

Quality Assurance

Masters, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate in Clinical Pharmacy Practice

Programme Specification: Postgraduate

Information for students: the programme specification is the definitive document summarising the structure and content of your degree programme. The document aims to clarify to potential and current students what you can expect from the study of the subject over the course of your programme. This programme specification applies to students from March 2021.

Names of programme(s) and award title(s)	<p>PG Cert in Clinical Pharmacy Practice</p> <p>PG Dip in Clinical Pharmacy Practice</p> <p>MSc in Clinical Pharmacy Practice</p> <p>PG Cert in Prescribing Studies</p> <p>PG Dip in Clinical Pharmacy Practice (Independent Prescribing)</p> <p>MSc in Clinical Pharmacy Practice (Independent Prescribing)</p>
Mode of study	<p>Part time.</p> <p>The programme is offered part-time by distance learning over 1-5 years. The Programme is flexible in that it allows you to finish your studies at one of 3 postgraduate levels for the award of Certificate (C), Diploma (D) or Masters (M).</p> <p>You can also study individual elements of the programme as stand-alone short courses. This allows you maximum flexibility to accumulate credits towards an award (see section 8 and Appendix 2).</p>
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award	7
Duration:	1-5 years part time

Details of professional, statutory and regulatory body (PSRB) (If appropriate):

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/professionalstatutoryregulatorybodies/>

Not applicable, except for the Independent Prescribing Preparatory Course for Pharmacists that is accredited by the General Pharmaceutical Council. Further Information is available on our website:

1. What is the philosophy of the Programme?

In the fast changing world of Pharmacy and health care provision, standing still is not an option, but you may, understandably, feel under-equipped to meet the new challenges. Our distance learning programme in Clinical Pharmacy Practice has been developed to meet the needs of pharmacists working in any patient-facing sector of practice, including hospital pharmacy, community pharmacy and in a GP practice. The choice of modules includes clinical modules and professional skills modules such as Leadership, and the Independent Prescribing Preparatory Course for Pharmacists, in order to provide you with a wider view of healthcare and equip you with the knowledge, skills and confidence to be able to develop and extend your clinical and professional role as part of a multidisciplinary health care team. The Programme is designed to allow you choice and flexibility in your progression to Certificate, Diploma and Masters Awards, to meet your specific professional development needs and advance your professional practice. The programme links to the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Foundation and Advanced Pharmacy Frameworks, to enable you to meet the relevant competencies and provide evidence for your continued professional development.

The Centre for Professional Development and Lifelong Learning (CPD4ALL) has a reputation for providing stimulating courses to pharmacists and other healthcare professionals. We offer a flexible, multidisciplinary approach that ensures our courses encompass a broad range of skills and are responsive to the changing healthcare environment. We are closely in touch, through our advisors and networks, with NHS development and service needs. We are recognised nationally as a centre of excellence for postgraduate education delivered by distance learning. Our programmes are highly acclaimed by students, employers, purchasers and external course assessors for their structure, content and end value in relation to service, professional and career development. We are happy to put you in touch with our former students for their independent view.

Educational Aims

Keele's Postgraduate Clinical Pharmacy Practice Programme aims to:

- ❖ Build on your existing knowledge of disease states, pharmacology, pharmacokinetics and therapeutics to enable you to apply this in a clinical setting.
- ❖ Equip you to assess drug therapy for effectiveness, safety, compatibility, patient acceptability and cost, and use this information to make effective, evidence based interventions and optimise prescribing.
- ❖ Encourage you to develop an understanding of the principles of pharmaceutical care and problem-solving approach to clinical practice.
- ❖ Provide you with a wider view of healthcare and equip you with sufficient knowledge and skills to be able to develop and extend your professional role.
- ❖ Increase your confidence in your ability to contribute to patient care as part of the multi-disciplinary healthcare team.
- ❖ Provide you with a structured learning programme that will help you apply your knowledge and skills in daily practice.
- ❖ Encourage you to develop a reflective approach to your clinical pharmacy practice.
- ❖ Encourage you to develop the self-discipline of private study and self-directed learning that will be continued beyond Keele's Programme in your Continuing Professional Development (CPD) as an independent learner.

