

Programme Specification

This programme specification is relevant to students entering:

10th September 2025

Associate Dean of School (Academic Quality Assurance):

Theresa Titchener

Signature: 

A programme specification is a collection of key information about a programme of study (or course). It identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the programme, lists the modules that make up each stage (or year) of the programme, and the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff. It also describes the structure of the programme, its progression requirements and any programme-specific regulations. This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right programme of study, to current students on the programme, and to staff teaching and administering the programme.

Summary of amendments to the programme		
Date	Section	Amendment

If you have any queries regarding the changes please email AQO@herts.ac.uk

Programme Specification Postgraduate Independent and/or supplementary prescribing

This programme specification (PS) is designed for prospective students, enrolled students, academic staff and potential employers. It provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the teaching, learning and assessment methods, learning outcomes and content for each module can be found in Definitive Module Documents (DMDs) and Module Guides.

Section 1

Awarding Institution/Body	University of Hertfordshire
Teaching Institution	University of Hertfordshire
University/partner campuses	College Lane
Programme accredited by	Nursing and Midwifery Council (Nurse/Midwife prescribers) General Pharmaceutical Council (Pharmacist Prescribers) Health and Care Professions Council (Allied Health Professional Prescribers)
Final Award (Qualification)	Practice Certificate
All Final Award titles	Independent Prescribing
(Qualification and Subject)	Supplementary Prescribing
FHEQ level of award	7

A. Programme Rationale

Prescribing by health professionals other than medical doctors has been a particular focus within current health policies aimed at enhancing patient access to required medications, effective review of medications and reducing unnecessary admission to hospital. A number of legislative changes have allowed certain groups of appropriately qualified professionals to prescribe independently and/or on a supplementary basis, involving partnership with the independent medical prescriber and patient and prescribing within the confines of a clinical management plan. Nurses, Midwives and Pharmacists are therefore permitted to prescribe independently from the full British National Formulary, including controlled drugs (DoH 2006) and may also prescribe on a supplementary basis. Physiotherapists, Radiographers and Podiatrists/Chiropodists have been able to prescribe on a supplementary basis since 2005 and recent legislation has enabled Physiotherapists, Podiatrists, Therapeutic Radiographers and Paramedics to also assume an independent prescribing role. The legislation also enabled Dietitians to prescribe on a supplementary basis and confirmed that Diagnostic Radiographers will continue to prescribe on this basis only.

This programme is designed to enable appropriately qualified practitioners to develop the skills, knowledge and attributes required for safe, appropriate and cost-effective prescribing practice within the context of their specialist professional roles and the legislative and professional frameworks that govern their specific prescribing role. In addition, the programme enables the high number of healthcare practitioners who are already educated to degree level to achieve academic credits at master's level.

It involves blended learning strategies to facilitate effective inter-professional learning and the sharing of differing professional perspectives and expertise. Reflective discussions and case analyses are held within each professional group of prescribing students to enable students to integrate their learning within the context of their professional practice and to ensure that the requirements of the respective professional regulatory statutory body are fully addressed.

B. Educational Aims of the Programme

Diversity and Inclusion

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.

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

Additionally this programme aims to:

- Develop the skills, knowledge and attributes required for safe, appropriate and cost-effective prescribing practice within the context of their specialist roles.
- Demonstrate safe and effective prescribing practice showing a critical appraisal of the associated professional responsibilities.

Student achievement of the programme aims is underpinned by the following principles:

- The primacy of practice in all areas. Teaching learning and assessment methods are practice-centred and directed towards the student's achievement of professional proficiency within their intended area of practice.
- The comprehensive integration of theoretical knowledge with professional practice.
- The development of evidence-based practice and learning involving the ability to synthesise new knowledge and to ensure its appropriate application in practice.
- The acquisition of the skills and attributes required for lifelong learning.

