School of Life and Medical Sciences

Title of Programme: MSc Pharmacy Practice
Programme Code: HHMPP

Programme Specification

This programme specification is relevant to students entering:
27 September 2021

Associate Dean of School (Academic Quality Assurance):
Naomi Hewitt

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.
Programme Specification  MSc Pharmacy Practice

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

A. Programme Rationale
The MSc Pharmacy Practice programme has been developed in partnership between the NHS and nine Schools of Pharmacy across the south east of England that includes the University of Hertfordshire under a framework called the Joint Programmes Board (JPB).

The programme is a progressive approach to practitioner development and ensures that pharmacists acquire the competencies needed to practice in a safe and effective way. This programme links to Agenda for Change and the relevant Knowledge and Skills Framework (KSF) descriptors so that individuals are supported to achieve the relevant gateway competencies.

The curriculum will develop pharmacists who are able to practice in accordance with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society Foundation Pharmacy Framework (FPF), and consequently embrace clinical, pharmaceutical and patient service competence. The aim of the MSc Pharmacy Practice programme is to equip practitioners with the core skills and competencies they require to provide pharmaceutical and patient care in their practice setting within a multidisciplinary team. The programme offers optional modules at the MSc level, including practice research modules and the Pharmacist Independent Prescribing module accredited by the General Pharmaceutical Council. Minimum level criteria apply for students wishing to undertake the Pharmacist Independent Prescribing optional module and additional learning outcomes apply to this module.

The MSc Pharmacy Practice programme is a practice-based course, which offers students academic support through a series of modules at Level 7. The programme upholds and promotes the principles of lifelong learning developed on the course and the professional requirements for Continuing Professional Development (CPD). Summary descriptors of KSF core dimensions. Available via http://www.nhsemployers.org/SimplifiedKSF

B. Educational Aims of the Programme
The programme has been devised in accordance with the University’s graduate attributes of programmes of study as set out in UPR TL03.

The primary aim of the MSc Pharmacy Practice programme is to equip pharmacist practitioners with the core skills and competencies they require to deliver safe and effective pharmaceutical and patient care in their practice setting. The course works on a philosophy of student centred workplace learning. The ethos and culture of the course is to enhance and develop self-reliance and an adult approach to learning in support of continuing professional development.

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The aims of the MSc Pharmacy Practice programme are to enable students:

PA1 Acquire and develop a systematic knowledge, understanding and critical awareness of pharmaceutical concepts within health and social care.

PA2 Demonstrate evidence based approach to practice.

PA3 Acquire and develop effective clinical skills to deliver safe and effective Pharmaceutical Care.

PA4 Demonstrate the ability to work as general to advanced level practitioners by achieving the competences of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society Foundation Pharmacy Framework.

PA5 Acquire and develop the skills to plan and evaluate personal practice which is responsive to the needs of the practitioner’s organisation.

The programme is primarily work-based to integrate learning with service delivery. A professional framework is adopted to inform the assessment process.

