Course Specification

Published Date:	11-Mar-2025
Produced By:	Multi Type Usr Record For All Personnel
Status:	Validated

Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton		
School / Institute:	School of Pharmacy		
Course Code(s):	PY011P31UV	Part-time	6 Months
UCAS Code:			
Course Title:	Postgraduate Certificate in Prescribing Studies		
Hierarchy of Awards:	Postgraduate Certificate Postgraduate Certificate in Prescribing Studies Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing Prescribing Studies University Statement of Credit Prescribing Studies		
Language of Study:	English		
Date of DAG approval:	01/Jun/2017		
Last Review:	2016/7		
Course Specification valid from:	2011/2		
Course Specification valid to:	2022/3		

Academic Staff

Course Leader:	Shabana Chaudary
Head of Department:	Dr Mark Hewitt

Course Information

Location of Delivery:	University of Wolverhampton
Category of Partnership:	Not delivered in partnership
Teaching Institution:	University of Wolverhampton
Open / Closed Course:	This course is open to all suitably qualified candidates.

Entry Requirements:

Entry requirements are subject to regular review. The entry requirements applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website (and externally as appropriate e.g. UCAS

You must be registered as a pharmacist with either the GPhC or the PSNI, and have a minimum of two years' post-registration experience in a clinical, patient-facing role. We require the written support of your employer (unless self-employed) to undertake this course, and you must have the support and agreement from a suitably experienced medical doctor in your chosen field of clinical practice who is willing and eligible to act as your Designated Medical Practitioner (DMP) for the Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing.

Those applying from outside the UK/EU must provide written evidence of a good standard of written and spoken English (IELTS 7.0 or equivalent), and must be employed in an appropriate role within the UK to be able to meet the GPhC requirements for the learning in practice elements of the course.

At the discretion of the course leader, all potential students may be required to participate in a telephone interview with the course leader or deputy leader to confirm their eligibility for the course.

Distinctive Features of the Course:

It is a requirement of the GPhC that the Independent Prescribing module must include a substantial face to face teaching element. The timing of the face to face study days (one block of three days, followed by three individual study days) has therefore been arranged outside the main school holiday periods to facilitate the release of pharmacists from their existing posts in order to attend the university. In addition, the start date and the study days have been timed so that where possible they do not coincide with those of other competing providers. This should help employers to maintain a suitable level of staffing within the employing organisation, whilst still allowing students to be released for the face to face study days.

The structure of the Independent Prescribing module includes a substantial element of reflection upon both the guided reading and the learning in practice elements, which will assist the student in developing the reflective practice skills they will need to maintain thereafter in order to continue to practice safely and effectively as an independent prescriber.

Students will also have the benefit of being taught by tutors who are themselves Pharmacist Independent Prescribers, assisted by medical practitioners and other expert staff with wide experience of postgraduate teaching and learning. This will assist students in relating their learning on the face to face study days to the real-life practice context, so that they can build on this learning as effectively as possible.

The optional module in Pharmacoepidemiology will prove a valuable addition for those pharmacists who wish to develop a deeper understanding of the process of evidence-based resource allocation for prescribing and other therapeutic interventions in the wider population. This might be particularly relevant for those considering a role in one of the new commissioning bodies created as a result of the Coalition Government's overhaul of the NHS, or indeed for anyone involved in tendering to provide prescribing or other clinical services under these new arrangements.

Educational Aims of the Course:

This course is open to registered pharmacists with at least two years' post-registration experience in a

clinical, patient-facing role. Upon successful completion of the 40 credit module (7PY019), you will be awarded the Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing from the University of Wolverhampton. Your name will then be forwarded to the Registrar of the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC), and you will be eligible for annotation on the GPhC Register as an Independent Prescriber. This entitles you, with the support of your employer (unless self-employed), to practice as a Supplementary or Independent Prescriber.

