

Programme Specification

Programme title: Post Graduate Diploma/MSc Clinical Pharmacy (Primary Care)

Academic Year:	2018/2019
Degree Awarding Body:	University of Bradford
Partner(s), delivery organisation or support provider (if appropriate):	
Final and interim award(s):	[Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) level 7] MSc Postgraduate Diploma Postgraduate Certificate
Programme accredited by (if appropriate):	
Programme duration:	2 years Diploma 3 years MSc
QAA Subject benchmark statement(s):	
Date of Senate Approval:	
Date last confirmed and/or minor modification approved by Faculty Board	October 2018

Introduction

The increased demand for General Practice (GP) services as a consequence of ever increasing numbers of older people with co-morbidities, combined with an undersupply of GPs and Practice Nurses has resulted in a recognised workforce crisis in primary care. Pharmacists, along with other new emerging healthcare professionals, are in a position to play a key role in the transformation of the primary care workforce needed to address this challenge.

This programme provides education and training for early career pharmacists to develop their knowledge and skills whilst working in a GP practice. Working as part of a multidisciplinary team is key to the development of relationships and experience in any clinical setting and the University of Bradford School of Pharmacy & Medical Sciences is well positioned to ensure that multidisciplinary learning and working is at the forefront of the course design due to its close involvement with programmes for other allied health professionals including physician associates, nurses and paramedics.

Learning whilst working in a practice environment ensures that knowledge and problem solving skills gained can be put into practice in a real world setting. This enables collaboration with all health professionals and supports colleagues to ensure that the best quality of care can be delivered to the local population. A variety of practice pharmacists' roles will be highlighted and considered including those described by the RCGP and the RPS in their document entitled 'A guide for GPs considering employing a practice pharmacist.'¹

This programme is the first of this kind nationally and will provide training that is refined to local/regional workforce needs, where there are a number of potential models for employment of pharmacists being developed.

We have engaged with key stakeholders during the last two years as part of Programme development including GPs, practice nurses, practice pharmacists, commissioners and current students on other programmes to ensure that this programme is fit for purpose and develops pharmacists into an invaluable provider of health services in primary care.

There is an emphasis on self-directed learning and reflection, enabling students to identify and meet their own learning needs.

Programme Aims

The programme is intended to:

Equip foundation level pharmacists with the knowledge, skills and behaviours required by the modern NHS, to deliver safe and effective patient-centred care in partnership with the multi-disciplinary team.

Students will demonstrate:

- Confidence and ability to communicate effectively with patients and healthcare professionals.
- Ability to integrate and work effectively in a multi-disciplinary team to provide patient centred care
- Ability to solve complex problems and justify decision making
- Behaviour befitting a role model for good pharmacy practice

Programme Learning Outcomes

To be eligible for the award of Postgraduate Certificate at FHEQ level 7, students will be able to:

- LO1 Employ excellent written and verbal communication skills including interpersonal, influencing and negotiating skills.
- LO2 Use appropriate systems and processes to minimise risk and optimise patient safety and quality of care
- LO3 Critically analyse prescribing in the light of evidence and accepted best clinical practice to devise and justify appropriate courses of action
- LO4 Be accountable and responsible for own learning and practice

¹ http://pcpa.org.uk/assets/documents/gp_guide.pdf

To be eligible for the award of Postgraduate Diploma at FHEQ level 7, students will be able to:

- LO5 Demonstrate in-depth clinical and therapeutic knowledge and understanding of evidence-based healthcare
- LO6 Plan, manage, monitor and advise on optimising medicines for patients with long term conditions.
- LO7 Work across health and social care organisations to ensure continuity of patient care

Additionally, to be eligible for the award of Degree of Master at FHEQ level 7, students will be able to:

- LO8 Demonstrate a critical understanding of the service improvement process by undertaking an in-depth project in an area relevant to local pharmacy practice.

Programme structure

The structure of the modules described below allows for integrated theory and learning with clinical practice. Directed tasks both before and after attending the study days helps consolidate learning and understand its application in the practice setting.

The four modules across years 1 and 2 are all core modules. There is however ample opportunity for choice within each module in relation to the nature of patient care plans produced and work based learning assignments as well as the chosen area of competence in prescribing practice.