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 using 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 (2016) have been used as a guiding framework for curriculum design.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge and Understanding:</th>
<th>Teaching/learning methods &amp; strategies</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1-The concept of pharmaceutical care.</td>
<td>Acquisition of knowledge and understanding for A1-A6 is through a combination of lectures, small group work, problem-based learning, tutorials and workshops</td>
<td>Knowledge and understanding (A1-6) are assessed through Record of in-training assessment (RITA), Mini clinical evaluation exercise (Mini-CEX), Case Based discussion (CbD), Medication Related Consultation Framework (MRCF), Mini Peer Assessment Tool (Mini-PAT) and Log of interventions, within the practice portfolio.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2-The underpinning knowledge that is required to practice clinical pharmacy.</td>
<td>Throughout, the learner is encouraged 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.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A3-The Competency Framework associated with the Professional Practice of Pharmacy.</td>
<td>The programme acknowledges significant contribution from work-based learning.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A4-Evidence based approaches to practice including a critical appraisal of clinical literature.</td>
<td>Additional support is available from the module leaders/work based tutors and programme leader.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A5-The structure and organisation of health care in England and Wales.</td>
<td>A7-8 is acquired through a combination of lectures, seminars, workshops, coursework and academic reading. Throughout participants are encouraged to undertake independent study.</td>
<td>A7-8 are assessed through submission of written assignments plus a dissertation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A6-The incidence, aetiology, pathology and treatment of diseases affecting major biological systems.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>A7-How established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create, interpret, evaluate and apply new knowledge within practice.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A8-Research concepts and where appropriate, propose</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Master’s Programme Specification / November 2020 / AS Review Date June 2021
new research hypotheses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intellectual skills:</th>
<th>Teaching/learning methods &amp; strategies</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B1- Critically analyse patient and drug factors to optimise patient care.</td>
<td>Intellectual skills are developed throughout the programme by the methods and strategies outlined in Section A above. Critical analysis, problem solving and clinical decision making skills are further developed through group and individual tutorials, and in-course exercises and workplace feedback.</td>
<td>Intellectual skills are assessed through Practice Portfolio (B1-5).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B2- Demonstrate the ability to use an evidence based approach in practice</td>
<td>Throughout, the learner is encouraged to develop intellectual skills further by independent study.</td>
<td>Objective Structured Clinical Examination (B1, B2 and B4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B3- Critically examine how changing NHS and government policy have an impact on pharmacy practice and inform the safe rational and effective use of medicines.</td>
<td>Acquisition of B6 is through a combination of seminars, use of advanced database searches, individual supervision and academic project support.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B4- Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the tools and skills required to be an effective pharmacy practitioner.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Submission of a research report in a field of pharmacy practice (B6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B5- Demonstrate scholarship, initiative and critical autonomy in tackling and resolving problems related to own research.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>B6- Make recognised contributions of value to wider debates and developments in the field of pharmacy practice.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practical skills:</th>
<th>Teaching/learning methods &amp; strategies</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C1- Demonstrate the ability to deal with complex pharmaceutical care issues in an autonomous manner.</td>
<td>The programme acknowledges significant contribution from work-based learning.</td>
<td>Practical skills (C1-C3) are assessed through Record of in training assessment (RITA), Mini- clinical evaluation exercise (Mini-CEX), Case Based discussion (CbD), Medication Related Consultation Framework (MRCF), Mini Peer Assessment Tool (Mini-PAT) and Log of interventions, within the practice portfolio.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C2- Prioritise pharmaceutical care issues in order of importance.</td>
<td>Practical skills are developed throughout the programme via simulated case studies and practice learning under the supervision of a designated medical prescriber where applicable.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C3–Demonstrate competence in practical activities as outlined in the Foundation Pharmacy Framework.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Practical skills are assessed through Observed Structured</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The programme is offered in part time mode and leads to the award of MSc Pharmacy Practice (normally 8-9 semesters) or Postgraduate Diploma in Pharmacy Practice (normally 6 semesters). Modules are undertaken in semesters A and/or B and/or C. Entry is normally at Masters level 7. Intake is in Semester A only.

Professional and Statutory Regulatory Bodies
The Postgraduate MSc Pharmacy Practice programme is not subject to Professional and Statutory Regulatory Body accreditation, however, the Independent Prescribing for Pharmacists module is subject to accreditation by the General Pharmaceutical Council. Minimum criteria apply to students wishing to undertake the Independent Pharmacist Prescribing module, see the General Pharmaceutical Council’s Independent prescribing entry requirements available at http://www.pharmacyregulation.org/education/pharmacist-independent-prescriber/entry-requirements.

Work-Based Learning, including Sandwich Programmes
Much of the learning takes place in the workplace. Students must be in employment within a pharmacy or relevant healthcare organisation accredited as a training centre by the University or working towards achieving full accreditation.

Programme Structure
The programme structure and progression information below (Table 1a and 1b) is 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.
**Mode of study:** Part Time

**Entry point:** Semester A only

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compulsory Modules</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credit Points</th>
<th>Language of Delivery</th>
<th>% Examination</th>
<th>% Coursework</th>
<th>% Practical</th>
<th>Semesters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate Certificate Modules</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pharmaceutical Care</td>
<td>7PHA1010</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>AB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Professional development in the NHS</td>
<td>7PHA1007</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>AB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Service Review and Improvement</td>
<td>7LMS0246</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>AB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Applied therapeutics</td>
<td>7LMS0247</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>AB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Optional Modules</th>
<th>Module Titles</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credit Points</th>
<th>Language of Delivery</th>
<th>% examination</th>
<th>% Coursework</th>
<th>% Practical</th>
<th>Semesters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Masters Modules</td>
<td>Research Project</td>
<td>7LMS0190</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>BC</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>OR</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Healthcare Disciplines Project</td>
<td>7LMS0160</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>A, B, C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AND ONE OF TWO OPTIONS BELOW</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Independent Prescribing for Pharmacists*</td>
<td>7NMH1054</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>AB, BC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Evidence Based Practice</td>
<td>7LMS0162</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>A, B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The award of an MSc Pharmacy Practice requires 180 credit points passed at level 7, including the Certificate, Diploma and Masters Modules.

