

## Study with us

# About your course

### Courses covered

Code	Title
HSMHPPGC	Applied Mental Health Practice Programme (Approved Mental Health Professional training) – Post Graduate Certificate (PG Cert)

You can find full details of your course in the ***Programme Specification***.

### Important points

#### Who should attend the course?

- The PG Cert Applied Mental Health Practice Programme is designed to enable students to demonstrate they have the necessary knowledge and skills, ensuring that they have demonstrated that they can meet the Approved Mental Health Professional (AMHP) competencies in Schedule 2 of the AMHP Regulations (England) by the end of their course.
- Qualified social workers, mental health and learning disability nurses, occupational therapists, and psychologists, registered with their respective regulators, may train to become an AMHP.
- This course ensures that AMHP trainees are trained and assessed to the highest of standards, through strong partnerships with a range of key stakeholders including students and people with lived experience. Local authorities are centrally involved in the course design, delivery, and management to ensure that their responsibilities under legislation are addressed, and the training course remains fit-for-purpose.
- Successful completion of this approved course makes an individual eligible to be approved to act as an AMHP by a Local Authority in England and to perform the functions of an AMHP and helps to meet the legal requirement for Local Authorities to ensure that a sufficient number of AMHPs are available to meet the needs of the local area.

### Entry Requirements

The normal entry requirements for the programme are that the applicant has:

- A professional qualification and full registration (with the respective regulatory body) as a social worker, mental health or learning disability nurse, occupational therapist, or psychologist. Applicants will need to remain so registered for the duration of the course.
- Suitability in relation to their conduct, health and character, where suitability refers to fitness to practice. There is more detail in Social Work England's fitness to practice guidance, the Health and Care Professions Council's fitness to practice guidance, and the Nursing & Midwifery Council's fitness to practice guidance.

- Evidence of completing a relevant post-qualifying course at master's level (level 7): completion of the university's Pre-AMHP Foundation course is normally required.
- Suitable prior experience of the practical application of appropriate legislation and policy, specifically but not limited to mental health, mental capacity and human rights legislation. Confirmed in a nomination form completed by the relevant AMHP lead.
- Support from a Local Authority/ Trust who will offer a statutory placement in a mental health setting which will provide the relevant experience to achieve the module learning outcomes and who will also provide an experienced Approved Mental Health Professional (AMHP) to act as a Practice Learning Educator.
- Confirmed they are in agreement for information about their grades, attendance, and performance to be shared by the University with the employing authority, Practice Learning Educator and relevant AMHP lead.
- Successfully completed a University of Hertfordshire (UH) PG Cert AMHP programme interview. The interview panel will normally include a person with lived experience, the AMHP lead from the nominating AMHP service, and an AMHP programme tutor from the University. Experience of shadowing at least 3 Mental Health Act Assessments prior to the interview taking place is normally required.
- Commitment that they will have no other work, training or other commitments during the PG Cert AMHP Programme which could prevent or delay completion of the course.
- Have an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate with adult and child workforce barred list checks. This certificate must be issued within three years prior to the programme start, unless the applicant has an active subscription to the DBS update service.
- Where applicants are self-employed or not employed by a Local Authority or Trust DBS and Occupational Health clearances by the University, will be required before commencing any placement activity.

The programme is subject to the University's Principles, Policies and Regulations for the Admission of Students to Undergraduate and Taught Postgraduate Programmes (in UPR SA03), along with associated procedures. These will take account of University policy and guidelines for assessing accredited prior certificated learning (APCL) and accredited prior experiential learning (APEL).

### **Course aims**

- Our programmes are purposefully designed to enable all students to engage meaningfully with the curriculum by being accessible and representative. We will support students to shape their learning experience, removing barriers and enabling them to succeed. The curriculum explicitly includes multiple and representative perspectives, valuing collective identities and individual diversity. Learning, teaching and assessment activities help students to understand how they can enhance outcomes both for themselves and for others. All students belong to a learning community, and during their studies we really want to hear their voices, encourage them to listen to others, and express themselves.

Additionally, this programme aims to:

- Enable suitably qualified and experienced professionals to demonstrate that they are competent to undertake the statutory role of the AMHP under the Mental Health Act 1983, and to do so in a safe and effective way.
- To ensure that professionals meet the regulatory criteria set out by Social Work England (SWE) and ensuring that professionals meet the key areas of competence within Schedule 2 of the Mental Health Act Regulations 2008.

The programme has been devised in accordance with the University's graduate attributes of programmes of study as set out in UPR TL03.

