Introduction

The aim of this programme is to meet the continuing professional development needs of mental health professionals and, in particular, to offer training for Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHPs) in accordance with the Approval Criteria for Approved Mental Health Professional (AMHP) programmes issued by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). The programme therefore offers both academic and professional outcomes.

Academic outcomes are available at Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma and Master levels. The professional status of AMHP is conferred by the relevant local authority on those designated professionals who have successfully completed an HCPC-approved training and education programme. On the successful completion of AMHP training you will therefore be eligible for the award of Postgraduate Diploma in Mental Health Practice and for approval as an AMHP by your employer. After completing the Postgraduate Diploma you will also have the option of continuing your studies to achieve the MA Mental Health Practice.

All students who intend to achieve AMHP status will register for the Postgraduate Diploma in Mental Health Practice. In the event that a student enrolled for the Postgraduate Diploma successfully completes 3 x 20 credit
modules but is unable to complete the Practice module, they will be eligible for the Postgraduate Certificate in Mental Health Studies but will not be eligible for accreditation as an AMHP by their employer. The Postgraduate Certificate will also be awarded to any other student who wishes to complete an academic programme of study but who is not eligible or not wishing to achieve AMHP status. Only those students who successfully complete all the modules associated with the Postgraduate Diploma will be eligible for approval as an AMHP. Any student who is awarded an aegrotat award will not be eligible for AMHP approval.

AMHPs have a legal role in the assessment and compulsory detention of individuals requiring psychiatric treatment against their wishes. Local authorities have the responsibility to approve suitably experienced and trained people as AMHPs. Suitably qualified and experienced social workers, occupational therapists, nurses and psychologists are eligible to undertake AMHP training and upon successful completion of the training may be approved by a local authority as an AMHP. Any student wishing to achieve AMHP status will require the formal support of their employer in advance of the programme.

The programme is designed to produce confident and competent mental health practitioners and is designed, managed, supported and delivered by a range of partner agencies and stakeholders, including service users and carers, working closely with the University. Agencies and stakeholders are represented on a Programme Management Board that ensures that the programme is able to prepare practitioners for the challenges of advanced professional practice in mental health, including, where appropriate, the role of an AMHP.

The following groups and organisations are actively involved in the programme:

- **Employers:** There is a long history of effective partnership with Bradford Adult Services with continuing involvement from Kirklees, Calderdale, Wakefield and North Yorkshire Adult Services as well as other local and regional voluntary organisations including Mind, Bradford and Airedale Mental Health Advocacy group (BAMHAG).

- **Service users and carers:** Service user and carer involvement is central to the programme with involvement from individuals and groups in programme design and management, student selection, delivery of teaching and practice development. Service users and carers are also involved in the Division of Social Work’s service user and carer group. This group provides support and training for service users and carers who are interested in becoming involved. Service users and carers have been recruited through working with relevant organisations in health and social care.

- **Students:** Student representatives are involved in the meetings of the Programme Management Board and all students are encouraged to offer feedback on every aspect of the programme, including module
content and teaching, programme management and design and practice placements.

- **Lecturers:** The majority of lecturers teaching the programme are registered social workers, with substantial practice experience in mental health. Additionally, associate lecturers include experienced AMHPs and other professionals as well as service users and carers.

- **Practitioners:** Experienced AMHPs are involved in the teaching and assessment of practice placements, and in teaching within the academic setting.

**Programme Aims**

The Postgraduate Certificate stage is intended to enable you to:

A1. Understand contemporary issues in mental health legislation, policy and practice
A2. Develop a critical and reflective approach to the understanding of concepts and theories relating to mental health and distress with a particular emphasis on a social perspective
A3. Apply relevant concepts and principles to mental health practice or other relevant context
A4. Work in partnership with a range of professionals, service users and carers, and agencies to promote a holistic approach to mental health difficulties

In addition, the Postgraduate Diploma is intended to enable you to:

A5. Develop and apply critical understanding of risk and decision-making in complex situations
A6. Work collaboratively with others, including service users and carers, to promote human rights and dignity of people who may be at risk
A7. Critically evaluate your own practice and contribute to the further development of practice within your organisation
A8. Develop the necessary competence to carry out the statutory responsibilities of an AMHP under the Mental Health Act 2007

In addition, the Master of Arts stage is intended to enable you to:

A9. Critically appraise relevant research and evidence in mental health to promote the development of practice
A10. Develop skills in scholarship and research and the capacity to work autonomously and independently in managing a small-scale research project
Programme Learning Outcomes

When you have successfully completed the Postgraduate Certificate you will be able to:

LO1. Demonstrate a systematic understanding of contemporary issues in mental health legislation, policy and practice
LO2. Demonstrate a critical and reflective approach to the understanding of concepts and theories relating to mental health and distress with a particular emphasis on a social perspective
LO3. Demonstrate the independent application of relevant concepts and principles to resolve complex situations in mental health practice or other relevant contexts
LO4. Demonstrate the potential capacity to work in partnership with a range of professionals, service users and carers, and agencies to promote a holistic approach to mental health difficulties

When you have successfully completed the Postgraduate Diploma you will be able to:

LO5. Provide evidence of the critical understanding of risk and decision-making in complex situations
LO6. Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively and to collaborate with others, including service users and carers, to promote human rights and dignity of people who may be at risk
LO7. Show critical reflection and analysis in the evaluation of your own practice and in contributing to the further continuing development of practice within your organisation
LO8. Demonstrate and evidence the necessary competences to meet the requirements of the HCPC to carry out the statutory responsibilities of an AMHP under the Mental Health Act 2007
LO9. Demonstrate the ability to critically appraise relevant research and evidence in mental health to promote the development of practice

When you have successfully completed the MA you will be able to:

LO10. Demonstrate skills in independent scholarship and research through the completion of a small-scale research project (Master)

Curriculum

The curriculum for this programme has been designed to engage students in developing their understanding of theory and its application to practice, recognizing students as adult learners who bring extensive professional experiences to their studies. The development of critical and analytical thinking forms a thread linking the modules and there is a progression from an emphasis on deepening understanding of theoretical concepts and
research evidence in the early modules, to the application of theory to practice in later modules, culminating in the assessment of the AMHP practice module.

The curriculum is also informed by, and reflects, at a postgraduate level, the themes of the University of Bradford Undergraduate Curriculum Framework in its emphasis on an Inclusive Curriculum, Making Knowledge Work and a Research-Informed Curriculum. Student engagement is at the heart of the programme, recognizing the contribution that can be made by students who are committed to their continuing professional development and who wish to take responsibility for their learning, both individually and collectively.

Postgraduate Certificate
The Postgraduate Certificate will usually be completed in one semester / year. Modules will be delivered in parallel, with a series of day workshops incorporating lecture input, case material and group discussions. These will be supported by directed independent study. To be awarded the Postgraduate Certificate students must successfully complete the following three modules or two of the following modules and the Risk: evidence-based decision-making and communication that is delivered in semester 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Study period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOW7002-B</td>
<td>Law, policies and procedures (and AMHP role)</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOW7018-B</td>
<td>Critical Perspectives in Mental Health</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOW7019-B</td>
<td>Collaborative Practice in Mental Health</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Postgraduate Diploma
Students who are sponsored by their employers to undertake AMHP training will register for the Postgraduate Diploma. This will normally be completed within 12 - 15 months. You will need to complete the modules SOW7002-B, SOW7018-B and SOW7019-B above and then take modules SOW7003-B and SW-7025Q. This will include an intensive block delivery of the module (SW-7004D): Risk: evidence-based decision-making and communication, incorporating lecture input, case material and group discussions. Students will also complete a 40 day placement as part of the AMHP practice module (SOW7020-D) and will be required to produce a practice portfolio that will demonstrate their competence to be approved as an AMHP. The placement will also be supported by a series of practice workshops. Each student will have a named practice educator who will support their learning and practice in placement. The timing of the placement may be flexible in order to meet the requirements of the employer. It is possible therefore that placements
may extend over a longer period on a part-time basis. However the normal expectation will be that the placement module and all other work for the postgraduate diploma will be completed either at the end of semester 2 or by the end of semester 1 the following year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Study period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOW7020-B</td>
<td>Approved Mental Health Professional Practice</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOW7003-B</td>
<td>Risk: evidence-based decision-making and communication</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MA Mental Health Practice

Students who have completed the Postgraduate Diploma in Mental Health practice will be eligible to progress to the MA Mental Health Practice. The dissertation module will be tailored to the needs of individual students and each student will be allocated a research supervisor to support their work, including the development of an individual project or study.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Study period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOW7004-E</td>
<td>Dissertation</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The curriculum may change, subject to the University’s programme approval, monitoring and review procedure.