The award of a Postgraduate Diploma in Pharmacy Practice requires 120 credit points passed at level 7, including the Certificate and Diploma Modules.

*Please note the minimum level criteria for those wishing to undertake the Independent Prescribing for Pharmacists module using the following link: [https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/education/pharmacist-independent-prescriber/entry-requirements](https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/education/pharmacist-independent-prescriber/entry-requirements)
The programme provides the following final and interim awards:

### Final Award

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Title</th>
<th>Minimum requirements</th>
<th>Available at end of (normally):</th>
<th>Programme Learning Outcomes developed (see above)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Masters Pharmacy Practice</td>
<td>180 credit points at level 7</td>
<td>8, 9 Semesters</td>
<td>A1-8, B1-6, C1-3, D1-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate Diploma Pharmacy Practice</td>
<td>120 credit points at level 7</td>
<td>6 Semesters</td>
<td>A1-7, B1-5, C1-3, D1-7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Interim Award

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Title</th>
<th>Minimum requirements</th>
<th>Available at end of Level</th>
<th>Programme Learning Outcomes developed (see above)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate Diploma Pharmacy Practice</td>
<td>120 credit points at level 7</td>
<td>6 Semesters</td>
<td>A1-7, B1-5, C1-3, D1-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate Certificate Pharmacy Practice</td>
<td>60 credit points at level 7</td>
<td>3 Semesters</td>
<td>A1-6, B1-4, C1-3, D1-7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Masters and Diploma awards can be made "with Distinction" or "with Commendation" where criteria as described in UPR AS14, Section D and the students' handbook are met.

### Programme-specific assessment regulations

The programme is compliant with the University's academic regulations (in particular, UPR AS11, UPR AS12/UPR AS13 (delete as applicable) and UPR AS14) with the exception of those listed below, which have been specifically approved by the University:

- The maximum period following registration that a student may achieve an award is normally six years.
- Practitioners must successfully complete 60 credits each year before progressing onto the next year.
- A satisfactory attendance of at least 75% will be required at lectures/tutorials/seminars.
- Intra-modular compensation will not be allowed in the modules undertaken; all elements of assessment must be passed independently.

### E. Management of Programme & Support for student learning

#### Management

The programme is managed and administered through:
- Dean of School
- Associate Dean of School (Academic Quality Assurance)
- Head of Department or their representative
- A Programme Leader for MSc Pharmacy Practice who is responsible for the day to day management
- Admissions Tutor
- A designated programme administration team to deal with day to day administration associated with the programme
- Module Co-ordinators who are responsible for individual modules
- A programme committee, the membership of which includes module leaders, programme leader, student representatives and employers.
Support
Students are supported by:

- Programme Leader
- An induction study day at the beginning of each new academic session
- A work-based tutor
- Educational facilitators
- An extensive Learning Resources Centre (LRC), incorporating a library and computer centre.
- On-line information and learning materials and support through the University’s Managed Learning Environment – StudyNet – a University-wide set of systems and tools for educational delivery.
- A substantial student centre that provides advice on issues such as finance, University regulations, legal matters etc
- Office of Dean of Students
- A student wellbeing service
- A student experience lead
- Student representatives on programme committees
- The student union
- Medical centre
- The sports village
- Dean of School
- Associate Deans of School AQA and Learning and Teaching

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 Definitive Module Document (DMD) for each constituent module;
- A Module Guide for each constituent module.
- General Pharmaceutical Council Independent Prescribing entry requirements
  [http://www.pharmacyregulation.org/education/pharmacist-independent-prescriber/entry-requirements](http://www.pharmacyregulation.org/education/pharmacist-independent-prescriber/entry-requirements)
- GPhC Fitness to Practise
  [https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/raising-concerns/what-fitness-practise](https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/raising-concerns/what-fitness-practise)

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, 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. 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/](https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/the-register/the-ofs-register/). Furthermore, the OfS has judged that the University of Hertfordshire delivers consistently outstanding teaching, learning and outcomes for its students. It is of the highest quality found in the UK. Consequently, the University received a Gold award in the 2018 Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes (TEF) exercise. This award was made in June 2018 and is valid for up to 3 years. The TEF panel’s report and conclusions can be accessed at: [https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/teaching/tef-outcomes/#/provider/10007147](https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/teaching/tef-outcomes/#/provider/10007147)

G. Entry requirements
The normal entry requirements for the programme are:

1) Normally a first degree, in pharmacy and registration as a pharmacist with the General Pharmaceutical Council or equivalent authority in the U.K.

