

Programme Specification

PGDip Pharmacy Practice and Prescribing (part-time)

PPTZPHAPRPHD

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	PGDip Pharmacy Practice and Prescribing (part-time) - 24 months
Accreditation	The prescribing module is accredited by the General Pharmaceutical Council
Programme Start Dates	
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	N/A

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 and prescribing services in a practice setting, meeting the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) Standards for the Education and Training of Pharmacist Independent Prescribers. The programme 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).

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 (CPD).

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 examination and clinical decision-making skills.

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

Programme Learning Outcomes

-PGDip Pharmacy Practice and Prescribing (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	Critically analyse data and information and apply evidence-based medicine to patient care.
3	Describe and implement an evidence-based approach to managing various clinical conditions. Integrate this knowledge and skill set into your own practice, enhancing your confidence and ability to prescribe 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	Identify, describe and demonstrate the values, attitudes, and behaviours outlined in the GPhC Standards for Pharmacy Professionals. 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.
6	Identify, prioritise and resolve the medicines optimisation needs of patients, carers and healthcare professionals.
7	Critically reflect on your knowledge, skills, and behaviours in relation to your area of practice, pinpointing areas for further learning and ongoing professional development.
8	Meet the competencies detailed in the RPS ‘Competency Framework for Prescribers’ and ‘Foundation Pharmacist Framework’, and the learning outcomes set by the GPhC Standards for the Education and Training of Pharmacist Independent Prescribers. Evaluate their significance and demonstrate their application within your own practice.

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
PMMIPP	Independent Prescribing for Pharmacists	60	M
PMMPC1	Clinical 1: Cardiology & Respiratory	20	M
PMMPC2	Clinical 2: Gastroenterology & Endocrinology	20	M
PMMPC3	Clinical 3: Infection, Surgery & Neurology	20	M

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

The programme is delivered as a part-time approach to achieve a total of 120 credits. One academic credit represents 10 hours of participation 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 your existing workload with additional study as required. The programme is integrated into your existing employment.

Students wishing to transfer to this programme should note that transfer is contingent on meeting the application process for the Independent Prescribing for Pharmacists module (PMMIPP).

If you wish to transfer to the MSc in Advancing Healthcare Practice programme you will be required to meet the relevant conditions for enrolment.

Placement opportunities

To study on this programme, you must be in existing healthcare employment and have an approved workplace-based supervisor. For the prescribing module, you must have an approved Designated Prescribing Practitioner. 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 the workplace from workplace-based supervisors, including practice supervisors, educational supervisors, educational programme directors and, where completing the prescribing qualification, your Designated Prescribing Practitioner.

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 specific modules. 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 prescribing module is accredited by The General Pharmaceutical Council.

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 your 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 PMMIPP.

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 and Prescribing, students must achieve:

- (iv) a module mark of at least 50% in each module (PMMPC1, PMMPC2, PMMPC3, and PMMIPP); and
- (v) a mark of at least 50% (or a pass for pass/fail assessments) for the portfolio assessment in PMMPC1, PMMPC2, PMMPC3; and
- (vi) a pass in the OSCE in PMMPC3; and
- (vii) a mark of at least 50% (or a pass for pass/fail assessments) for each assessment in PMMIPP.

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.

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%.

Students who pass PMMPC1, PMMPC2 and PMMPC3 but fail PMMIPP may be eligible for exiting with the Postgraduate Certificate in Pharmacy Practice or transfer to the Postgraduate Diploma in Pharmacy Practice.

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

PGDip Pharmacy Practice and Prescribing (part-time) for students entering in session 2027/28

28 July 2026

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