

Pharmacy Practice MSc/PGDip Programme Specification

<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/pg/pharmacy-practice/>

Academic Year:	2025/26
Degree Awarding Body:	The University of Bradford
Faculty and School:	Health and Social Care School of Pharmacy, Optometry and Medical Sciences
Main Location:	Blend of distance learning and City Campus study days
Subject Benchmarks:	Royal Pharmaceutical Society Post-registration Foundation Pharmacist Curriculum (RPS 2025) and Foundation Pharmacist Framework (RPS 2019)
Qualifications Framework:	Framework for HE Qualifications of UK Degree Awarding Bodies (FHEQ: QAA 2024)
Target Degree Award:	Master of Science (MSc) Pharmacy Practice [FHEQ Level 7]
Target/exit Diploma Award:	Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) Pharmacy Practice [FHEQ Level 7]
Intermediate/exit award:	Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) Pharmacy Practice [FHEQ Level 7]
Programme Admissions:	UK and home students
Programme Start Dates:	September, January
Programme Modes of Study:	3 years part-time (September start) 3 years part-time (January start)

Please note: Information about this programme and its modules has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Any change which impacts the terms and conditions of an applicant's offer will be communicated to them.

Minor Modification Schedule

1. September 2025: Corrected new programme academic regulations. Specification reformatted for accessibility.
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Programme overview

Global health systems including the NHS are currently experiencing an unprecedented demand for services, with an increasing recognition of the need to provide personalised and seamless care. Pharmacists in every sector can play a key role in addressing these challenges.

The Pharmacy Practice programme is suitable for pharmacists registered and practising in patient-facing roles in the UK. It supports the NHS Long-Term Plan, ensuring that pharmacists are enabled to thrive in the NHS of the future. It also supports mapping to the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's (RPS) Post-registration Foundation Pharmacist Curriculum (PRFPC), with learning outcomes mapped to the five domains in the PRFPC: **Person-Centred Care, Professional Practice, Leadership and Management, Education and Research.**

The postgraduate Pharmacy Practice programme supports early-career and newly qualified pharmacists, as well as those changing sectors, who need fundamental underpinning knowledge to enable this change. Students applying for this programme will undertake modules and assignments created to further their development, providing learning to lay foundations for post-registration curriculum credentialling. The programme leader will support students with choosing the most beneficial optional module based on previous experience and learning needs.

The programme has been designed in collaboration with stakeholders including employers, students, national pharmacy organisations and service-users. Areas covered include the pharmaceutical management of patients with a range of clinical conditions, the organisational culture associated with working as a pharmacist in the modern healthcare system and the consultation and communication skills required to deliver person-centred care. In addition, practice-based leadership, education and research skills are developed.

The University of Bradford also runs an [Advanced Pharmacy Practice Programme](#), which is aimed at the more experienced pharmacist and aligned to advancing practice towards core, advanced specialism or consultancy roles. Whichever programme the student undertakes, they have been structured with the continuum of practice in mind to provide the skills required for practicing in any area of pharmacy practice today. If students are uncertain which programme of study is most relevant to them, the programme leader can provide guidance to enable the best programme of choice.

Programme aims

The programme aims to develop pharmacists' knowledge and skills whilst working in practice. Learning whilst working in a practice environment ensures that new knowledge and clinical decision-making skills can be applied in real-world settings. In addition, this enables collaboration with other healthcare professionals to ensure that the best quality of care can be delivered to the local population.

The programme is intended to equip pharmacists with the skills, knowledge and attitudes required by the modern NHS, to develop and deliver safe and effective person-centred care in partnership with the multi-disciplinary team. The programme aims to develop students in the domains of clinical practice, leadership and management, education and research.

Students will develop:

- The ability to solve complex problems and justify their decisions.
- The confidence and ability to communicate effectively with patients and healthcare professionals (including the use of technology where appropriate).
- The ability to reflect on their practice to inform their professional development.
- The confidence and ability to work effectively and proactively across healthcare organisations to improve the quality of person-centred care, minimise risk, optimise safety and reduce health inequalities.

- An understanding of the priorities of the NHS.
- The knowledge and skills required to design, plan, deliver, assess and evaluate learning activities and experiences in practice.
- The ability to mentor and support colleagues working in clinical practice.
- The skills to support service improvement or practice-based research initiatives.

This includes understanding the role of a pharmacist across multiple sectors, person-centred care and treatment and prevention of ill-health.

Programme learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this programme students will be able to demonstrate full achievement of the following learning outcomes, mapped to the RPS Post-Registration Foundation Pharmacist Curriculum (PRFPC) Domains 1-5.