## Course design

- Taught sessions employ a combination of lectures/ seminars, individual and groupwork, formative tests and assignments. Practice examples and case examples will be used to help make the necessary links between the academic and practice elements and to support the learning process. It is noted that trainees will already bring significant experience, knowledge and skills to the programme and support peer learning within the taught sessions.
- The practice placement is a central part of the programme. It provides the opportunity to put theory into practice and for trainees to develop and demonstrate in practice the necessary knowledge, understanding and skills required to be an AMHP. It includes formal supervision sessions to contribute to the learning and development of the trainee. Supervision will facilitate reflection and discussion of practice, including decision-making, as well as evidencing of Competencies.
- The design of the programme with integration of taught sessions amongst practice placement supports trainees to bring practice experiences back into the classroom environment for discussion and critical reflection. It also supports trainees being able to put what they learned in the classroom into practice and to consider its application in the placement setting.
- Private study time is built into the programme and throughout the training the trainees will need to undertake independent study both to supplement and consolidate what is being taught/learnt and to broaden their individual knowledge and understanding of the subject.

## Assessments

- A range of assessments are used, including coursework assignments/ assessments, open book tests as well as a portfolio of practice evidence and the sufficient demonstration of competencies as required by the regulatory body.

## Where is the course taught and by whom?

- Location: Usually at College Lane or another Hatfield campus. It may sometimes be necessary to teach all or part of it online.
- The Programme Leader is an AMHP and is involved in teaching on the course alongside other suitably qualified professionals including AMHPs.
- Other university and visiting speakers are involved in course delivery including people with lived experience and carers, mental health solicitor, psychiatrists and other professionals with specialist knowledge and experience relevant to the AMHP role.

## When does this course run?

- The programme is offered in full-time (approx. 4 months) and part time modes (approx. 6 months at 3 days a week – Mon - Wed). Intake is normally at Semester A (September) and Semester B (February).

## Forthcoming dates are (provisionally – please check to confirm):

### Semester A:

- Introductory days: 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025
- Full course commences: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025
- Final completion date: 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025 if full time or 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026 if part time.

### Semester B:

- Introductory days: 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026
- Full course commences: 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026
- Final completion date: 17<sup>th</sup> June 2026 if full time or 19<sup>th</sup> August 2026 if part time.

Ratification of Semester A marks usually take place at a University examination board in February each year for full time student and in May each year for part time students. Ratification of Semester B marks usually take place at a University examination board in July each year for full time students and in September each year for part time students. Following completion of the course successful candidates are eligible to proceed to a warranting panel within the Local Authority.

The Pre-AMHP Foundation course also usually runs twice a year: In April and September/October. There is a flyer available about the Pre-AMHP Foundation course as well as the full AMHP Programme.

It is noted that this programme is intensive in nature and requires a lot of focus and commitment. Unless due to unforeseen/ extenuating circumstances candidates will not normally be allowed to take annual leave or to carry out other work/ studies during the programme of study.

### Professional and Statutory Regulatory Bodies

- The programme is approved by Social Work England (SWE) and on completion of the programme students are eligible (though not guaranteed) to be approved by a Local Authority to act in the role as an Approved Mental Health Professional.

### Computer equipment requirement

- Delivery of the course incorporates blended learning which aims to combine e-learning activities with class based learning. You therefore need to have access to a suitable personal computer and a good reliable Internet connection. If you have any queries or need any additional support with IT skills, the School employs an e-learning technologist who will be pleased to help and advise you: [edtechhsk@herts.ac.uk](mailto:edtechhsk@herts.ac.uk)

### Cost

- To find out information about the fees visit [go.herts.ac.uk/cpdfees](http://go.herts.ac.uk/cpdfees)
- See also "Additional expenses" below

### Course Enquiries

- John Paul Anastasiadis
- [j.p.anastasiadis@herts.ac.uk](mailto:j.p.anastasiadis@herts.ac.uk)

### Booking Enquiries for the AMHP Programme:

- Health and Social Work CPD Team
- Tel 01707 284956, fax 01707 285814
- [cpdhealth@herts.ac.uk](mailto:cpdhealth@herts.ac.uk)

### Additional expenses

Description	Year	Mandatory/ Optional	Estimated cost
Parking fees and the cost of travel to the University and to placement/to shadow/front Mental Health Act Assessments.	1	Mandatory	£300
Academic Textbooks	1	Optional	£200
Some students choose to stay overnight in a hotel/BnB close to the University instead of travelling.	1	Optional	£800

Costs to work remotely – computer/ wifi/ electricity costs.	1	Mandatory	£200
It may be possible to claim many of these costs from the employer/local authority.			
No additional expenses have been specified for this course.			

Please be aware that some teaching sessions may be delivered online. Therefore, to study online you will need access to a suitable computer or similar electronic device and a good reliable Internet connection, which may incur additional expenses.

Please note that our Learning Resource Centres (LRCs) have PCs and Macs available to use, including hi-spec PCs. The university also has laptop loans available at both LRCs and provide a remote desktop portal service to allow users to access the software on Lab and LRC Windows PCs when not on campus.

We will use every reasonable effort to provide your educational and other related services in the manner and to the standards set out in our prospectuses, on our website, and in our other published materials. At times there may be circumstances outside our reasonable control which have a detrimental effect on how we provide our services to you. If circumstances such as these arise, we cannot make an absolute commitment that your studies will not be disrupted, but we will use every reasonable effort to minimise any disruption to you.