COURSE SPECIFICATION

Postgraduate Certificate in Independent Prescribing for Pharmacists

COURSE SPECIFICATION

Please refer to the [Course Specification Guidance Notes](#) for guidance on completing this document.

Course Title	**Independent prescribing for pharmacists**
Final Award	*PgC*
Exit Awards	*PgC only*
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	*P3209PTC*
Mode of study	*Part time*
Mode of delivery	*Campus with placement element*
Normal length of course	*8 months*
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	*From September 2023 onwards*
Awarding Body	*University of Portsmouth*
Teaching Institution	*University of Portsmouth*
Faculty	*Faculty of Science & Health*
School/Department/Subject Group	*School of Medicine, Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences*
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	*[Healthcare and Social Care Degrees | University of Portsmouth](#)*
Course webpage including entry criteria	*https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/pgcert-independent-prescribing-for-pharmacists*
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	*General Pharmaceutical council – June 2022 full accreditation for 3 years.*
[Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level](#)	*Level 7*

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the [Course and Module Catalogue](#) for further information on the course structure and modules.

Educational aims of the course

- *To enable students to develop professional competency within their chosen scope of practice in preparation for roles as prescribers.*
- *To develop students' clinical assessment and other professional skills in preparation for roles as prescribers.*
- *To prepare students to maintain their prescribing competence through appropriate lifelong learning.*

Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their Framework for Higher Education Qualifications document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

A. Knowledge and understanding of:			
LO number	**Learning outcome**	**Learning and Teaching methods**	**Assessment methods**
A1	'normal' anatomy and physiology and the features (aetiology, pathophysiology, signs and symptoms) of the condition being treated with specific application to specialist investigations and results appropriate to the scope of practice.	Lectures, workshop Placement in practice.	Portfolio. Written assignments OSCE.
A2	the pharmacology and therapeutic use of medicines prescribed and other treatment options within the chosen scope of practice.	Lectures, workshops Placement in practice.	Portfolio. Written assignments
A3	the legal, ethical and professional framework for accountability and responsibility as this relates to prescribing activities.	Lectures, workshops Placement in practice.	Portfolio. Written assignments
A4	factors which influence prescribing practice at personal, local and national levels, including issues surrounding health economics, safeguarding, equality, diversity, human rights and cultural humility.	Lectures, workshops Placement in practice.	Portfolio. Written assignments OSCE.
A5	the responsibilities of the prescriber as they relate to public health issues relating to medicines use and the physical and psychological impact of medicines on people.	Lectures, workshops Placement in Practice.	Portfolio. Written assignments

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:			
B1	reflect on own practice experience and use the relevant standards (the RPS competency framework for all prescribers and the GPhC learning outcomes) to identify learning needs and areas for development and act upon these needs.	Lectures, workshops Individual tutorials. Placement in practice.	Portfolio, Written assignments.
B2	marshal, critically appraise and apply the evidence base relevant to prescribing activities within the chosen scope of practice.	Lectures, simulation. Placement in practice.	Portfolio. Written assignments
B3	make clinical decisions based on critically reflective processes and plan, record, review and amend resulting care plans for individuals in response to patient factors.	Lectures. Tutorials. Placement in practice.	Portfolio. Written assignments

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:			
C1	demonstrate an understanding of the professional responsibilities associated with the role of an independent prescriber.	Workshops, tutorials. Placement in practice.	Portfolio. Written assignments
C2	develop effective relationships and communication with other prescribers and members of the healthcare team, patients and carers especially where they may be unaware of, guarded about, or not be able to make fully informed decisions about, their health needs.	Lectures, workshops. Placement in practice.	Portfolio OSCE.
C3	demonstrate the range of patient assessment skills required of an independent prescriber in a clinical setting including history taking and physical assessment, applied to the chosen scope of practice.	Tutorials. Practicals Inc. simulation. Placement in practice.	Portfolio OSCE.
C4	Use appropriate processes to formulate a differential diagnosis from available patient data.	Lectures. Placement in practice.	Portfolio. Written assignments
C5	demonstrate legal, ethical, safe and accountable prescribing practice in all environments appropriate to the student's practice, to include remote prescribing.	Lectures, workshops. Placement in practice.	Portfolio. Written assignments

D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:			
LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	plan and maintain an ongoing programme of CPD relevant to their own learning needs, in order to ensure that their own prescribing practice represents current best practice.	Placement in practice.	Portfolio
D2	demonstrate expert practitioner level knowledge and skills in chosen area of practice.	Lectures, workshops, tutorials. Placement in practice.	Portfolio. Written assignments
D3	critically reflect on own personal limitations in the context of prescribing roles.	Placement in practice.	Portfolio. Written assignments
D4	utilise current and emerging systems and technologies, applied to safe prescribing.	Placement in practice.	Portfolio. Written assignments
D5	work collaboratively with others as part of a multidisciplinary team, seeking and giving guidance where appropriate and fostering professional relationships which include dealing with inappropriate behaviour / prescribing and raising concerns where required.	Placement in practice.	Portfolio. Written assignments

Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth Academic Regulations: Examination & Assessment Regulations will apply to this course. This course has an Approved Course Exemption.

Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the MyPort student portal.

In addition to these University support services this course also provides…

- The use of specialised facilities including simulation suites, and access to specialised equipment.
- Personal Development Planning (PDP) is integrated into the course, via continuation of the students own professional CPD programme, which forms part of the final reflective portfolio.

Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice where you can also find further information.

Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

- [University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Vision 2030 and Strategy 2025](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- [Requirements of Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Bodies: The General Pharmaceutical Council (2019)](#)
- [GPhC Standards for the education and training of pharmacist independent prescribers January 2019](#)
- [GPhC In practice: Guidance for pharmacist prescribers November 2019](#)
- [A competency framework for all prescribers – Royal Pharmaceutical Society (2021)](#)
- [Guidance on tutoring and supervising pharmacy professionals in training (2018)](#)
- [RPS Competency Framework for Designated Prescribing Practitioners](#)
- [The NRLS Being Open Framework](#)
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff
- National Occupational Standards

Changes to your course/modules

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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