Graduate Attributes

Our graduates will be capable and professional, creative and enterprising, and will build their social and global awareness throughout. In addition to their subject expertise and proficiency, as a University of Hertfordshire graduate, they will be:

- Professionally focused
- Globally minded
- Sustainability driven
- Digitally capable and confident
- Inclusive and collaborative
- Evidence based and ethical

C. Intended Learning Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills and other attributes in the following areas. The programme outcomes are referenced the Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014) and relate to the typical student. Additionally, the SEEC Credit Level Descriptors for Further and Higher Education (2021) have been used as a guiding framework for curriculum design.

Knowledge and Understanding:	Teaching/learning methods & strategies	Assessment
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<p>A1 – Demonstrate a deep knowledge of systematic and holistic assessment of patient need and the differential diagnostic process.</p> <p>A2 – Demonstrate knowledge of pharmacological and therapeutic actions of drugs and evidence-based sources of information, advice and decision support in prescribing practice.</p> <p>A3 – Apply in-depth knowledge of legislation relevant to the practice of independent and/or supplementary prescribing.</p> <p>A4 – Apply in-depth knowledge of legal, ethical and professional issues in prescribing practice.</p> <p>A5 – Demonstrate knowledge of shared decision-making applied to practice with patients and carers.</p> <p>A6 – Demonstrate effective collaboration within the multidisciplinary team involved in prescribing, supplying and administering medicines.</p> <p>A7 – Apply a framework of professional accountability and clinical governance and its synthesis in prescribing practice.</p>	<p>Acquisition of A1 – A7 is through a combination of lectures, workshops, skills sessions, case analyses, learning logs/workbooks and reflective group discussions. Learning in professional practice is an integral part of the programme and the Practice Supervisor (PS) and Practice Assessor (PA) (Nurses and Midwives), Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP) (Pharmacists) or Practice Educator (PE) (Allied Health Professionals) will provide additional support for the integration of required learning in practice. Learning support will also be available through personal tutorials and guided study involving the use of the Managed Learning Environment/Blended Learning. Throughout, the learner is encouraged to undertake independent study both to supplement and consolidate what is being taught/learned and to broaden their individual knowledge and understanding of the subject.</p>	<p>Knowledge and understanding are assessed through a combination of examination (A2, A3), prescribing consultation (A1-A7) and portfolio of practice evidence (A1-A7).</p>
Intellectual skills:	Teaching/learning methods & strategies	Assessment
<p>B1 - Critically evaluate approaches to the systematic and holistic assessment of patient need and the interpretation of diagnostic indicators to achieve a differential diagnosis.</p> <p>B2 - Critically evaluate drug actions and sources of evidence-based information, advice and decision support in prescribing practice.</p>	<p>Intellectual skills are developed through the methods and strategies outlined in A above. Analysis and evaluation skills will be particularly developed through small group work and prescribing analysis in practice settings. Throughout, the learner is encouraged to develop intellectual skills further by independent study.</p>	<p>Intellectual skills are assessed through the examination paper (B2, B3) and the summative prescribing consultation (B1-B5). Further evidence of these skills is also presented within the portfolio of practice evidence.</p>

