

Programme Specification

GradCert Independent and Supplementary Prescribing for Nurses (part-time)

PPTZISPFN6HC

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	GradCert Independent and Supplementary Prescribing for Nurses (part-time) - 6 months
Accreditation	Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)
Programme Start Dates	September and January
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	N/A

Programme information and content

The aim of this programme is to enable nurses to practise and develop as independent and supplementary prescribers and to meet the standards set by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC).

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

The programme focusses on the development of consultation, examination, and clinical decision-making skills. Within a defined clinical scope, students will learn to apply the principles of evidence-based practice, clinical pharmacology, anatomy and physiology in health and disease, and human psychology to prescribing. Legal and ethical accountability will be addressed with a particular emphasis on recognising and working within your scope of practice and level of competence.

Programme Learning Outcomes

-GradCert Independent and Supplementary Prescribing for Nurses (part-time)

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	Define and apply patient – focussed consultation skills, showing that you are able to perform clinical diagnostic procedures in clinical settings appropriate to the stated scope of practice.

2	Analyse data and information and apply evidence-based medicine to patient care.
3	Explain approaches to prescribing safely, appropriately and cost-effectively.
4	Clearly communicate information in various formats to both patients and the public, ensuring patient confidentiality and a patient-centred, ethical approach.
5	Meet the competencies outlined in the Royal Pharmaceutical Society Competency Framework and analyse their relevance to your own practice.
6	Identify, describe and demonstrate the values, attitudes, and behaviours outlined in the NMC Professional Standards of Practice and Behaviour for Nurses, Midwives, and Nursing Associates (The Code). Explain their significance in shaping your own practice, emphasising their role in enhancing your professional judgment, legal and ethical reasoning, and ensuring the safe and precise delivery of services.

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 60 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Compulsory modules

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PM3ISP6	Independent and Supplementary Prescribing for Nurses (Level 6)	60	M

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

The programme is delivered as a part-time programme to deliver a total of 60 credits for the award of a Graduate Certificate in Independent and Supplementary Prescribing for Nurses. 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 components of the programme are intended to fit within the participant's existing workload with additional study as required. The programme is delivered in a part-time approach integrated into the practitioners' existing employment.

Placement opportunities

To study on this programme, students must be in existing healthcare employment with an approved Designated Prescribing Practitioner and Practice-Based Supervisor.

Study abroad opportunities

There are no University organised opportunities for study abroad or placements.

Optional modules

There are no optional modules.

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 online activities where appropriate to learning outcomes. You will also be expected to complete workplace-based assessments, reflection and learning in practice. You will have appropriate support in your workplace from your Designated Prescribing Practitioner and Practice Based Supervisor.

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

This programme is accredited by the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

As registered healthcare professionals, students are expected to maintain behaviours associated with the NMC Professional Standards of Practice and Behaviour for Nurses, Midwives and Nursing Associates (The Code) 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. 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 are stated in the module descriptions to align with the learning outcomes. These may include a professional portfolio, essays, case studies, oral presentations, written examinations, clinical examinations (including Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs)), oral examinations (including presentations and viva voce), and supervised learning in practice

Progression

N/A

Classification

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

The Graduate Certificate is awarded at Pass or Fail.

Marks for individual assessments are interpreted as below:

Mark Interpretation

70 - 100% Distinction

60 - 69% Merit

50 - 59% Good standard

40 - 49% Passing standard

Failing categories:

0 - 39% Unsatisfactory Work

For Graduate Certificate

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

- i. gain an overall average of 40% or more over 60 credits at level 6 or above

In addition, in order to be eligible for the award of Graduate Certificate in Independent and Supplementary Prescribing for Nurses, students must:

- ii. pass 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)
- iii. pass all remaining summative assessments with a mark of at least 50% (or a pass for pass/fail assessments). 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.

The Graduate Certificate is awarded on a pass/fail basis only.

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
Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus at a small cost
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 £55.

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.

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1 September 2026

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