

Advanced Pharmacy Practice MSc/PGD Programme Specification

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

Academic Entry 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 Core Advanced Pharmacist Curriculum (RPS 2025) and NHS Multi-professional framework for advanced practice in England (NHS 2025)
Qualifications Framework:	Framework for HE Qualifications of UK Degree Awarding Bodies (FHEQ: QAA 2024)
Target Degree Award:	Master of Science (MSc) Advanced Pharmacy Practice [FHEQ Level 7]
Target/exit Diploma Award:	Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) Advanced Pharmacy Practice [FHEQ Level 7]
Intermediate/exit award:	Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) Advanced Pharmacy Practice [FHEQ Level 7]
Programme Admissions:	UK and home students
Programme Start Dates:	September
Programme Modes of Study:	3 years part-time (September 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.

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 perform a leadership role in addressing these challenges. This programme has been mapped to the NHS [Multi-professional framework for advanced practice in England \(2025\)](#) and **Long-Term Plan (2019)** to ensure that students are developed to thrive in the NHS of the future whilst working as autonomous practitioners.

This Advanced Pharmacy Practice programme is suitable for experienced pharmacists (usually meaning 2 years post-registration) who are aiming for, or already at, advanced level of practice. Learning outcomes support mapping to the five domains in the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's (RPS) Core Advanced Pharmacist Curriculum (CAPC): **Person-centred care and collaboration, Professional Practice, Leadership and Management, Education and Research**. Learning

outcomes also support mapping to the four pillars in the NHS Multi-professional Framework for Advanced Clinical Practice in England: **Clinical Practice, Leadership and Management, Education and Research.**

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 complex patients with a broad range of clinical problems, organisational culture associated with working as an autonomous advanced practice pharmacist in the modern healthcare system and advanced consultation and communication skills required to deliver person-centred care. In addition, practice-based education and research skills are further developed. Students applying for this programme will choose from a range of modules aimed to shape their individual development. The programme leader will support students at the point of application to map module choices according to their own learning needs. Modules have been provided to support individuals with advanced or consultant curriculum credentialling.

The University of Bradford also runs the [MSc/PGD Pharmacy Practice programme](#), which is aimed at newly qualified pharmacists, or those changing sectors who need fundamental underpinning knowledge to enable this change. Whichever programme a student undertakes, the programmes have been structured with the continuum of practice in mind to provide the skills required for practising 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 choice of programme.

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 and supports colleagues to ensure that the best quality of care can be delivered to the local population.

The programme is intended to equip pharmacists working towards advanced or consultant level practice with the knowledge, skills and behaviours required by the modern NHS, to lead the delivery of 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 confidence and ability to communicate effectively with patients and healthcare professionals, including communicating complex, contentious or sensitive information.
- The ability to take a leadership role as a member of the healthcare team to ensure provision of safe, high-quality person-centred care.
- The ability to work autonomously to solve complex problems and use sound reasoning and judgement in decision making.

- The behaviour befitting a role model and the ability to effectively lead and mentor others.
- The ability to map their own progress to the relevant curriculum and/or competency framework and plan personal development activities accordingly.

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 Core Advanced Pharmacist Curriculum (CAPC) Domains 1-5.

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

1. Confidently employ high level professional communication skills, including those required to influence, negotiate with and educate patients, healthcare professionals and decision makers.
 - CAPC Domain 1 outcomes 1.1, 1.3, 1.4 and 1.5.
2. Demonstrate advanced practice using in-depth clinical knowledge and understanding of evidence-based healthcare.
 - CAPC Domain 1 outcomes 1.1 and 1.6.
CAPC Domain 2 outcomes 2.1, 2.2, 2.4 and 2.6.
3. Autonomously manage their own caseload, making complex decisions and judgements to optimise person-centred care and medicines use.
 - CAPC Domain 1 outcomes 1.2 and 1.5.
CAPC Domain 2 outcomes 2.1, 2.2, 2.4 and 2.6.
CAPC Domain 3 outcome 3.4.
4. Proactively work 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.
 - CAPC Domain 1 outcomes 1.5 and 1.6.
CAPC Domain 2 outcomes 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4.
5. Critically reflect on practice and relevant standards of competence or curricula to identify professional development needs of themselves and others and take appropriate action to ensure the required standard is met.
 - CAPC Domain 1 outcomes 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.6.
CAPC Domain 2 outcomes 2.3 and 2.4.
6. Demonstrate the ability to support, mentor and educate patients and colleagues.
 - CAPC Domain 3 outcome 3.2.
7. Motivate self and lead others to achieve excellence in practice through professional development, education and training.
 - CAPC Domain 3 outcomes 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3.

8. Develop and implement systems and processes to investigate errors, minimise risk and optimise patient safety and quality of care.
 - CAPC Domain 3 outcomes 3.2 and 3.3.
CAPC Domain 4 outcomes 4.2 and 4.3.
9. Demonstrate the ability to work across boundaries as an integral member of the multidisciplinary team and signpost to other members effectively.
 - CAPC Domain 2 outcomes 2.5 and 2.6.
CAPC Domain 3 outcome 3.6.
CAPC Domain 4 outcome 4.1.
10. Evaluate the evidence base, lead research initiatives and disseminate learning to support patient centred care and effective service delivery.
 - CAPC Domain 3 outcomes 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3.