<p>B3 - Demonstrate a critical understanding and application of legislation relevant to the practice of independent and/or supplementary prescribing.</p> <p>B4 - Demonstrate a critical evaluation of legal, professional and governance issues in their prescribing role.</p> <p>B5 - Demonstrate a strategic approach to effective collaboration with the multidisciplinary team involved in prescribing, supplying and administration of medicines.</p>		
Practical skills:	Teaching/learning methods & strategies	Assessment
<p>C1 - Demonstrate a critical understanding of systematic and holistic approaches to the differential diagnostic process and appropriate analysis of diagnostic indicators.</p> <p>C2 - Demonstrate the appropriate application of a critical knowledge of drug actions in prescribing practice and the effective use of evidence-based decision support tools.</p> <p>C3 - Demonstrate the critical application of effective strategies in negotiation and shared decision-making with patients and carers.</p> <p>C4- Demonstrate a critical understanding of legislation relevant to the practice of independent and/or supplementary prescribing.</p> <p>C5 - Demonstrate reasoned professional judgment of legal and ethical issues in prescribing practice.</p> <p>C6 - Demonstrate a strategic application in practice of the framework of professional accountability and clinical governance in independent and/or supplementary prescribing.</p>	<p>Practical skills are developed through a period of supervised practice, supported and assessed by an appropriately qualified Practice Supervisor (PS) and Practice Assessor (PA) (Nurses and Midwives), Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP) (Pharmacists) or Practice Educator (PE) (Allied Health Professionals).</p> <p>Relevant learning experiences are negotiated in practice and recorded in the portfolio of practice evidence. A major focus of the learning experiences includes observation and practice of diagnostic skills and case analyses of the decision-making process regarding the appropriate management of patient problems.</p> <p>The student's learning experience will also include exploration of the roles and responsibilities of all members of the wider prescribing team.</p>	<p>Practical skills are assessed through case analyses and development of a portfolio of practice evidence. Assessment & diagnostic skills are also assessed via direct observation of practice conducted in the practice placement setting by the Practice Assessor (PA) (Nurses and Midwives), Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP) (Pharmacists) or Practice Educator (PE) (Allied Health Professionals).</p> <p>Assessment of the student's ability in practice will be undertaken by the Practice Supervisor (PS) and Practice Assessor (PA) (Nurses and Midwives), Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP) (Pharmacists) or Practice Educator (PE) (Allied Health Professionals), who will include a signed statement of competence to prescribe within the portfolio of practice evidence.</p>
Transferable skills:	Teaching/learning methods & strategies	Assessment

<p>D1 - Communicate effectively using verbal, non-verbal, written and electronic means as appropriate.</p> <p>D2 - Demonstrate appropriate strategies to foster collaborative working within the multidisciplinary prescribing team.</p> <p>D3 – Engage with information systems in order to analyse and interpret data to inform prescribing practice.</p>	<p>Transferable skills are developed in the programme by written case analysis and other written evidence in the portfolio of practice evidence. D2 is developed through work as part of a team in practice settings and evidence of this is included within the portfolio of practice evidence. D3 is developed and assessed through guided study strategies focusing on the use of prescribing support tools.</p> <p>Throughout, the learner is encouraged to develop transferable skills by maintaining a record of evidence and completing a personal development plan.</p> <p>Transferable skills are assessed through the range of assignments incorporated within the curriculum including, in particular, the development of a portfolio of practice evidence.</p>
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D. Programme Structures, Features, Levels, Modules, and Credits

This is a part-time programme over a 6-month period leading to 30 credits at level 7. Students successfully completing the 30-credit route will also be awarded the University award of Practice Certificate in Independent or Supplementary Prescribing.

The programme is in accordance with the QAA Framework for Higher education qualifications in England, Wales and N. Ireland. Intake is normally in Semesters A (September), B (January) and C (May)

The programme involves 26 taught days involving University attendance and guided study. Curriculum content is addressed through the following teaching themes:

Systematic approaches to assessment and diagnosis. ·
Pharmacology and prescribing practice.

Medicines' optimisation and governance frameworks in prescribing practice ·
Supervised Practice

Professional and Statutory Regulatory Bodies

The programme is recognised by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC), and Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC). Successful completion of the module indicated below will allow the prescribing qualification to be entered on the Professional Register of the relevant regulatory body.

Award

Professional Group

Required module

Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing	Nurses and Midwives	Nurse and Midwife Independent Prescribing (7HSK2059)
Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing	Pharmacists	Pharmacist Independent Prescribing (7HSK2018)
Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing	Physiotherapists, Podiatrists* Therapeutic Radiographers and Paramedics	AHP Independent Prescribing (7HSK0109)
Practice Certificate in Supplementary Prescribing	Diagnostic Radiographers and Dietitians	AHP Supplementary Prescribing (7HSK0110)

*Includes qualified practitioners referred to as chiropodists.

