Programme Specification

MSc Advancing Healthcare Practice (part-time flexible)   PPTZADVHCPFM

For students entering in 2024/25

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	MSc Advancing Healthcare Practice (part-time flexible) - 6 years
Accreditation	N/A
Programme Start Dates	
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	

Programme information and content

The aim of the MSc Advancing Healthcare Practice programme is to equip you with the core skills you require to provide advanced patient care in a practice setting. Most modules within the programme are mapped to relevant competency frameworks which will provide you with a means of demonstrating workplace-based competence. You will be able to study the programme in a way that reflects your own professional development needs.

Programme Learning Outcomes
-MSc Advancing Healthcare Practice (part-time flexible)

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

	Learning outcomes
1	Critically reflect on own knowledge, skills and behaviours in relation to your area of practice to formulate a personalised learning contract with defined outcomes.
2	Identify and undertake appropriate professional learning activities to enable achievement of the outcomes/competencies defined in the personalised learning contract above.
3	Critically analyse and integrate advanced level concepts, theories and evidence from a specific healthcare practice domain into practical applications.
4	Formulate an appropriate research plan for the purposes of conducting an original research, quality improvement or service evaluation project and critically evaluate the relevant research methodologies to be used.
5	Undertake an original research, quality improvement, or service evaluation project, ensuring ethical considerations are addressed. Clearly justify key decisions made throughout the project and present the findings and their implications with comprehensive insight and balanced analysis.

| 6 | Communicate information effectively, adapting to various formats to meet the specific needs of the intended audience. |

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

Module information

The programme comprises 180 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Compulsory modules

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PMM1RM	Research Methods for Health Sciences	20	M
PMM2RP	Research Project in Clinical and Health-related Sciences	40	M

The remaining credits will be taken from the list of optional modules from the School of Pharmacy or from an approved list of modules from across the University.

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

The programme is delivered as a part-time modular programme integrated into the student's existing employment to deliver a total of 180 credits for the Masters award. 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 student's existing workload, with additional study as required.

Students may study for modules and certificates of completion where they do not complete sufficient academic credits to gain an exit award. Students will normally study all modules at the University of Reading; however, students who have obtained academic credits at another institution can apply for recognition of prior learning (RPL) for contribution towards the programme. Students who return to complete the programme outside the six year timeframe can apply for RPL to present their reasons why they think their previous work is still valid to be counted towards a higher award. Students who wish to apply for prior experiential learning (RPEL) should discuss this with the Programme Director.

Placement opportunities

Students will be able to undertake the project module at any approved training centre, dependent on appropriate supervisory arrangements being in place. Each student will have a Project Learning Needs Assessment. Any placement outside the student's normal workplace will need approval by the Programme Director.

Study abroad opportunities

N/A

Optional modules

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the module and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Teaching and learning delivery

The teaching is organised in taught modules, portfolios and a workplace-based research project module. Taught 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. You will have appropriate one-to-one support from a supervisor during the MSc research project.

The total study hours for the taught element of the programme will be 1800 hours.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including 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

N/A

Assessment

Assessment methods used are stated in the module descriptors to align with the learning outcomes. These may include coursework assignments, essays, case studies, oral presentations, written examinations, clinical examinations (including Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs)) and oral examinations (including presentations and viva voce). Most modules will be underpinned by the production of a portfolio of evidence which will enable students, and academic tutors, to monitor their progress across the programme as a whole.

Progression

Prior to undertaking PMM1RM and PMM2RP, students will normally be required to have completed 120 credits at level 7.

Classification

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

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

For Masters Degree

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Master's degree:

Award of a Master's degree

(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 180 credits
(ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 120 credits
(iii) not more than 20 credits with a mark below 40%
(iv) a mark of 50% or more for the Dissertation

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Master's degree, the following **further** conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction
An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 180 credits
OR
an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 180 credits and marks of 70% in at least 90 credits
AND
A mark of at least 60% in the dissertation
AND
No marks below 40%.

Merit
An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 180 credits
OR
an overall average of 58% or more over 180 credits and marks of 60% in at least 90 credits

AND
No marks below 40.

For Postgraduate Diploma

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma:

Award of a Postgraduate Diploma

(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 120 credits
(ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 80 credits
(iii) not more than 20 credits with a mark below 40%

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma, the following further conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction
An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 120 credits
OR
an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 120 credits and marks of 70% in at least 60 credits
AND
No marks below 40.

Merit
An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 120 credits
OR
an overall average of 58% or more over 120 credits and marks of 60% in at least 60 credits
AND
No marks below 40.

For Postgraduate Certificate

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate:

Award of a Postgraduate Certificate
(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 60 credits

Additional costs of the programme

Students may RPL (recognition of prior learning application) credits from other institutions subject to the guidance provided on the Programme website. There may be a cost associated with RPL/RPEL application.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. The estimates were calculated in 2023.

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at

MSc Advancing Healthcare Practice (part-time flexible) for students entering in session 2024/25
10 January 2024