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

11. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the quality and service improvement process and an ability to synthesise new knowledge by leading an in-depth project in an area relevant to local pharmacy practice.
 - CAPC Domain 2 outcome 2.6.
CAPC Domain 3 outcomes 3.4 and 3.5.
CAPC Domain 5 outcomes 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4.
12. Generate evidence of their own impact on patient care and service provision, demonstrating cost effectiveness.
 - CAPC Domain 2 outcome 2.6.
CAPC Domain 3 outcomes 3.4 and 3.5.
CAPC Domain 5 outcomes 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4.

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

Programme Structure

There is currently one intake per academic year for this programme in 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. Modules that start in Semester 2 and continue into the summer Semester 3 are recorded as Non-Standard Year (NSYR).

Students choose their own pathway through the programme from a choice of optional modules to reflect their learning needs, which are listed in the following table. The module PHA7097-C Independent Prescribing for Pharmacists is only available to students who are not already qualified as prescribers. PHA7097-C runs twice a year, starting in September (ACYR) or in January (NSYR). Other modules are only available to start at a particular time of the academic calendar year.

Table 1: Advanced Pharmacy Practice Programme Optional Modules

Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Level	Study Period
PHA7097-C	Independent Prescribing for Pharmacists*	30	FHEQ 7	ACYR (S1+2)
PHA7097-C	Independent Prescribing for Pharmacists*	30	FHEQ 7	NSYR (S2+3)
PHA7099-C	Clinical Pharmacy Practice	30	FHEQ 7	ACYR (S1+2)
PHA7086-C	Applied Research for Pharmacy Practice	30	FHEQ 7	Semester 1
LEM7031-C	Health and Social Care Leadership	30	FHEQ 7	Semester 1
LEM7033-C	Understanding Health and Social Care through Policy and Strategy	30	FHEQ 7	Semester 1
PHA7087-C	Clinical Education and Training	30	FHEQ 7	Semester 2
LEM7032-C	Managing People in Health and Social Care	30	FHEQ 7	Semester 2
LEM7034-C	Leading Change and Service Improvement in Health and Social Care	30	FHEQ 7	Semester 2

*PHA7097-C may only be taken by students who are not already qualified independent prescribers.

In Year 1, students complete 60 credits as shown in the following table: two 30-credit modules and the Advanced Portfolio 1 module.

Table 2: Advanced Pharmacy Practice Programme Year 1

Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Level	Study Period
PHA7101-Z	Advanced Pharmacy Practice Portfolio 1	0	FHEQ 7	Full Year (123)
-	Any available Semester 1 or ACYR module from Table 1	30	FHEQ 7	Semester 1
-	Any available Semester 2 or NSYR module from Table 1	30	FHEQ 7	Semester 2

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 PHA7101-Z module.

In year 2, students complete a further 60 credits on the same pattern as year 1.

Table 3: Advanced Pharmacy Practice Programme Year 2

Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Level	Study Period
PHA7102-Z	Advanced Pharmacy Practice Portfolio 2	0	FHEQ 7	Full Year (123)
-	Any available Semester 1 or ACYR module from Table 1	30	FHEQ 7	Semester 1
-	Any available Semester 2 or NSYR module from Table 1	30	FHEQ 7	Semester 2

Students will be eligible for the target FHEQ Level 7 award of Postgraduate Diploma if they have successfully completed at least 120 credits, passed modules PHA7101-Z (Advanced Portfolio 1) and PHA7102-Z (Advanced Portfolio 2) and achieved the award learning outcomes (1-10).

In year 3, students will complete an individual Quality and Service Improvement or Research Project (Advanced) to complete the requirements of the Master's degree.

Table 4: Advanced Pharmacy Practice Programme Year 3

Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Level	Period
PHA7070-E	Quality and Service Improvement or Research Project (Advanced)	60	FHEQ 7	ACYR

Students will be eligible for the target FHEQ Level 7 Degree of Master award if they have successfully completed at least 180 credits, passed modules PHA7101-Z (Advanced Portfolio 1) and PHA7102-Z (Advanced 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, e-Learning, role play, webinars and work-based learning. Students will also produce an e-portfolio each year to demonstrate their progression.

There is optionality for students throughout the programme in their choice of modules and in their choice of assignments to provide a personalised learning experience which suits each student's personal development needs. Most optional modules will include interprofessional 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. Pharmacists can use this to support working towards the RPS Core Advanced Pharmacist Curriculum or the NHS England Advanced Clinical Practice Curriculum (with the caveat that this is not an Advanced Clinical Practitioner programme and may not cover all the evidence required).

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 Advanced Pharmacy Practice Portfolio 1 module is a requirement for the award of Postgraduate Certificate. A pass in Advanced Pharmacy Practice Portfolio 1 and Advanced 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 potential students who are pharmacists working autonomously towards advanced or consultant level practice. Consideration of applications will be based on a combination of formal academic qualifications and other relevant experience. The most important factor when deciding 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/advanced-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/>