

Programme Specification

MSc Advanced Clinical Practice (part-time flexible)

PPTZADVCLPFM

For students entering in 2027/28

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 Advanced Clinical Practice (part-time flexible) - 6 years
Accreditation	This programme is accredited by Health Education England (now part of NHS Workforce, Training and Education Directorate (WTED))
Programme Start Dates	
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	

Programme information and content

The aim of the MSc Advanced Clinical 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 provide you with a means of demonstrating workplace-based competence. This programme is aligned with the Health Education England Multi-Professional Framework for Advanced Clinical Practice in England and accredited by HEE (now part of NHS WTED).

Programme Learning Outcomes

-MSc Advanced Clinical 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	Showcase advanced proficiency in conducting consultations, history taking and physical examination with patients/carers, including data gathering, synthesis, critical analysis and communication.
2	Critically analyse available data to differentiate normal and abnormal results/imaging, using this information to identify a differential diagnosis, and design a treatment plan utilising the best evidence.
3	Identify and prioritise current and future learning needs of others, and apply leadership theories to advanced clinical practice, including managing change, teamworking, and resolving conflict.
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 clearly and empathetically across diverse formats, adapting to the specific needs of the intended audience while ensuring confidentiality when necessary

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
PMMACP1	Transition to Advanced Practice	20	M
PMMAH1	Advanced History Taking and Clinical Assessment	20	M
PMMDR1	Diagnostic Reasoning	20	M
For the non-prescribing route, students must take ALL of the following:			
Module	Name	Credits	Level
PMMWBL	Work-based Learning	20	M
PMMWBL2	Work- based Learning 2	20	M
PMMP4	Evidence of Personal Learning	20	M
OR for the prescribing route, students must select ONE of the following:			
Module	Name	Credits	Level
PMMIP	Independent Prescribing for Pharmacists	60	M
PMMIPAP	Independent Prescribing for Allied Health Professionals	60	M
PMMIPN7	Independent Prescribing for Nurses	60	M
Part-time or flexible modular arrangements			
The programme is delivered as a part-time modular programme 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. The programme is delivered in a part-time modular approach integrated into the student's existing employment.

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 programme consists of 180 credits of compulsory modules. Where necessary, students may opt to additionally take the zero-credit module PMM3PP (to develop the Professional Practice Portfolio required by NHS England).

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. For the prescribing modules (if taken), you will also need to have support and supervision from your Designated Prescribing Practitioner.

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

The MSc Advanced Clinical Practice is accredited by NHS WTED.

As registered healthcare professionals, students are expected to maintain behaviours associated with the relevant regulatory and professional bodies' standards of conduct and must abide by University regulations, including the Policy on and Procedures for the Determination of Fitness to Practise. Deviation from these standards may lead to the instigation of University Academic Misconduct and/or Fitness to Practise processes, or referral to the employer for consideration through their own 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 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) 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 successfully completed all other modules within their programme (i.e., 120 academic 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 Master's 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) no credits with a mark below 40%
- (iv) a mark of 50% or more for the Dissertation

In addition, to be eligible for the award of MSc Advanced Clinical Practice, students must:

(v) obtain a mark of at least 50% (or a pass for 'pass/fail' assessments) for every assessment. A critical failure in an assessment, such as causing, or failing to identify, serious harm to a patient, will automatically be considered a fail and will be awarded a mark of zero.

(vi) Students taking PMMIPN7 or PMMIPAP must also achieve a pass in the written examination (requiring an overall mark of 50%, a mark of 100% for the numeracy section and a mark of at least 80% for the pharmacology section)

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

Where the dissertation is included in the conditions for the award of a Master's degree, 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%.

Students who fail to meet the requirements for the MSc Advanced Clinical Practice may be able to transfer to the MSc Advancing Healthcare Practice, where they meet the required thresholds for that programme.

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the [Assessment Handbook](#) under:

- Section 19: Awards: Postgraduate Master's, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate

Please note that there may be a specific version for your year of entry.

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. Estimates were calculated in 2026.

Students may consider purchasing a laptop to help support their learning. Information on recommended device specifications can be found on the [DTS Student Hub](#).

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.

MSc Advanced Clinical Practice (part-time flexible) for students entering in session 2027/28
28 July 2026

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