In addition, you will develop valuable practical skills including written and oral communication, and the ability to design a project, collect, analyse and interpret data.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do if you make full use of the opportunities for learning that we provide to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, and skills.

By studying on Keele's Postgraduate Clinical Pharmacy Practice Programme:

A You will obtain knowledge and understanding and develop your practical skills in accordance with the specific learning outcomes that are defined in the modules that you choose. The learning outcomes are compatible with study at Masters level as defined by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

You will find more details of individual module learning outcomes on the School of Pharmacy and Bioengineering's postgraduate website: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/pharmacy-bioengineering/study/postgraduate/>

B You will develop the 'thinking' skills that will enable you to:

B1 Identify and solve clinical problems in practical situations relating to patient care, medicines management and prescribing (C,D,M)

B2 Apply your knowledge base and understanding to 'real life' situations (C,D,M)

B3 Plan, conduct and report on an investigation (C,D,M)

B4 Critically analyse published literature (C,D,M)

B5 Relate theory in published literature to real issues in practice (C,D,M)

B6 Define a problem and formulate a research question/hypothesis with identifiable objectives and outcomes (M)

B7 Develop a comprehensive understanding and critical awareness of a chosen field of your professional practice, through research and enquiry (M)

C You will develop the practical skills that will enable you to:

C1 Communicate efficiently and effectively with patients and other healthcare professionals (C,D,M)

C2 Read, select and interpret relevant information from medical notes (C,D,M)

C3 Interpret prescribing data to evaluate and optimise prescribing (C,D,M)

C4 Develop prescription-monitoring skills (C,D,M)

C5 Locate and interpret patient-specific data to maximise their pharmaceutical care (C,D,M)

C6 Encourage patients to adopt health enhancing/protecting behaviours (C,D,M)

C7 Collect and interpret data collected as a result of an investigation (C,D) or research project (M)

C8 Identify published literature relevant to your studies (C,D,M)

C9 Cite relevant published evidence to support your written work (C,D,M)

C10 Select (C,D) and use (M) appropriate audit/research methods

C11 Plan and conduct an independent learning project through research and enquiry that will inform the development of your professional practice/services (M)

C12 Produce a structured project report (M)

D You will develop the key life/transferable skills that will enable you to:

D1 Generally communicate efficiently and effectively both in writing and orally (C,D,M)

D2 Express key concepts and theories in 'your own words' (C,D,M)

D3 Problem solve in a variety of theoretical and practical situations (C,D,M)

D4 Work effectively on your own (C,D,M)

D5 Work effectively as part of a team (C,D,M)

D6 Use IT appropriately (C,D,M)

D7 Manage your time effectively (C,D,M)

D8 Evaluate/reflect on your own performance (C,D,M)

D9 Identify your continuing professional development needs (C,D,M)

Keele Graduate Attributes

Engagement with this programme will enable you to further develop your intellectual, personal and professional capabilities. At Keele, we call these our ten Graduate Attributes and they include independent thinking, synthesizing information, creative problem solving, communicating clearly, and appreciating the social, environmental and global implications of your studies and activities. Whilst you will undoubtedly have already developed these skills and abilities to varying degrees, such existing capabilities can always be deepened and enriched. Our educational programme and learning environment is designed to help you to develop further as a well-rounded postgraduate who is capable of making a positive and valued contribution in a complex and rapidly changing world, whichever spheres of life you engage in during and after your studies at Keele. Please refer to the programme webpages for a statement of how you can achieve the Keele Graduate Attributes through full engagement in the programme and other educational opportunities at Keele.

2. How is the Programme taught?

You will study on this Programme using a variety of learning tools. For the Certificate (C) and Diploma (D) elements of the Programme, the principal delivery medium to enable you to acquire knowledge is the online distance learning (DL) modules produced by the Centre for Professional Development and Lifelong Learning, School of Pharmacy and Bioengineering. These modules have been carefully designed to incorporate activities that will develop your understanding of particular issues and concepts, application of knowledge to practice, and help you to reflect on your current practice. They also encourage further, self-directed, learning for your continued professional development. The online DL provision is complemented by collaborative computer-mediated learning and, for some modules, occasional face-to-face study days at Keele. These provide an opportunity for you to network and share ideas with other course participants.