Programme Structure and Delivery

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Semester 1</td>
<td>Induction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Critical Perspectives in Mental Health</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Law, policies and procedures (and AMHP role)</td>
<td>PG Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Collaborative Practice in Mental Health</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester 2</td>
<td>Risk and Evidence-based Decision-Making</td>
<td>Block delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AMHP Practice (to include)</td>
<td>Full-time or</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Teaching and Assessment Strategies

Teaching is focused on meeting clear learning outcomes for each module whilst maintaining an overall holistic approach to mental health and mental health practice. Small student numbers facilitate the creation of a safe and stimulating environment in which the students can learn, recognising and building on the rich contribution that students bring from their own professional experience.

An induction programme will provide an introduction to adult learning with an emphasis on developing critical analysis and reflection accompanied by guidance on what is expected of postgraduate level study by the university. A dedicated introduction to the library will also be provided.

Learning will be directed and supported using a range of methods and approaches, combining a mix of direct teaching / lecture input with small group discussion, case studies and examples from practice. The use of appropriate audio-visual resources will be used to enhance learning in addition to the contribution of service users and carers / experts-by-experience. Guest speakers and associate lecturers will also provide relevant input based on their own expertise and specialist knowledge. Collaborative learning and discussion with peers will reflect the emphasis in advanced professional practice where peer consultation and supervision are recognised as good practice. Please see the appendix for further details.

Each 20 credit module represents approximately 200 hours study time including time spent on assessment and directed study. Students will be provided with access to resources, including the virtual learning environment, as part of independent directed study and guidance will be offered regarding the use of appropriate and relevant social media and websites etc. Informal group presentations will be used as part of a range of formative assessment opportunities. This will include the examination of reports, inquiries and case examples. Once in placement, students will be actively involved in presenting their own experiences and case studies, including sessions involving other AMHPs, practice educators and service users and carers. Workshop-style sessions will also be used to foster the critical application of theory to practice.

The 40 day practice module will prepare students for AMHP practice under the guidance of an experienced AMHP practice educator who will support and assess your learning in practice. Placements are identified in the organisation in which you are employed through a process of negotiation between the university and the employer. All placements are subject to initial and ongoing review using the Quality Assurance of Practice Learning (QAPL) process and this is reviewed regularly by the Placement team. You will
also be provided with a Placement handbook that provides further information.

If you are intending to become an AMHP, you will be sponsored by your employer to undertake the Postgraduate Diploma in Mental Health Practice and your employer will make appropriate arrangements for you to be released from work in order to attend teaching sessions and to study independently. This arrangement is ratified in the agreement between the University and the employer partners and reviewed regularly by the Programme Management Board.

Module learning outcomes will be assessed using a range of approaches, both formative and summative, including written assignments, assessed group work and presentations, a practice portfolio including the application of theory to case examples and a reflective account. Please see the appendix for further details.

Learning outcomes 1 – 4 are focused on the acquisition of knowledge and understanding and the development of critical analysis. They are assessed using a range of written assignments and presentations including a written response to case material.

Learning Outcomes 5 – 8 specifically address the development of skills in practice and the integration of theory and practice, emphasising critical reflection on your developing competence. In addition to a written assignment based on a case study for the AMHP Practice module will be assessed through the provision of evidence of the student meeting the HCPC competences. This will be gathered in a practice portfolio containing case studies and a reflective account of your development.

Learning outcome 9 will be assessed throughout in terms of your considered use of theory and concepts, policy and legislation. You will also submit an in-depth case study in the portfolio to demonstrate the application of research evidence to practice to assess the Risk: evidence-based decision-making and communication module. Both learning outcomes 9 and 10 will be assessed in the final project undertaken to meet the requirements of the Dissertation module.

Attendance for all taught modules is compulsory and a minimum attendance of 80% must be achieved in order to pass each module.

Assessment Regulations

This Programme conforms to the standard University Assessment Regulations which are available at the following link: http://www.bradford.ac.uk/aqpo/ordinances-and-regulations/

Details of the exceptions to these regulations in this programme, due to the requirements of the professional body, the HCPC, are as follows:
• For those students who are training as AMHPs, you must achieve at least 40% in all academic assignments and additionally must pass the practice module with a mark of at least 40%. This must include evidence that the student has demonstrated each of the 35 competences required by the HCPC portfolio. Additionally you must also have a passing report from your practice educator.