You may also choose to study an optional 20 credit module (7NH015 or 7PY013). Successful completion of either module, together with 7PY019, will lead to a 60 credit award of PgC Prescribing Studies. This provides evidence to employing organisations of your ability to practice (including prescribing) at an advanced level in your chosen therapeutic area. However, this is entirely optional and you may choose to exit after completing only the Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing (7PY019).

Intakes:

September
January

Major Source of Funding:

Office for Students (OFS)

Tuition Fees:

Tuition fees are reviewed on an annual basis. The fees applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website.

Year	Status	Mode	Amount
2021/2	H	31	£2183.00
2022/3	H	Part Time	£2665.00
2023/4	H	Part Time	£2798.00
2024/5	H	Part Time	£2938.00
2025/6	H	Part Time	£3029.00

PSRB:

None

Course Structure:

January (Part-time)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type	
7PY019	Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing	40	INYR	Core	

Linked Option Group Rule: Select a minimum of 0 credits and a maximum of 20 credits from the linked (*) groups.

*** Option Group 92 | Min Value: 0 | Max Value: 20**

Students may also choose to study an OPTIONAL 20 credit module (7NH015 OR 7PY013) for a 60 credit award of PG Certificate Prescribing Studies.

7NH015	Health Assessment for Advanced Clinical Practice	20	INYR	Core/Option	Phil Currie

*** Option Group 92 | Min Value: 0 | Max Value: 20**

Students may also choose to study an OPTIONAL 20 credit module (7NH015 OR 7PY013) for a 60 credit award of PG Certificate Prescribing Studies.

7PY013	Enhanced clinical skills	20	SEM2	Core/Option	Obaida Ahmed

September (Part-time)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type	
7PY019	Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing	40	YEAR	Core	

Linked Option Group Rule: Select a minimum of 20 credits and a maximum of 20 credits from the linked (*) groups.

*** Option Group 01 | Min Value: 0 | Max Value: 20**

Students may also choose to study an OPTIONAL 20 credit module (7NH015 OR 7PY013) for a 60 credit award of PG Certificate Prescribing Studies.

7PY013	Enhanced clinical skills	20	SEM2	Core/Option	Obaida Ahmed

*** Option Group 01 | Min Value: 0 | Max Value: 20**

Students may also choose to study an OPTIONAL 20 credit module (7NH015 OR 7PY013) for a 60 credit award of PG Certificate Prescribing Studies.

7NH015	Health Assessment for Advanced Clinical Practice	20	INYR	Core/Option	Phil Currie

Please note: Optional modules might not run every year, the course team will decide on an annual basis which options will be running, based on student demand and academic factors, to create the best learning experience.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Academic Regulations Exemption:

Section 5.1.1 - The qualification title of Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing will be awarded when students have passed the 40 credit core module 7PY019.

Section 4.2.4 - A minimum grade of 50% overall is required in order to pass core module 7PY019 in accordance with Professional Body requirements. Students are not permitted fail any summative assessment components with a maximum of two attempts (re-sits and re-takes are normally allowed except for reasons of exceptional academic or professional misconduct).

Approved by AFRSC (15/3/2012).

Reference Points:

General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) Standards for Accreditation of Independent Prescribing Programmes

QAA Framework for Higher Education

Framework for Higher Education Qualifications

QAA generic benchmark for MSc

Equality Act 2010.

Overview of Assessment:

As part of the course approval process, the course learning outcomes were mapped to each of the modules forming the diet of the programme of study. This process confirmed that all course learning outcomes can be met through successful completion of the modules. This mapping applies to the final award as well as to all of the intermediate awards.

Learning Outcomes	Modules
PGCERT01 Prescribe safely, appropriately and cost effectively, in line with the legal, ethical and professional framework for accountability; within a prescribing partnership where appropriate.	
PGCERT02 Communicate effectively with patients, carers and other healthcare professionals, and make shared treatment decisions with these groups as appropriate.	
PGCERT03 Apply clinical assessment skills to recognise the signs and symptoms of illness, to take patient histories, to form a diagnosis and to formulate, modify and review treatment plans as appropriate.	
PGCERT04 Accurately choose and use appropriate diagnostic aids for prescribing and monitoring treatment.	
PGCERT05 Recognise, evaluate and respond to evidence-based information, advice, relevant national/local guidelines and individual patient requirements when prescribing.	
PGCERT06 Work within all aspects of current clinical governance frameworks.	