For the Masters (M) element of the Programme, knowledge and skills are acquired through f-2-f or online workshops, presentations, group-work with other students and tutors. Your personal tutor provides direction and additional tuition to help you to design and conduct your Researching Professional Practice Project.

If you chose to study the Independent Prescribing Preparatory Course for Pharmacists as part of this programme, you may be required to attend f-2-f study days at Keele during the six month course. More information can be found on our website: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/pgtcourses/independentprescribing/>

Your learning will be supported by our experienced team of Programme Managers, Academic Tutors and Professional Services Staff. More information about members of the team can be found in the staff biographies

section of the School of Pharmacy and Bioengineering website: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/pharmacy-bioengineering/ourpeople/>. The programme is also supported by Course Tutors and Clinical Co-ordinators in the workplace who have a formal education role with Keele. Course Tutors are pharmacists working in practice. Course Tutors contribute to the development and delivery of the course as well as marking assessments and providing feedback to students.

3. What is the Structure of the Programme?

Students may choose from a selection of modules depending on their sector of practice. The list of modules available can be found in appendix 1. You will find further information about all of the modules available for this programme on the University's website: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/pharmacy-bioengineering/study/postgraduate/>

A total of 60 credits are required to achieve the Certificate award, 120 credits for the Diploma and 180 credits for the MSc. You may choose to incorporate the Independent Prescribing Preparatory Course for Pharmacists (60 credits) into the Diploma or MSc award. Appendix 2 shows the different pathways and awards available within the programme.

Achievement of the Masters award requires completion of the professional MSc year. The professional MSc year consists of three compulsory modules: Introduction to Research Methods (15 credits), Research in Practice (15 credits) and the Researching Professional Practice Project (30 credits).

You will study most elements of the Programme at a distance, in your own home or your workplace. Depending on your choice of modules you might also attend some study days at the University and/or participate in collaborative computer-mediated workshops. If you choose to study the Independent Prescribing Preparatory Course for Pharmacists you may be required to attend face to face study days at Keele.

4. How is the Programme assessed?

Assessment is entirely by coursework for the Certificate, Diploma and MSc courses. A variety of assessment methods are used.

All of the modules (C,D) contain Practice Based Assignments that will assess your knowledge, problem solving skills, and data interpretation skills in relation to application of knowledge to practice, patient care and medicines management. These also assess your ability to critically appraise the literature and relate published theory to everyday practice.

Practice-based Assignments (C,D), Project Protocol development (M) and the Researching Professional Practice Report (M) assess 'thinking' and practical skills, and your ability to plan, conduct and report on an investigation. They also assess your ability to critically appraise the literature and relate published theory to everyday practice.

All modules (C,D) also assess your ability to relate theory to practice, and self-evaluation of, and reflection on, your own performance and CPD needs.

The nature of the assessments develops your written and oral communication skills. Practical skills and key life/transferable skills are assessed within the methods described above.

Each method of assessment is supported by clear criteria for marking; these are explained in the relevant Student Handbooks. The minimum pass mark is 50%.

The summative assessment is supported by a variety of formative assessment activities that include online discussions, formative feedback on elements of coursework, contributions to online collaborative activities and study days, and feedback on draft proposals.

5. What are the typical admission requirements for the programme?

To gain admission to the Certificate and Diploma courses, and their stand-alone short courses, you must be a pharmacist registered with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC), or equivalent for pharmacists working overseas, and be practising either full-time or part-time in a patient-facing role. We recommend that applicants should, normally, have worked in a patient-facing pharmacy setting for 6-12 months prior to commencing the Course so that they have gained some experience of working in this sector. It is also essential that you have the support of your workplace to access patient data where necessary for course learning activities and assessment.