• Attendance is compulsory and you must achieve an 80% attendance record where specified for academic modules. If you fail to achieve this you will be deemed to have failed the module(s) for which you do not have evidence of 80% attendance and you will be required to retake the whole module(s).

Admission Requirements

The University welcomes applications from all potential students regardless of their previous academic experience, offers are made following detailed consideration of each individual application. Most important in the decision to offer a place is our assessment of a candidate’s potential to benefit from their studies and of their ability to succeed on this particular programme. Entrance requirements for each programme will vary but consideration of your application will be based on a combination of your formal academic qualifications and other relevant experience.

If you have prior certificated learning or professional experience which may be equivalent to parts of this programme, the University has procedures to evaluate this learning in order to provide you with exemptions from specified modules contained within the curriculum. Please talk to us if you do not fit the standard pattern of entry qualifications.

The University of Bradford has always welcomed applications from disabled students, and these will be considered on the same academic grounds as are applied to all applicants. If you have some form of disability you may wish to contact the programme leader before you apply.

Applicants for the Postgraduate Diploma / MA in Mental Health Practice can only be registered social workers, mental health or learning disability nurses, registered occupational therapists or chartered psychologists who can be working in either the statutory or voluntary and independent sector. There are two additional admissions criteria: employer nomination and academic attainment. The admissions selection process will involve employers, mental health service users and/or carers and University academics.

Additionally, applicants must also meet the following criteria:

1 For further details please consult The Mental Health (Approved Mental Health Professionals) (Approval) (England) Regulations 2008
i) Normally have a minimum of two years post-qualifying experience in mental health but some applicants may be working in adult care or other settings with experience in mental health work.

ii) Employer nomination: All applicants must be nominated by a local authority or other employer. Employer nomination will normally be based on the length and range of the student’s post-qualifying experience, and the potential suitability of the student to be approved as an AMHP.

iii) Academic requirements: Usually applicants will have a good (minimum 2.2) first degree. In exceptional cases candidates without a first degree may submit evidence of their ability to study at postgraduate level – the Programme Director will assess this for suitability. Applications for APL and APEL will be considered by the Programme Management Board on an individual basis in line with the University policy on Recognition of Prior Learning and section B2 of the QAA Code.

The process of employer nomination takes place prior to the university selection process and successful employer nomination does not guarantee the offer of a place by the University.

Applicants whose first language is not English will also be expected to possess a University approved English Language qualification such as IELTS at 7.5 or TOEFL (paper) at 625-680.

Applicants who wish to apply for only the Postgraduate Certificate in Mental Health or individual modules that form this, as part of their continuing professional development will need to demonstrate significant prior experience in mental health through employment, voluntary work or as service users or carers. Additionally they will need to demonstrate their capacity to study at postgraduate level normally either through previous undergraduate study or professional training.

Learning Resources

The JB Priestley Library on the city campus and our specialist library in the Faculty of Management and Law provide a wide range of printed and electronic resources to support your studies. We offer quiet study space if you want to work on your own, and group study areas for the times when you need to discuss work with fellow students. Subject librarians for each Faculty provide training sessions and individual guidance in finding the information you need for your assignment, and will help you organise your references properly.

Student PC clusters can be found in all our libraries and elsewhere on the campus. Many of these are open 24/7. You can also use the University’s wireless network to access the internet from your own laptop. Most of our journals are available online (both on and off campus), and you can also access your University email account, personal information and programme-related materials this way.
Staff are on hand during the daytime to help you if you get stuck, and there is a 24/7 IT helpline available.

**Student Support and Guidance**

**Programme Team**

Support for you personally and in your course of study, will be provided both by the University and the Programme Team. You will be allocated a personal tutor who is someone with whom you will be able to talk about any academic or personal concerns. The Faculty will ensure that there is someone available with whom you feel comfortable to help and support you. You will be provided with a comprehensive series of handbooks that you can consult on a range of learning issues and your course tutors will be available to consult on subject specific queries.