To be eligible for the FHEQ Level 7 Diploma award, students will be able to:

1. Confidently employ professional communication skills, including those required to influence, negotiate with and educate patients and healthcare professionals.
 - PRFPC Domain 1 outcomes 1.1 and 1.3.
 - PRFPC Domain 4 outcome 4.5
2. Systematically gather, critically analyse and evaluate information to prioritise and solve complex problems in the field of pharmacy practice.
 - PRFPC Domain 2 outcomes 2.1, 2.3, 2.5, 2.8 and 2.12.
3. Critically evaluate healthcare in the light of evidence and accepted practice to devise, justify and ensure implementation of appropriate course(s) of action to optimise medicines use.
 - PRFPC Domain 1 outcomes 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 and 1.5.
 - PRFPC Domain 2 outcomes 2.2, 2.10 and 2.11.
4. Anticipate and prevent health and medication-related problems and share responsibility for ongoing monitoring to optimise the use of medicines for individual patients.
 - PRFPC Domain 1 outcomes 1.1 and 1.3. PRFPC Domain 4 outcome 4.5.
5. Work effectively in partnership with patients, carers and as part of the multidisciplinary team to deliver person-centred care.
 - PRFPC Domain 2 outcomes 2.10 and 2.11.
6. Critically reflect on their own practice and relevant standards of competence to identify professional development needs and take appropriate action to meet the required standard.
 - PRFPC Domain 2 outcomes 2.9 and 2.10.
 - PRFPC Domain 3 outcomes 3.7, 3.8 and 3.9.
 - PRFPC Domain 4 outcomes 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3.

7. Work effectively across health and social care organisations to enhance the quality of services, reduce health inequalities and ensure continuity of care, particularly at points of transfer.
 - PRFPC Domain 3 outcomes 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4.
8. Proactively work with systems and processes to effectively minimise risk and optimise patient safety and quality of care.
 - PRFPC Domain 3 outcomes 3.1, 3.5, 3.6 and 3.10.
9. Demonstrate the ability to support, mentor and provide educational opportunities for colleagues and patients.
 - PRFPC Domain 4 outcomes 4.4 and 4.5.
10. Demonstrate leadership through clinical decision-making and by employing a proactive approach to optimise use of medicines.
 - PRFPC Domain 3 outcome 3.1.
11. Evaluate the evidence base and participate in audit, service improvement or practice-based research and disseminate learning to support person-centred care and effective service delivery.
 - PRFPC Domain 5 outcome 5.1.

Additionally, to be eligible for the FHEQ Level 7 Master's Degree, students will be able to:

12. Demonstrate critical analysis of the quality and service improvement process and an ability to synthesise new knowledge by undertaking an in-depth project in an area relevant to local pharmacy practice.
 - PRFPC Domain 5 outcome 5.1.

The FHEQ Level 7 Certificate award indicates partial completion of these learning outcomes and the PRFPC Domain outcomes.

Programme structure

Students choose their own pathway through the programme from a choice of optional modules to reflect their learning needs, although some employers may want students to follow a specific route.

There are two intakes per academic year for this programme:

1. **September:** Students begin with Semester 1, followed by Semester 2 and then Semester 3. The University records modules studied across this pattern on transcripts as the Full Year (FLYR), or the Academic Year (ACYR) of Semester 1+2.
2. **January:** Students begin with Semester 2, followed by Semester 3 and then Semester 1. The University records modules studied across this pattern on transcripts as the NSYR or Non-Standard Academic Year and usually means Semester 2+3.

Students study modules either with their intake or together with both intakes.

In Year 1, students complete 60 credits depending on this pattern, as shown in the following table: two 30 credit modules and the Portfolio 1 module.

Table 1: Pharmacy Practice Year 1 Modules (both intakes)

Code	Module Title	Selection	Credit	Level	Study Pd.	Student Intake
PHA7100-Z	Pharmacy Practice Portfolio 1	Core	0	FHEQ 7	FLYR	September
PHA7100-Z	Pharmacy Practice Portfolio 1	Core	0	FHEQ 7	NSYR	January
PHA7099-C	Clinical Pharmacy Practice	Core	30	FHEQ 7	ACYR	September
PHA7099-C	Clinical Pharmacy Practice	Core	30	FHEQ 7	NSYR	January
PHA7087-C	Clinical Education and Training	Core	30	FHEQ 7	Semester 2	All students

Students will be eligible to exit with the FHEQ Level 7 award of Postgraduate Certificate if they have successfully completed 60 credits and passed the PHA7100-Z module.

In year 2, students will complete another 60 credits. This comprises of the 30-credit Independent Prescribing qualification if they have not already qualified prescribers through prior learning, or a 30-credit leadership and management module option, along with a core 30-credit module and the Portfolio 2 module.