Normally, only applicants with the minimum of a second class degree classification (or equivalent for applicants from outside the UK) in Pharmacy will be accepted onto the programme without interview. Exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The University reserves the right to interview prospective students and take up academic references. The final decision in any case rests with the University. Candidates are also admitted on the basis of perceived and potential competence to complete the programme.

Progression each year is dependent on your satisfactory performance in the previous year. For the MSc year, you may be able to gain direct entry if you have an 'equivalent' postgraduate diploma from another UK University.

Applicants who wish to study the Independent Prescribing Preparatory Course for Pharmacists (leading to PG Cert in Prescribing Studies) must be registered with the GPhC and have been practising for the minimum period required by the GPhC for trainee independent prescribers (currently 2 years post-registration). All applicants must be able to identify a Designated Prescribing Practitioner for the 90 hour period of supervised learning in practice, for approval by the School of Pharmacy and Bioengineering.

Module exemption on the basis of RPEL and RPL will be at the discretion of the Programme Manager/Director of Postgraduate Studies. The University's RPL policy can be found at <https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmesandmodules/accreditationofpriorlearning/>

English language proficiency requirement

If English is not your first language, you must either:

Hold a degree from an institution where English was the language of instruction. This must have been obtained in the two year period prior to starting the course.

OR

Pass the Academic IELTS - an average of 7.0 with a minimum of 6.5 in all sub-tests is required

Please note that IELTS exam must be no more than two years old at the start of the course for which you have applied.

6. How are students supported on the programme?

- The relevant Student Handbook will provide you with key information and guidance on structure, content and assessment, including dates for submission of your assessments for the period of your chosen course, and any dates you have to come to study days at Keele and/or participate in online collaborative learning workshops. You will also be provided with guidance on some study skills.
- Pastoral and Academic support including decisions on module choices and feedback on assessments will be provided by your Academic Tutor and the Programme Manager. You will also have access to an Independent Advisor in line with University PGT Student Support Guidance.
- If you work in the hospital sector and are on the fixed pathway, you may be supported by a nominated Clinical Co-ordinator at your base hospital.

- If you choose to study the Independent Prescribing Preparatory Course for Pharmacists you will be required to identify a Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP) to mentor you through the programme.
- You will have open access to the Programme Manager, Academic Tutors and the Professional Services Team by e-mail and other means as possible on weekdays during normal working hours. You will be provided with contact details for your Programme Manager, Academic Tutors and the Professional Services Team at the start of the course.
- You will have access to the Programme Manager, Academic Tutors and other students during study days and in collaborative online workshops.
- You will have access to the University's IT support team as well as Keele's Computing Services
- You will have access to other Students, Academic/Programme Tutors and course materials within the School's virtual learning environment – Keele Learning Environment or other suitable platforms.
- You will have access to Keele's Library on campus and via the internet.
- Details of your Academic Tutor and independent advisor will be provided in the Student Handbook.

7. Learning Resources

You will study most elements of the Programme at a distance, in your own home or your workplace. Most modules are delivered through self-study materials which comprise of a range of electronic resources that can be accessed through Keele's Learning Environment (KLE) or other platforms. These are also used to enhance student support during the course and provide a forum for exchange of ideas and discussion of issues that arise. Depending on your choice of modules you might also attend some study days at the University and/or participate in collaborative computer-mediated workshops.

Keele University Library has many resources for your subject, both on campus and online. Further information can be found at: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/library/>

To access online library services you will need to use your student log-in details. Full information is given in the student handbook regarding accessing online journals.

In the Master's year, you will need to attend online tutorials and meet online with your tutor where necessary. You will study the online modules and conduct your project, at a distance, with the support of a Keele-based Tutor.

8. Other learning opportunities

CPD Plus pathway to Certificate, Diploma and MSc awards

This is a flexible pathway that allows you to choose the modules that you study for the Certificate and Diploma awards by *combining options* from the 10 credit modules available to meet your needs.

You can choose from all the options shown in Appendix 1. The 3 modules for the MSc are compulsory.

The PG academic Certificate that is awarded by UK universities that provide the Joint Programme Board (JPB) route of study, or equivalent, will be accepted in full (i.e. all 60 M level credits) as a direct entry route to the Diploma year for the Clinical Pharmacy Practice award pathway.

