

Independent and Supplementary Prescribing for Nurses and Allied Health Professionals application information

Thank you for your interest in studying at University of Staffordshire. The following information is to assist you in understanding the programme, the entry requirements and the application process.

The qualification:

The Independent and Supplementary Prescribing programme results in a dual qualification. Successful students can prescribe independently which means that they are responsible and accountable for the assessment of patients with undiagnosed or diagnosed conditions and for decisions about the clinical management required, including prescribing.

Entry Requirements:

Nurses and Midwives:

- Registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) and working in a role where prescribing is considered to benefit the service user/service delivery.
- You must have a minimum of 1 year post registration experience.
- You will have proven assessment and diagnostic skills and you must have the support of a non-medical prescribing lead.
- You must be able to commit to 100% attendance for the taught element of the programme.

Allied Health Professionals:

- Registered with the Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC) in a profession eligible to prescribe. See the HCPC website for eligible professions: [Standards for prescribing | \(hcpc-uk.org\)](https://www.hcpc-uk.org/standards-for-prescribing)
- You must also be working in a role where prescribing is considered to benefit the service user/service delivery.
- You must have a minimum of 3 years post registration experience.
- You will have proven assessment and diagnostic skills and be supported by your employer to undertake the qualification.
- You must be able to commit to 100% attendance for the taught element of the programme.

Structure of the programme:

The course is taught over 12 weeks, every Wednesday and Thursday at our Blackheath Lane Campus in Stafford. There are 2 intakes per year, January, and September. Teaching is mainly face to face with some directed study and online lectures. This programme benefits from inter-professional learning as nurses and Allied Health Professionals are taught together and encouraged to learn from each other.

The qualification is worth 40 credits and can be taken at either level 6 or 7. Both levels provide the same prescribing qualification and are taught and assessed in the same way requiring the student to successfully complete 6 assessments, however level 7 students will be assessed at a higher level for some of the assessments. The table below outlines the required assessments and illustrates the differences in the level 6 and level 7 assessment grading.

Assessment	Level 6 – grade needed to pass assessment	Level 7 – grade needed to pass assessment.
<i>Pharmacology Examination</i>	80% (35 marks available)	80% (40 marks available)
<i>Numeracy Examination</i>	100%	100%
<i>Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)</i>	Pass	Pass
<i>1000 word Supplementary prescribing essay with an example clinical management plan included in an appendix</i>	40%	50%
<i>2500 word Reflective case study essay</i>	40%	50%
<i>Practice Assessment Document (PAD) – completed and assessed in practice. 78 prescribing related hours needed</i>	Pass	Pass

If the student opts to study at level 7, they must be able to evidence their academic ability to study at this level.

The level 6 qualification can be used as part of a degree top up (or as part of the level 7 ACP Pathway if agreed by the course lead) and the level 7 qualification can be used as part of a masters pathway, such as the Advanced Clinical Practice (ACP) course. Further information about the ACP pathway can be found by searching for the ACP course here: [Postgraduate - Staffordshire University \(staffs.ac.uk\)](http://staffs.ac.uk).

There is an option to complete the programme over either three or six months, however, this extended duration relates only to the completion of the practice hours and competency attainment, and completion of the written assignments. All other assessments will take place within the initial twelve-week timeframe. The option to complete in either 3 or 6 months is offered in the first week of the programme and students must inform the programme leader which option they have decided on by the end of week 2 of the programme.

Supervision in practice:

Students will be required to complete 78 hours of prescribing practice related hours in their clinical area. They will need to complete a Practice Assessment Document (PAD), which has competencies aligned with the [RPS \(2021\) Competency Framework](#). NMC registrants will require a Practice Assessor (PA) and a Practice Supervisor (PS). For NMC registrants the roles of Practice Supervisor and Practice Assessor are not held by the same individual for the same student. In exceptional circumstances, however, it may be necessary for one individual to adopt both roles. In such circumstances this must be discussed and agreed with the University prior to the student commencing the programme. HCPC registrants will not require a PS and will only require a Practice Educator (PE) to verify their hours and sign off their PAD competencies.

The Practice Supervisor (only for students that are NMC registrants) must:

- Be registered with the NMC as a nurse or midwife or be a registered health care professional in another discipline
- Be a qualified prescriber for a minimum period of 3 years
- Prescribe on a regular basis
- Provide evidence of current knowledge and experience of the student's intended field of prescribing practice
- Understand the competencies and programme outcomes they are supporting students to achieve
- Receive ongoing support to prepare, reflect and develop for effective supervision and contribution to, student learning and assessment
- Appropriately raise and respond to any concerns about student conduct and competence and be supported in doing so

The Practice Assessor/Educator must:

- Normally be a registered medical practitioner or be registered on the same part of the NMC/HCPC register as the student they are assessing
- Be qualified as a prescriber within the student's intended field of prescribing practice for a minimum period of 3 years
- Provide evidence of current experience of the student's intended field of prescribing practice
- Understand the student's learning and achievement in theory and the competencies and programme outcomes the student is aiming to achieve
- Undertake preparation or provide evidence of prior learning and experience that enables them to demonstrate achievement of the following minimum outcomes:
 - interpersonal communication skills, relevant to student learning and assessment
 - the conduct of objective, evidence-based assessments of students
 - the provision of constructive feedback to facilitate professional development in others
 - knowledge of the assessment process and their role within it
- Receive ongoing support and training to reflect and develop in their role
- Demonstrate the proactive development of their professional practice and knowledge to fulfil their role
- Appropriately raise and respond to any concerns regarding student conduct, competence, and achievement, and be supported in

Application Process:

If you would like to apply for the programme, there are two steps. Firstly, please download the application form from the website. It is important you complete the application form fully before sending, ensuring all the relevant areas are completed and signed. If your form is not completed correctly, this will delay your application significantly and may result in a place not being offered. Guidance for completing the application form is contained in the application form appendices. You will need your application approved by the Non-Medical Prescribing (NMP) Lead for your Trust. In some clinical settings you may not have a designated NMP Lead. In this case you will need the person who oversees prescribing data and governance in your clinical area to sign off on your application. This may be a chief pharmacist, lead GP or practice manager. We will accept appropriate digital signatures (not typed names) for all parties signing the form. We suggest you complete the document digitally, rather than downloading and handwriting the form.