Work-Based Learning, including Sandwich Programmes

A period of 12 days supervised practice (equivalent to 90 hours practice experience) is also a required element within the programme. During this period students are supported and assessed by a Practice Assessor and Practice Supervisor, Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP) or Practice Educator. Evidence of the students' required development will be presented in a Portfolio of Practice Evidence. Summative assessment of the students' proficiency takes place in relation to the competencies outlined in the Prescribing Competency Framework for all Prescribers (Royal Pharmaceutical Society 2021).

Programme Structure

The programme structure and progression information below (Table 1a and 1b) are provided for the award. Any interim awards are identified in Table 1b. The Programme Learning Outcomes detailed above are developed and assessed through the constituent modules. Table 2 identifies where each learning outcome is assessed.

Table 1a Outline Programme Structure

The Programme involves one module of study for each specialist group and delivery involves shared learning.

Mode of study: Part time study only.

Entry point: Semester A (September), Nurse and Midwife Independent Prescribing

	Module Code	Credit Points	% Test	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Compulsory Modules							
Module Titles							
Nurse and Midwife Independent Prescribing	7HSK2059	30	P/F*	P/F*	100* P/F*	P/F*	AB

Entry point: Semester B (January), Nurse and Midwife Independent Prescribing

Compulsory Modules	Module Code	Credit Points	%Test	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Module Titles							
Nurse and Midwife Independent Prescribing	7HSK2059	30	P/F*	P/F*	100* P/F*	P/F*	BC

Entry point: Semester C (May), Nurse and Midwife Independent Prescribing

Compulsory Modules	Module Code	Credit Points	%Test	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Module Titles							
Nurse and Midwife Independent Prescribing	7HSK2059	30	P/F*	P/F*	100* P/F*	P/F*	CA

* Pass grades must be obtained in an in-course Pharmacology Examination completed under examination conditions(minimum pass mark 80%), numeracy test (minimum pass mark 100%) and direct observation of practice (Course Work P/F), an essay (Course Work 100% weighting) with satisfactory completion of all elements of the Portfolio of Practice Evidence(Practical (P/F), including the required period of supervised practice (90 hours).

Entry point: Semester A (September), Pharmacist Independent Prescribing

Compulsory Modules	Module Code	Credit Points	%Test	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Module Titles							
Pharmacist Independent Prescribing	7HSK2018	30	P/F*	P/F*	100* P/F*	P/F*	AB

Entry point: Semester B (January), Pharmacist Independent Prescribing

Compulsory Modules	Module Code	Credit Points	%Test	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Module Titles							
Pharmacist Independent Prescribing	7HSK2018	30	P/F*	P/F*	100* P/F*	P/F*	BC

Entry point: Semester C (May), Pharmacist Independent Prescribing

Compulsory Modules	Module Code	Credit Points	%Test	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Module Titles							
Pharmacist Independent Prescribing	7HSK2018	30	P/F*	P/F*	100* P/F*	P/F*	CA

* Pass grades must be obtained in an in-course Pharmacology Examination completed under examination conditions(minimum pass mark 80%), numeracy test (minimum pass mark 100%) and direct observation of practice (Course Work P/F), an essay (Course Work 100% weighting) with satisfactory completion of all elements of the Portfolio of Practice Evidence(Practical (P/F), including the required period of supervised practice (90 hours).