Pathway to Diploma and MSc awards that includes Independent Prescribing

This is a flexible pathway that allows you to incorporate the Independent Prescribing Preparatory Course for Pharmacists within the Clinical Pharmacy Practice Diploma and MSc academic awards. You can achieve this by either first completing one of the Certificate courses described earlier and then the IP Course, or vice versa, to gain the Diploma in Clinical Pharmacy Practice (Independent Prescribing). The 3 modules leading to the MSc are compulsory. Full details of the IP course are available from our website:

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/pharmacy/pg/courses/independentprescribing/>

Assessments for the alternative pathways are compatible with the fixed route option Certificate/Diploma pathway.

9. Quality management and enhancement

The Programme Manager is responsible for the day to day management of the programme and reports to the Director of Postgraduate Education. The Programme Manager is supported by the other Postgraduate Programme Managers and Academic Tutors, within the Centre for Professional Development and Lifelong Learning, School of Pharmacy and Bioengineering, and a network of course tutors.

To ensure that the Clinical Pharmacy Practice Programme maintains the highest possible standards and ensures the effective management and continuous enhancement of the quality of learning and teaching, the programme employs the following procedures:

- Clinical Pharmacy Practice Programme Course Committee Meeting – twice each year
- Clinical Pharmacy Practice Programme Co-ordinators' Meeting – when required
- Clinical Pharmacy Practice Programme Board of Examiners' meeting - annual
- External Examiner Report – annual
- CPD4ALL Team Meetings - every 4-8 weeks
- Programme Manager/Module leader meetings – when required
- Student Feedback - annual evaluation of programme (usually completed via online questionnaire)
- Module Evaluation Questionnaires
- Study Day Evaluation Questionnaires - after each study day
- School of Pharmacy and Bioengineering Education Committee
- School of Pharmacy and Bioengineering Education Staff Development Programme for Postgraduate staff

10. The principles of programme design

The Clinical Pharmacy Practice Programme is continually developing and receives input from practising pharmacists to ensure it is up-to-date and highly relevant to your practice. Other stakeholders also provide feedback to the programme including the Health Education England (West Midlands), Chief Pharmacists, Community Pharmacy Organisations, Clinical Tutors and current and former students.

The Clinical Pharmacy Practice Programme has been designed and developed with reference to, and in accordance with the guidance set out in the following documents:

- Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education. UK Quality Code for Higher Education, available at: <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code>
- The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education 2014

11. Programme Version History

Version History	Date	CHANGES / NOTES
Date first created	March 2017	Revised to incorporate programme for pharmacists working in all sectors.
Revision history	May 2017 February 2021	Amended following FLTC scrutiny Amended to reflect recent changes
Date approved	May 2021 (FEC)	

Appendix 1 Table of Pharmacy Modules Available (all modules are available to study as stand-alone modules)

Modules suitable for all pharmacists in patient-facing roles (available as 10 credit modules except where specified otherwise)	10 credit modules particularly suitable for pharmacists working in secondary care	10 credit modules particularly suitable for pharmacists working in primary care (including community pharmacy)
Cardiovascular Disease 1	Critical Care and Parenteral Nutrition	Introduction to Public Health
Cardiovascular Disease 2	Hepatic Disease	Introduction to Working in General Practice
Central Nervous System	Patient Centred Care and Medicines Optimisation	Women's health
Child Health	Malignant Disease	
Education Theory and Practice for Health Professionals	Renal Disease	
Endocrine Disease	Surgical	
Evaluating Practice	Introduction to hospital clinical pharmacy	
Gastrointestinal Disease		
Infections		
Joint and Bone Disease		
Leadership and Change Management		
Mental Health		
Monitoring Therapy		
Personal Effectiveness and Collaborative Working		
Quality in Healthcare and Evidence Based Practice		
Respiratory Disease		
Rational Prescribing and Medicines Optimisation		
Independent Prescribing Preparatory Course for Pharmacists (60 credits)		
Advanced Practice Development (15 credits)		

Appendix 2 Clinical Pharmacy Practice Programme Pathways