The second step is to email your completed application form to HSWadminsupport@staffs.ac.uk. Your suitability for the course will be determined by the information provided on the form. If a place is approved, you will be sent an online application link, so that you can upload evidence of your qualifications.

Incomplete forms will be rejected; therefore it is important that you carefully read the form and ensure you have provided all of the required information.

We will process applications on a first come, first served basis. If the cohort you are applying for is full, you may be offered a place with the next cohort.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Are there any skills that I need before I start?

You will need to evidence on your application form that you are able to study at the academic level you have applied for. If you have been out of higher education for a while you will be signposted to other courses to complete before prescribing.

We use a variety of digital platforms during the course; therefore, IT literacy is an important skill to have.

I would need to travel, are there any options to attend the course remotely?

Whilst there may be some sessions that are delivered remotely for example using MS Teams, the course is predominantly a face-to-face delivery at our Blackhealth Lane campus in Stafford. The course has been validated by the NMC and HCPC as a face-to-face delivery, therefore we are unable to offer a distance learning option, where lectures are streamed (as is the case for other modules and courses delivered by the University).

I am going on holiday when the course is running, can I still attend?

The course requires 100% attendance, therefore if you are unable to commit to this you should wait for the next run of the course when you can attend fully. The programme will not be running during school half term weeks. We appreciate that there may be issues with sickness and unforeseeable absences during the course. These can be discussed with the course leader on a case-by-case basis.

I have previously completed my V150 or V100, can this be used towards the V300 course?

Unfortunately, we do not offer any Recognition of Prior Learning (RPEL) for these qualifications however, you may find your previous experience and knowledge helpful for this course.

I have completed some parts of a prescribing course at another university, can this be used towards the course at University of Staffordshire?

Unfortunately, we do not offer top up options, as course delivery and assessments can vary between universities.

What if I have previously completed some of the prescribing programme at University of Staffordshire but not completed it?

If you have difficulty completing on time, you will be supported to take a break in studies or to submit an 'exceptional circumstances' claim requesting an assessment extension. You are required to complete the prescribing programme within 2 years of starting or you would need to re-sit the entire programme again. If you have failed the award completely, you would need to reapply for the programme and start again.

I have not completed a health assessment course; can I still apply?

The NMC / HCPC stipulate you must be competent in health assessment prior to commencing your prescribing course. To address this, it is preferable that you have completed a health assessment module at either level 6 or 7 before applying.

University of Staffordshire offer a Principles of Physical Assessment module at level 6 and an Advanced Health Assessment module at level 7 (taken as standalone or part of the ACP pathway). Please review our website for further information on our available postgraduate courses: [Postgraduate - Staffordshire University \(staffs.ac.uk\)](https://www.staffs.ac.uk/postgraduate).

In exceptional circumstances, a professional colleague can sign section 4 of the application form and state how they deem you competent. Your colleague must be an experienced prescriber within your clinical specialty. The professional colleague must provide full details of how they have assessed you as competent, for example attending an internal course or completing a competency document relevant to your discipline. Evidence of this assessment will need to be uploaded to your online application to verify your competence.

Please be aware that section 4 of the application form must be signed by a professional colleague even if you have completed a health assessment course. If section 4 is not completed and signed appropriately, your application will be rejected.

I am a band 5, can I become a prescriber?

Yes, if you meet the entry requirements, however you must have the support of your clinical area who will grant prescribing rights within your area of practice. You should discuss this with your Trust NMP Lead, who can further advise.

I work in the aesthetics industry, am I able to apply?

Currently we are not accepting applicants from the aesthetics industry due to the issues that arise with assuring appropriate prescribing governance is in place. We will review this position again following the pending legislative changes in the industry.

I am self-employed, can I apply?

If you meet all the pre-requisites of the course, you can apply. You will need to provide 2 professional references and arrange adequate clinical supervision to fulfil the practice elements of the course assessment. The area you are working will also need to complete an educational audit. You must also ensure you provide information around the prescribing governance in the area where you intend to prescribe. Full guidance can be found in the prescribing application form appendices.

I am an Allied Health Professional (AHP) who is only eligible to Supplementary Prescribe, can I apply?

Unfortunately, we only offer 'Independent and Supplementary Prescribing' and have not been accredited by the HCPC to offer supplementary prescribing alone.

How do I pay for the course?

Fees are only paid on enrolment and there are 2 options:

1. Self-funding – fees must be paid within 28 days of invoice date
2. Employer funding - you will need to upload a copy of the purchase order/sponsors letter provided by your employer. Your enrolment will then be

put on hold until this is cleared by our Finance Dept. Should you have any queries regarding your fees please e-mail income@staffs.ac.uk

We hope that the information provided has answered some of the questions that you may have, however if you have any other specific queries that have not been addressed, please contact, Lorna Lockley, Programme Lead:
lorna.smart@staffs.ac.uk