Postgraduate Certificate

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Core/ Option/	Credits	Study Period	Code
Year One					
7	Foundations In Primary Care Practice	Core	30	SEM1	PHA7047-C
7	Advanced Communication Skills	Core	30	SEM2	NUR7020-C

Students will be eligible to exit with the award of Postgraduate Certificate if they have successfully completed at least 60 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Postgraduate Diploma

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Core/ Option/	Credits	Study Period	Code
Year Two					
7	Advanced Therapeutics	Core	30	SEM1	PHA7053-C
7	Prescribing for Pharmacists	Core	30	SEM2	PRE7003-C

Students will be eligible to exit with the award of Postgraduate Diploma if they have successfully completed at least 120 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Degree of Master

Currently the Quality and Service Improvement module runs in Semester 2. For those students wanting to progress to masters this module will need to be completed within the diploma rubric or prior to commencing the Quality and Service Improvement Project module.

The topic for this Module will be agreed between the student, their GP Practice and the module tutor allowing the student's chosen area and outcomes of their project to evaluate service improvement within their own workplace.

NB: Both the Quality and Service Improvement Module, which will provide the underpinning knowledge and tools, as well as the Quality and Service Improvement project must be completed to gain the MSc. The programme and module leaders will assist in planning the most appropriate start time for both modules to fit in with other practice and assessment commitments.

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Core/Option/	Credits	Study Period	Module Code
7	Quality and Service Improvement	Core	30	SEM2	LEM7017-C
7	Quality and Service Improvement project	Core	30	SEM1&2	PHA7043-C

Students will be eligible for the award of Degree of Master if they have successfully completed at least 180 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Learning and Teaching Strategy

Students will develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours necessary to meet the learning outcomes of the programme through a blended approach. This means that there will be a variety of learning and teaching styles used on the programme including tutorials, group work, peer discussion, practical sessions, observation of practice, directed reading and guidance.

Induction Day

This will be support students in conducting an analysis to identify their learning and development needs in relation to the programme learning outcomes, their professional framework, and any role descriptors they have as practice pharmacists.

Students will have an introductory tutorial on course content, the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) Foundation Pharmacy Framework (FPF) and how the course contents maps to it. This will guide them through their mapping of self against the FPF and the production of a gap analysis to best identify their learning needs.

Collaborative learning

A number of modules will be delivered face-to-face with other healthcare professionals in the Faculty of Health Studies allowing the sharing of practice between professions and inter-professional learning to take place.

Work-based learning

Students will be working in general practice and will have the opportunity to develop and enhance their knowledge, skills and behaviours in a clinical context. Students will use work based assessment such as the Pharmaceutical Care Plans, reflective journals and case based discussion (CBD).

Personal development

An important aim of the programme is that students develop the ability to reflect on their own practice to inform their professional development. Reflective practice forms part of the assessment in some modules.

Assessment Strategy

Module assessment

Summative assessments include:

- Critical reflections
- Pharmaceutical care plans
- Reflective journals
- Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs)
- Case based discussion
- Written examination
- Written assignments applying knowledge and skills gained in practice

Assessment Regulations

This Programme conforms to the standard University Assessment Regulations which are available at the link below

<http://www.bradford.ac.uk/aqpo/ordinances-and-regulations/>

However, there is one exception to these regulations as listed below:

Currently, the standard University of Bradford requirements are that students who have not been taught in English must have an IELTS (International English Language Testing System) overall band score of 6.0 with at least 5.5 in each of the four subsets. For pharmacists from outside the EU applying to register as a pharmacist in the UK, the GPhC requires an IELTS score of 7.0 in each subset; we believe this to be a more appropriate level of English for this programme.

An IELTS score of 7.0 is therefore required in each of the four subsets, in order to align our English language requirements with those of the regulatory body for practicing pharmacists, the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC).

Admission Requirements

The University welcomes applications from all potential students and 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. Consideration of applications will be based on a combination of formal academic qualifications and other relevant experience.

The standard entry requirements for the programme are as follows:

- Be working in the UK
- Be registered with the GPhC

- Have access to patients in General Practice

Recognition of Prior Learning

If applicants have prior certificated learning or professional experience which may be equivalent to parts of this programme, the University has procedures to evaluate and recognise this learning in order to provide applicants with exemptions from specified modules or parts of the programme.

Minor Modification Schedule

Version Number	Brief description of Modification	Date of Approval (Faculty Board)
2	Award learning outcomes for Postgraduate Certificate defined	