Entry point: Semester A (September), AHP Independent Prescribing

Compulsory Modules	Module Code	Credit Points	%Test	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Module Titles							
AHP Independent Prescribing	7HSK0109	30	P/F*	P/F*	100* P/F*	P/F *	AB

Entry point: Semester B (January), AHP Independent Prescribing

	Module Code	Credit Points	%Test	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Compulsory Modules							
Module Titles							
AHP Independent Prescribing	7HSK0109	30	P/F*	P/F*	100* P/F*	P/F *	BC

Entry point: Semester C (May), AHP Independent Prescribing

	Module Code	Credit Points	%Test	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Compulsory Modules							
Module Titles							
AHP Independent Prescribing	7HSK0109	30	P/F*	P/F*	100* P/F*	P/F *	CA

* Pass grades must be obtained in an in-course Pharmacology Examination completed under examination conditions(minimum pass mark 80%), numeracy test (minimum pass mark 100%) and direct observation of practice (Course Work P/F), an essay (Course Work 100% weighting) with satisfactory completion of all elements of the Portfolio of Practice Evidence(Practical (P/F), including the required period of supervised practice (90 hours).

Entry point: Semester A (September), AHP Supplementary Prescribing

	Module Code	Credit Points	%Test	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Compulsory Modules							
Module Titles							
AHP Supplementary Prescribing	7HSK0110	30	P/F*	P/F*	100* P/F*	P/F *	AB

Entry point: Semester B (January), AHP Supplementary Prescribing

Compulsory Modules	Module Code	Credit Points	%Test	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Module Titles							
AHP Supplementary Prescribing	7HSK0110	30	P/F*	P/F*	100* P/F*	P/F *	BC

Entry point: Semester C (May), AHP Supplementary Prescribing

Compulsory Modules	Module Code	Credit Points	%Test	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Module Titles							
AHP Independent Prescribing	7HSK0110	30	P/F*	P/F*	100* P/F*	P/F *	CA

* Pass grades must be obtained in an in-course Pharmacology Examination completed under examination conditions(minimum pass mark 80%), numeracy test (minimum pass mark 100%) and direct observation of practice (Course Work P/F), an essay (Course Work 100% weighting) with satisfactory completion of all elements of the Portfolio of Practice Evidence(Practical (P/F), including the required period of supervised practice (90 hours).

Table 1b Final and interim awards available

Students successfully completing 7HSK2059, 7HSK2018 or 7HSK0109 will achieve the following University award: Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing.

Students successfully completing 7HSK0110 will receive the University award of Practice Certificate in Supplementary Prescribing.

There are no interim awards available.

Programme-specific assessment regulations

The programme is compliant with the University's academic regulations (in particular, [UPR AS11](#), [UPR AS12](#) and [UPR AS14](#)) with the exception of those listed below, which have been specifically approved by the University:

- Final compensatory credit (exemption from UPR AS14 section D4.4) and or intramodular compensation is not permissible within the programme.
- A successfully completed period of professional practice, involving 90 hours for all students is mandatory for receipt of the award. Practice hours must be detailed within the Portfolio of Practice Evidence. Failure to achieve the required number of hours will normally result in withdrawal from the programme.

Further points of clarification and interpretation relevant to this specific programme are given below:

- In line with professional and statutory regulatory body guidance, a failure to identify a serious problem or an answer which would cause the patient harm will result in referral.
- The numeracy assessment is an independently assessed element and must be passed in order to meet programme and regulatory body requirements. Students will be given two attempts to pass the test at the first sitting and a further referral attempt. For all other assessments, students are allowed only two attempts at the assessment.
- The length of registration on this programme is normally one year. In exceptional circumstances this will be extended to a maximum of two years.
- 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.

E. Management of Programme & Support for student learning Management

The programme is managed and administered through:

The programme is managed and administered through:

- Dean of School
- Head of Department
- Associate Dean (Academic Quality Assurance) who has delegated responsibility for programmes in the School of Health & Social Work
- Programme Leader who is responsible for the day-to-day management of the programme
- Admissions Tutors
- Module Leaders
- An administration team to deal with day-to-day administration associated with the programme
- Membership of programme committees including student representatives from each of the professional groups together with a representative from commissioning Trusts.

