registered healthcare professionals with the General Pharmaceutical Council, students are expected to maintain behaviours associated with their professional code of conduct (GPhC Standards for Pharmacy Professionals), and must abide by University regulations, including the Fitness to Practice policy. Deviation from these standards may lead to the instigation of University Academic Misconduct and/or Fitness to Practice processes. Students are required to inform the Programme Director of any change in circumstances that may affect their ability, or suitability, to continue their studies.

Assessment

Assessment methods used will be stated in the module descriptions to align to the learning outcomes. These may include a professional portfolio, essays, case studies, oral presentations, written examinations, clinical examinations (including OSCEs), oral examinations (including presentations and viva voce), and supervised learning in practice.

Progression

Students who wish to transfer their learning to the MSc in Advancing Healthcare Practice programme may be required to meet conditions for enrolment.

Classification

The following provides a classification guide for each module with the final degree classification being determined in accordance with the procedures of the University of Reading which can be found in full at:

<http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/exams/PGclassification-post-2008.pdf>.

Mark Interpretation

70 – 100% Distinction

60 – 69% Merit
50 – 59% Good standard (Pass)

Failing categories:

40 – 49% Work below threshold standard
0 – 39% Unsatisfactory Work

To qualify for the award of Postgraduate Certificate, students must achieve a pass in each assessment component marked as pass/fail, and at least 50% in each assessment component marked at level 7. The Postgraduate Certificate is awarded on a pass/fail basis only. Critical failure in the assessment, such as causing, or failing to identify, serious harm to a patient will automatically be considered a fail.

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

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