Table 2: Pharmacy Practice Year 2 Modules (both intakes)

Code	Module Title	Selection	Credit	Level	Period	Intake
PHA7098-Z	Pharmacy Practice Portfolio 2	Core	0	FHEQ 7	FLYR	September
PHA7098-Z	Pharmacy Practice Portfolio 2	Core	0	FHEQ 7	NSYR	January
PHA7086-C	Applied Research for Pharmacy Practice	Core	30	FHEQ 7	Sem 1	All
PHA7097-C	Independent Prescribing for Pharmacists	Option*	30	FHEQ 7	ACYR	September
PHA7097-C	Independent Prescribing for Pharmacists	Option*	30	FHEQ 7	NSYR	January
LEM7032-C	Managing People in Health and Social Care	Option*	30	FHEQ 7	Sem 2	All
LEM7034-C	Leading Change and Service Improvement in Health and Social Care	Option*	30	FHEQ 7	Sem 2	All students

*PHA7097-C must be taken by students who are not already qualified independent prescribers. An alternative option module may be selected by qualified independent prescribers.

Students will be eligible for the target FHEQ Level 7 award of Postgraduate Diploma if they have successfully completed at least 120 credits, passed the modules PHA7100-Z (Portfolio 1) and PHA7098-Z (Portfolio 2) and achieved the award learning outcomes (1-11).

In year 3, students will complete a Service Improvement or Research Project for Pharmacists and an option module that they have not studied in year 2 or in previous study. January intake students will complete the leadership and management module before starting the project.

Table 3: Pharmacy Practice Year 3 Modules (both intakes)

Code	Module Title	Select	Credit	Level	Period
PHA7089-C	Service Improvement or Research Project for Pharmacists	Core	30	FHEQ 7	Semester 1
LEM7032-C	Managing People in Health and Social Care	Option*	30	FHEQ 7	Semester 2
LEM7034-C	Leading Change and Service Improvement in Health and Social Care	Option*	30	FHEQ 7	Semester 2

Students will be eligible for the target FHEQ Level 7 Degree of Master award if they have successfully completed at least 180 credits, passed the modules PHA7100-Z (Portfolio 1) and PHA7098-Z (Portfolio 2), and achieved the award learning outcomes (1-12). Students who do not successfully complete year 3 may exit with the Postgraduate Diploma award.

Learning, teaching and assessment strategy

The programme uses a blended and flexible approach to learning, which includes on-campus and virtual attendance at study days, eLearning, role play, webinars and work-based learning. Students will also produce an ePortfolio each year to demonstrate their progression.

There are modules to provide a structured learning journey for students, in addition to some optionality in their choice of optional module(s) to provide a personalised learning experience which suits each student's personal development needs. Most optional modules will include inter-professional learning with other healthcare professionals, giving students the opportunity to learn with, and about, others.

The programme is designed to provide students with continuous formative feedback and summative assessment to enable them to develop and demonstrate their knowledge of the topics as well as work-based leadership, education and research skills.

Students will work on their portfolios throughout the programme. Early career pharmacists can work towards the RPS Post-registration Foundation Pharmacist Curriculum, the professional benchmark at this level. Students will identify their own development needs (with the support of their personal academic tutor and/or practice supervisor) to ensure they cover the entire framework.

A pass in the Pharmacy Practice Portfolio 1 module is a requirement for the award of Postgraduate Certificate. A pass in Pharmacy Practice Portfolio 1 and Pharmacy Practice Portfolio 2 is a requirement for the award of Postgraduate Diploma and MSc.

To develop the communication skills that pharmacist leaders in practice need, there are a variety of summative assessments including written assignments, objective structured clinical exams (OSCEs), presentations and work-based assessments.

Regulations

This programme follows the Assessment, Continuation and Award regulations published on the University's website <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/about/legal-and-governance/governance/regulations/> for postgraduate taught courses (Regulation 9)

Admissions requirements

The University welcomes applications from all prospective students. Consideration of applications will be based on a combination of formal academic qualifications and other relevant experience. The most important factor when deciding whether 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.

In addition to fulfilling the University's general entrance requirements, students will also need to fulfil the following specific requirements:

- The student must have a degree in pharmacy, be registered with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) and have access to practice/clinical experience through employment in pharmacy within the UK.
- Students who have not been taught in English must have an IELTS (International English Language Testing System) overall band score of at least 7.0 in each of the four subsets (speaking, listening, reading and writing).

Information in this document is for the contemporary recruitment cycle and was accurate at time of publication. The current tariff and accepted qualifications for entry onto the programme is published at the online course page: <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/pg/pharmacy-practice/>

The University has a set of terms and conditions for all students accepting an offer to study on a course here at Bradford. This is called the Student Contract. This document sets out the Terms and Conditions which apply when you accept an offer of a place on a programme of study at the University of Bradford. View our Student Contract for further details:

<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/student-contract/>