Support

Students are supported by:

- A Programme Leader to provide support with the programme structure and regulations
- Personal Tutors to provide academic and pastoral support
- Student representatives at the Programme Committee
- A team of programme administrators
- Induction sessions at the beginning of each programme
- Overseas Orientation
- Confidentiality Policy
- Fitness to practise policy
- An extensive Learning Resources Centre, incorporating a library and computer centre
- Access to extensive digital and print collections of information resources

- A substantial Student Centre that provides advice on issues such as finance, University regulations, legal matters, accommodation, international student support, etc
- Office of Dean of Students, Student Wellbeing (incorporating Counselling, Mental Health and Disability Support), Chaplaincy, and Day Nursery
- University Disability Advisors
- An Equal Opportunities Officer
- Hertfordshire Students' Union
- Student Counselling Centre
- Guided, student-centred learning through the use of Canvas, a versatile on-line interactive learning environment
- Attractive modern study environments in 2 Learning Resources Centres
- Student Success Hubs, which include a Mathematics Drop-in Centre
- Medical Centre
- University Disability Advisors
- Careers and Employment
- Dedicated programme site
- Placement support and supervision by appropriately qualified prescribers, working collaboratively with the Personal Tutor/Academic Assessor from the University.

F. Other sources of information

In addition to this Programme Specification, the University publishes guidance to registered students on the programme and its constituent modules:

- A Programme (or Student) Handbook;
 - A Definitive Module Document (DMD) for each constituent module; ·
- Professional or Statutory Regulatory Body information:

www.nmc-uk.org

<http://www.pharmacyregulation.org>

www.hcpc-uk.org www.csp.org.uk

<http://www.sor.org>

<https://www.bda.uk.com>

<https://www.collegeofparamedics.co.uk>

The Ask Herts website provides information on a wide range of resources and services available at the University of Hertfordshire including academic support, accommodation, fees, funding, visas, wellbeing services and student societies.

As a condition of registration, all students of the University of Hertfordshire are required to comply with the University's rules, regulations and procedures. These are published in a series of documents called 'University Policies and Regulations' (UPRs). The University requires that all students consult these documents which are available on-line, on the UPR web site, at: <http://www.herts.ac.uk/secreg/upr/>

In particular, UPR SA07 'Regulations and Advice for Students' Particular Attention - Index' provides information on the UPRs that contain the academic regulations of particular relevance for undergraduate and taught postgraduate students.

In accordance with section 4(5) of the Higher Education and Research Act 2017 (HERA), the UK Office for Students (OfS) has registered the University of Hertfordshire in the register of English higher education providers. The Register can be viewed at: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/the-register/the-ofs-register/>

G. Entry requirements

The normal entry requirements for the programme are:

For Nurses and Midwives undertaking the Independent Prescribing Course:

1. Current registration as a first level nurse, midwife and/or specialist community public health nurse with the Nursing and Midwifery Council. The applicant's registration status must not be subject to any cautions or interim suspension orders
2. A minimum of one years' experience (or equivalent in part time employment) as a practising nurse/midwife/specialist community public health nurse
3. Evidence of the ability to study at the academic level of the module to be studied i.e. level 7, (postgraduate level)
4. Evidence of current DBS clearance (enhanced disclosure) i.e. obtained within the last three years
5. Applicants must also provide:
 - Written confirmation of support to undertake the prescribing programme from their employer, including NHS and non-NHS employers. The support available must include time to attend scheduled study days at the University, access to appropriate learning opportunities in practice and protected time to engage in practice development activities with an identified practice supervisor and practice assessor.
 - Written confirmation from their employer that the applicant can demonstrate safe and effective practice within their intended field of prescribing practice in relation to:
 - Clinical/health assessment
 - Diagnostics/care management
 - Planning and evaluation of care,
 - If the applicant is self-employed a comprehensive professional reference must be provided which details the applicant's level of proficiency in practice. A separate statement must be provided by the applicant confirming the arrangements made for practice supervision and assessment.
 - Written confirmation from the Practice Supervisor and Practice Assessor, providing evidence that they meet the required eligibility criteria and that they agree to collaborate to provide the required term of supervised practice and its assessment.

