

Programme Specification

PGCert Pharmacy Practice (part-time)

PPTZPHAPRAHC

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	PGCert Pharmacy Practice (part-time) - 12 months
Accreditation	None
Programme Start Dates	PGCert: November and PGDip: May and November
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	None

Programme information and content

The aim of this programme is to equip you with the core skills and competencies you require to provide safe and effective pharmaceutical care in a practice setting.

The programme is based on a student-led, workplace-based learning philosophy. You will be expected to take responsibility for managing your 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 support your development of skills in communicating with patients and other healthcare professionals, medicines management and clinical decision-making. The module learning outcomes, portfolio activities and assessments are mapped to the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's (RPS) Post-registration Foundation Pharmacist Curriculum (2021) and Foundation Pharmacist Framework (2019) to support practitioners in becoming credentialled through the RPS.

The programme is formed of compulsory and optional modules, as detailed below. Students can explore opportunities to transfer their learning to the MSc in Advancing Healthcare Practice programme upon completing the PGCert or PGDip Pharmacy Practice.

Programme Learning Outcomes

-PGCert Pharmacy Practice (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	Apply an evidence-based approach to the management of a range of clinical conditions in your own practice.

2	Identify, prioritise and resolve the medicine optimisation needs of patients, carers and health care professionals.
3	Work in accordance with the RPS Foundation Pharmacy Framework.
4	Systematically analyse and critically assess the knowledge and skills required to work independently within a specific area of pharmacy practice (PGDip).
5	Critically evaluate methods used to explore, design, and monitor service improvement in healthcare, implementing appropriate ones to use for a particular service improvement project (PGDip).
6	Apply the principles of good research practice and present research findings, critically reflecting on those principles and evaluating the implications for improvements to patient care.
7	Critically reflect on your knowledge, skills, and behaviours in relation to your level of practice, pinpointing areas for further learning and ongoing professional development.
8	Clearly communicate information in various formats to both patients and the public, ensuring patient confidentiality and a patient-centred, ethical approach.

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 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.			
Compulsory modules			
Module	Name	Credits	Level
PMMPD1	Introduction to Evidence-Based Medicine	20	M
PMMPD2	Introduction to Quality Improvement in Healthcare	20	M
PMMPD3	Introduction to Research	20	M
PMMPD1	Introduction to Evidence-Based Medicine	20	M
PMMPD2	Introduction to Quality Improvement in Healthcare	20	M
PMMPD3	Introduction to Research	20	M
PMMPD1	Introduction to Evidence-Based Medicine	20	M
PMMPD2	Introduction to Quality Improvement in Healthcare	20	M
PMMPD3	Introduction to Research	20	M
Part-time or flexible modular arrangements			
The programme is delivered as a part-time approach to deliver a total of 60 credits for the PgCert and 120 credits for the PgDip. PMMPD1, PMMPD2 and PMMPD3 make up the PgCert. Subsequent, addition of PMMPD1, PMMPD2 and PMMPD3 combine to make up the PgDip. 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 your existing workload with additional study as required. The programme is integrated into your existing employment.

If you wish to transfer to the “Postgraduate Diploma in Pharmacy Practice and Prescribing” programme or the MSc in Advancing Healthcare Practice programme you will be required to meet the relevant conditions for enrolment. N.B. There is a separate application process for the Independent Prescribing for Pharmacists module (PMMIPP).

Placement opportunities

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

Study abroad opportunities

N/A

Optional modules

There are no optional modules..

Teaching and learning delivery

The modules involve a combination of lectures, tutorials, workshops, seminars, and practical sessions, delivered as blended learning including face-to-face teaching and on-line learning where appropriate to learning outcomes. You will have appropriate support in their workplace from workplace-based supervisors, including practice supervisors, educational supervisors, and educational programme directors.

Elements of the 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

As registered healthcare professionals, you are expected to maintain behaviours associated with the GPhC Standards for Pharmacy Professionals 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. You are required to inform the Programme Director of any change in circumstances that may affect their ability, or suitability, to continue your studies.

Assessment

Assessment methods are described 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

Part-time and modular progression requirements

Students are normally expected to complete (PMMPC1, PMMPC2 and PMMPC3) prior to undertaking other modules.

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 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) no credits with a mark below 40%

In addition, to be eligible for the award of Postgraduate Diploma in Pharmacy Practice, students must achieve:

(iv) a module mark of at least 50% in each module (PMMPC1, PMMPC2, PMMPC3, PMMPD1, PMMPD2 and PMMPD3); and

(v) a mark of at least 50% (or a pass for pass/fail assessments) for the portfolio assessment in each module (PMMPC1, PMMPC2, PMMPC3, PMMPD1, PMMPD2 and PMMPD3); and

(vi) a pass in the OSCE in PMMPC3.

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 for the assessment.

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

(ii) No credits with a mark below 40%.

In addition, to be eligible for the award of Postgraduate Certificate in Pharmacy Practice, students must achieve:

(iii) a module mark of at least 50% in each module (PMMPC1, PMMPC2, and PMMPC3); and

(iv) a mark of at least 50% for the portfolio assessment in each module (PMMPC1, PMMPC2 and PMMPC3); and

(v) a pass in the OSCE assessment in PMMPC3.

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 for the assessment.

The Postgraduate 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.

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.

PGCert Pharmacy Practice (part-time) for students entering in session 2027/28

28 July 2026

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