Teaching, Learning and Assessment:

Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing:

1. Face to face study days using a tutorial/workshop format
2. Minimum 90 hours learning in practice environment (under supervision of DMP and/or other medical and non-medical prescribers; this will be assessed and signed off by the DMP)
3. Guided reading and associated written reflection
4. Production and presentation of 2 case studies from own practice
5. Preparation of scenario from own practice for clinical supervision by peers (action learning)
6. Production of a Clinical Management Plan within own therapeutic area
7. Critical appraisal of evidence for at least one medicine used in own therapeutic area
8. Completion of on-line reflective portfolio.

Health Assessment for Advanced Clinical Practice:

1. Differentiating between normal, variations of normal and abnormal findings in health assessment and applying this when assessing patients.
2. Demonstrating advanced clinical reasoning skills by analysing and interpreting patients' histories, presenting symptoms and clinical findings in order to make differential diagnostic decisions.
3. Demonstrating advanced health assessment skills by obtaining a comprehensive and/or focused health history from a patient presenting with either undiagnosed, undifferentiated problems or long-term conditions.
4. Performing a systematic and/or problem focused clinical examination of patients.

These will be undertaken by attending 'face-to-face' study days, consolidated with learning in practice under the supervision of their DMP or designated others.

Pharmacoepidemiology:

The module will employ a range of teaching and learning approaches including keynote lectures, workshops

and on-line learning activities.

Assessment Methods:

At the University of Wolverhampton, a variety of modes of assessment will be used to support and test your learning and progress and to help you develop capabilities that are valued beyond your University studies and into your working life. Your course may include a variety of assessment activities:

Written examinations (including online examinations, open and closed book examinations and quizzes)
Coursework (for example, essays, reports, portfolios, project proposals and briefs, CVs, poster presentation)
Practical (for example, oral and video presentations, laboratory work, performances, practical skills assessment)

In the final year of your undergraduate degree, and at the end of your postgraduate degree, you are likely to be expected to write an extended piece of work or research, such as a dissertation or a practice-based piece of research.

Student Support:

Students will be supported by a range of suitably experienced course tutors, several of whom are themselves qualified independent prescribers. In addition, visiting lecturers who are either independent prescribers or medically qualified staff will be used to augment the teaching of clinical skills to students.

Students will be able to receive this support either by telephone, face to face (booked via the SAMS system) or online via email.

Students will also be able to use the course café (see above) to receive peer support from their fellow students as required.

Finally, the student's DMP (see section 6 above) will also be an invaluable source of support, particularly during the learning in practice element of the course.

Due to the nature of the entry requirements, it is unlikely that any students will require substantial support to develop their academic study skills. However, this support can be accessed via the FSE Student Support Office at the request of any student.

Employability in the Curriculum:

Students who are successful in gaining the Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing will be eligible for annotation by the GPhC as independent prescribers, and will therefore be entitled to practice in this capacity in a variety of roles throughout primary and secondary care pharmacy.

Students obtaining the further award of the PgC Prescribing Studies will, in addition, be able to demonstrate that they can evaluate therapeutic approaches and guidelines on a population basis in order to predict/justify pharmacological strategies in different disease populations. This may be particularly relevant for those pharmacists engaged in the commissioning of healthcare services, within either primary or secondary care.

The inclusion of 7NH015 is specifically for the 'Fast Track' programme commissioned by Health Education West Midlands in order to allow practising pharmacists in the West Midlands region to move in to acute and emergency prescribing roles. Many of the candidates will already have a designated role, within various Hospital Trusts or Primary Care organisations, to move in to upon completion of the course.