For Pharmacists undertaking the Independent Prescribing Course:

1. Current registration as a pharmacist with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) or, in Northern Ireland, with the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (PSNI).
2. Demonstration of good standing with the GPhC and/or PSNI and any other healthcare regulator with which they are registered.
3. Applicants must have relevant experience in a UK pharmacy setting and be able to recognise, understand and articulate the skills and attributes required by a prescriber. This experience and awareness will act as the basis of their prescribing practice whilst training.
4. An identified area of clinical or therapeutic practice in which to develop independent prescribing practice together with relevant clinical or therapeutic experience in that area, which is suitable to act as the foundation of their prescribing practice while training.
5. A Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP) who has agreed to supervise their learning in practice. The DPP must:
 - be a registered healthcare professional in Great Britain or Northern Ireland with legal independent prescribing rights who has been prescribing regularly for a minimum period of three years.
 - Community pharmacists (or similar) require access to a DPP in primary or secondary care. This is to enable them to gain the breadth and depth of experience in supervised practice required to meet the RPS competencies (2021).
 - be suitably experienced and qualified to carry out this supervisory role as defined in Royal Pharmaceutical Society (2019) A Competency Framework for Designated Prescribing Practitioners and · have demonstrated CPD or revalidation relevant to this role.
6. Evidence of current DBS clearance (enhanced disclosure) i.e., obtained within the last three years.

For AHPs undertaking the independent Prescribing or Supplementary Prescribing Course:

1. Registration with the HCPC in one of the relevant allied health professions.

2. Professionally practising in an environment where there is an identified need for the individual to regularly use independent /supplementary prescribing (physiotherapists, podiatrists and therapeutic radiographers only) or supplementary prescribing (diagnostic radiographers and dietitians).
 3. Ability to demonstrate support from their employer/sponsor including confirmation that the entrant will have appropriate supervised practice in the clinical area in which they are expected to prescribe.
 4. Ability to demonstrate medicines and clinical governance arrangements are in place to support safe and effective supplementary and / or independent prescribing.
 5. Practice Educators must be a qualified prescriber, on the register of their statutory regulator with annotation(s) for prescribing where applicable and with the relevant skills, knowledge and experience to support safe and effective learning.
 6. Relevant post-qualification experience in the clinical area in which they will be prescribing.
 7. Working at an advanced practitioner or equivalent level.
 8. Ability to demonstrate how they reflect on their own performance and take responsibility for their own Continuing Professional Development (CPD) including development of networks for support, reflection and learning.
 9. Evidence of current DBS clearance (enhanced disclosure) i.e. obtained within the last three years.
- 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).

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).

If you would like this information in an alternative format please contact:
icaq@herts.ac.uk

If you wish to receive a copy of the latest External Examiner's Report for the programme, please email a request to aqo@herts.ac.uk

Table 2: Development of Intended Programme Learning Outcomes in the Constituent Modules

This map identifies where the programme learning outcomes are assessed in the constituent modules. It provides (i) an aid to academic staff in understanding how individual modules contribute to the programme aims (ii) a checklist for quality control purposes and (iii) a means to help students monitor their own learning, personal and professional development as the programme progresses.

As the programme consists of one module of study only, the mapping has been conducted against each of the programme themes. The assessment column indicates where outcomes are assessed.

		Programme Learning Outcomes (as identified in section 1 and the following page)																				
		Knowledge & Understanding							Intellectual Skills					Practical Skills						Transferable Skills		
Module Title	Module Code	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	D1	D2	D3
Nurse and Midwife Independent Prescribing	7HSK2059	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pharmacist Independent Prescribing	7HSK2018	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
AHP Independent Prescribing	7HSK0109	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
AHP Supplementary Prescribing	7HSK0110	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

KEY TO PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

A. Knowledge and Understanding

A1 – Demonstrate a deep knowledge of the systematic and holistic assessment of patient need and the differential diagnostic process.