**Students’ Union**

We value the feedback provided by students and collaborate with the Students’ Union, through a system of course representatives and formal staff student liaison committees, so that any issues you wish to raise are addressed rapidly.

The Students’ Union provide professional academic representation and advice. The Students’ Union and the University of Bradford work in partnership to provide confidential counselling and welfare services where you can get help with any aspect of your personal or academic life. Student Financial and Information Services (based in the Hub) will provide you with information about a diverse range of issues such as council tax, personal safety and tourist information. International Students can access a range of additional advice and support services through the Students’ Union.

**Employability and Career Development**

Students enrolled for the Postgraduate Diploma / MA Mental Health Practice will already be in employment in a relevant professional role. Completion of the award will qualify them for accreditation as an Approved Mental Health Professional and enhance their continuing professional development and career progression.

Completion of the Postgraduate Certificate in Mental Health studies will enhance students’ career progression and increase their employability in a range of statutory and third sector agencies in health and social care.

The University is committed to helping students develop and enhance their employability profile and capabilities through learning opportunities embedded within the curriculum.

Furthermore, the University is committed to supporting students to develop their commitment towards a career pathway(s) and to implementing a career plan. Professional career guidance and development support is available.
throughout your time as a student and as a graduate from Career Development Services. The support available from Career Development Services includes a wide range of information resources, one to one appointments, a weekly workshop programme, a mentoring programme, graduate recruitment and careers fairs, plus information and help to find you part time work, summer work, placements, graduate internship programmes and graduate entry vacancies. In addition, some students as part of their programme of study may have the opportunity to complete a Career & Personal Development accredited module delivered by the Career Development Service.

All students are encouraged to access Career Development Services at an early stage during their studies and to use the extensive resources available on their web site www.careers.brad.ac.uk.

Career Development Services annually undertakes a survey of all graduates to find out their destination six months after graduation. The survey gathers data on the employment and further study routes graduates have entered and a range of other information including job roles, name and location of employers, salary details etc. The survey findings for each programme of study are presented on the programme information pages on the University website and via Career Development Services’ website www.careers.brad.ac.uk

**Academic Skills Advice Service**

For undergraduate students who are looking to improve their marks during their time at university, study skills and maths advice is available to all regardless of degree discipline or level of study. Students can access a programme of interactive workshops and clinics which are delivered thought out the year. This is in addition to our extremely popular face-to-face guidance from our advisers, who also offer a wide range of online and paper based materials for self-study.

[http://www.bradford.ac.uk/academic-skills/](http://www.bradford.ac.uk/academic-skills/)

**Disability**

Disabled students will find a supportive environment at Bradford where we are committed to ensuring that all aspects of student life are accessible to everyone. The Disability Service can help by providing support, advice and equipment to help you get the most out of your time at Bradford. It is a place where you can discuss any concerns you may have about adjustments that you may need, whether these relate to study, personal care or other issues. For more information contact the Disability Service by phoning: 01274 233739 or via email: disabilities@bradford.ac.uk

**University policies and initiatives**
Learning and Teaching

Our University approach to learning, teaching and assessment is encapsulated by an integrated set of themes and principles within our Curriculum Framework. All of our degree programmes have been designed to provide you with an inclusive and engaging learning environment which gives you the opportunity to thrive and develop in your area of study. Our research-informed programmes have a particular focus on developing your employability. We also place a strong emphasis on collaborative, real-world and enquiry-based learning, supported by appropriate learning technologies. Our assessment is designed not just to measure your achievement, but also to shape and guide your learning through preparing you for the increasing level of challenge as you progress through your degree. Together, these lead to you developing a distinctive set of graduate attributes which will prepare you for life beyond university.

Ecoversity

Ecoversity is a strategic project of the University which aims to embed the principles of sustainable development into our decision-making, learning and teaching, research activities, campus operations, and lives of our staff and students. We do not claim to be a beacon for sustainable development but we aspire to become a leading University in this area. The facilities we create for teaching and learning, including teaching spaces, laboratories, IT labs and social spaces, will increasingly reflect our commitments to sustainable development. Staff and student participation in this initiative is crucial to its success and its inclusion in the programme specification is a clear signal that it is at the forefront of our thinking in programme development, delivery, monitoring, and review. For more details see www.bradford.ac.uk/ecoversity

The contents of this programme specification may change, subject to the University's regulations and course approval, monitoring, and review procedures.