2) Student practitioners must be employed within a pharmacy organisation accredited by the University or in the process of achieving full accreditation.

3) Student practitioners must have access to a work-based tutor who is able to supervise their practice and has been accredited by the University.

4) Student practitioners undertaking the Pharmacist Independent Prescribing module must have confirmation of an appropriate designated medical practitioner willing to support and assess the practitioner in practice.

5) Student practitioners must have access to patients and their health related data.

6) Normally the student practitioner is expected to be employed in their role for at least 2 days per week.

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: ask@herts.ac.uk

If you wish to receive a copy of the latest Programme Annual Monitoring and Evaluation Report (AMER) and/or the External Examiner's Report for the programme, please email a request to icaq@herts.ac.uk
### MSc Pharmacy Practice

**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme Learning Outcomes (as identified in section 1 and the following page)</th>
<th>Knowledge &amp; Understanding</th>
<th>Intellectual Skills</th>
<th>Practical Skills</th>
<th>Transferable Skills</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module Code</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmaceutical Care</td>
<td>7PHA1010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Development in the NHS</td>
<td>7PHA1007</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service Review and Improvement</td>
<td>7LMS0246</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applied Therapeutics</td>
<td>7LMS0247</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Project</td>
<td>7LMS0190</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evidence Based Practice</td>
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<td>Independent Prescribing for Pharmacists</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Key:**
- Learning Outcome which is assessed as part of the module
- Postgraduate Certificate modules
- Postgraduate Diploma modules
- Masters modules

Master’s Programme Specification / November 2020 /  
AS Review Date June 2021
KEY TO PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge and Understanding e.g.
A1. The concept of pharmaceutical care
A2. The underpinning knowledge that is required to practice clinical pharmacy
A3. The Competency Framework associated with the Professional Practice of Pharmacy
A4. Evidence based approaches to practice including a critical appraisal of clinical literature
A5. The structure and organisation of health care in England and Wales
A6. The incidence, aetiology, pathology and treatment of diseases affecting major biological systems
A7. How established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create, interpret, evaluate and apply new knowledge within practice
A8. Research concepts and where appropriate, propose new research hypotheses

Practical Skills
C1. Demonstrate the ability to deal with complex pharmaceutical care issues in an autonomous manner
C2. Prioritise pharmaceutical care issues in order of importance
C3. Demonstrate competence in practical activities as outlined in the Foundation Pharmacy Framework

Transferable Skills
D1. Work effectively within an inter-professional team
D2. Manage time and resources
D3. Exercise initiative and personal responsibility demonstrating independent learning
D4. Undertake decision making in complex and unpredictable situations
D5. Communicate effectively
D6. Develop self-reflective skills as a professional practitioner
D7. Develop Information technology skills in particular database searching skills

Intellectual Skills e.g.
B1. Critically analyse patient and drug factors to optimise patient care
B2. Demonstrate the ability to use an evidence based approach to practice
B3. Critically examine how changing NHS and government policy have an impact on pharmacy practice and inform the safe rational and effective use of medicines
B4. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the tools and skills required to be an effective pharmacy practitioner
B5. Demonstrate scholarship, initiative and critical autonomy in tackling and resolving problems related to their own research
B6. Make recognised contributions of value to wider debates and developments in the field of pharmacy practice
Section 2

Programme management

Relevant QAA subject benchmarking statements
Type of programme
Date of validation/last periodic review
Date of production/ last revision of PS
Relevant to level/cohort
Administrative School

None
Postgraduate
February 16
March 2021
Level 7 entering September 2021
School of Life and Medical Sciences

Table 3 Course structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course code</th>
<th>Course description</th>
<th>HECOS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HHMPP</td>
<td>MSc Pharmacy Practice</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>HHPPGD</td>
<td>PG Dip Pharmacy Practice</td>
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