A2 – Demonstrate knowledge of pharmacological and therapeutic actions of drugs and evidence-based sources of information, advice and decision support in prescribing practice.

A3 – Apply in-depth knowledge of legislation relevant to the practice of independent and/or supplementary prescribing.

A4 - Apply in-depth knowledge of legal, ethical and professional issues in prescribing practice.

A5 – Demonstrate knowledge of shared decision-making applied to practice with patients and carers.

A6 – Demonstrate effective collaboration within the multidisciplinary team involved in prescribing, supplying and administering medicines.

A7 – Apply a framework of professional accountability and clinical governance and its synthesis in prescribing practice.

B. Intellectual skills

B1 - Critically evaluate approaches to the systematic and holistic assessment of patient need and the interpretation of diagnostic indicators to achieve a differential diagnosis.

B2 - Critically evaluate drug actions and sources of evidence-based information, advice and decision support in prescribing practice.

B3 - Demonstrate a critical understanding and application of legislation relevant to the practice of independent and/or supplementary prescribing.

B4 - Demonstrate a critical evaluation of legal, professional and governance issues in their prescribing role.

B5 - Demonstrate a strategic approach to effective collaboration with the multidisciplinary team involved in prescribing, supplying and administration of medicines.

C. Practical Skills

C1 - Demonstrate a critical understanding of systematic and holistic approaches to the differential diagnostic process and appropriate analysis of diagnostic indicators.

C2 - Demonstrate the appropriate application of a critical knowledge of drug actions in prescribing practice and the effective use of evidence-based decision support tools.

C3 - Demonstrate the critical application of effective strategies in negotiation and shared decision-making with patients and carers. C4- Demonstrate a critical understanding of legislation relevant to the practice of independent and/or supplementary prescribing.

C5 - Demonstrate reasoned professional judgment of legal and ethical issues in prescribing practice.

C6 - Demonstrate a strategic application in practice of the

D. Transferable skills

D1 - Communicate effectively using verbal, non-verbal, written and electronic means as appropriate.

D2 - Demonstrate appropriate strategies to foster collaborative working within the multidisciplinary prescribing team.

D3 - Engage with information systems in order to analyse and interpret data to inform prescribing practice.

Table 3: Development of Graduate Attributes in the Constituent Modules

This map identifies where the Graduate Attributes are delivered in the constituent modules. It provides (i) an aid to academic staff in understanding how individual modules contribute to the development of the Graduate Attributes (ii) a checklist for quality control purposes and (iii) a means to help students monitor their own personal and professional development as the programme progresses. [Note that there is no requirement for the Graduate Attributes to be assessed through these modules]

D = Delivered

Module Title	Module Code	Professionally Focused	Globally Minded	Sustainability Driven	Digitally capable & confident	Inclusive and collaborative	Evidenced based and Ethical
Nurse and Midwife Independent Prescribing	7HSK2059	D	D	D	D	D	D
Pharmacist Independent Prescribing	7HSK2018	D	D	D	D	D	D
AHP Independent Prescribing	7HSK0109	D	D	D	D	D	D
AHP Supplementary Prescribing	7HSK0110	D	D	D	D	D	D

Section 2

Programme management

Relevant QAA subject benchmarking statements	None
Type of programme	Taught Postgraduate
Date of validation/last periodic review	January 2025
Date of production/ last revision of PS	March 2024
Relevant to level/cohort	Level 7 entering September 2025
Administrative School	School of Health and Social Work
Language of Delivery	English

Table 4 Course structure

Course details			
Course Code	Course Description	HECOS	UCAS
HSPRSCM	Postgraduate Independent and/or Supplementary Prescribing	100250, 100%	N/A