

University of Nottingham – Non-Medical Prescribing Course
Entry Requirements for Nurses and Midwives: Independent and Supplementary Prescribing

1. Scope of Practice:

The prescribing qualification awarded is the dual qualification of independent and supplementary prescribing. Students undertaking this course will be taught and assessed in both forms of prescribing regardless of clinical need.

The programme of academic and practice education will prepare you as an independent prescriber to prescribe licensed medicines listed in the British National Formulary (BNF) and Children's British National Formulary (cBNF); both within and outside their product license.

As a supplementary nurse prescriber, you will be able to prescribe in partnership with an independent prescriber (doctor or dentist) and a patient using a clinical management plan. Nurse supplementary prescribers may prescribe licensed and unlicensed medicines and from the whole BNF including controlled drugs.

2. Entry Requirements:

The course can be undertaken at either degree or master's level. Those wishing to study for the master's level prescribing qualification must meet the postgraduate admission criteria laid out in the University of Nottingham quality manual:

"Applicants [must] hold a good first degree with at least second-class honours, or an equivalent qualification."

The professional prescribing qualification is the same for study at both degree and master's level. If you do not require credits at master's level, we advise taking the course at degree level.

Nurses and midwives wishing to apply for the non-medical prescribing (NMP) course at the University of Nottingham must meet the following criteria:

- Be a registered nurse (level 1) / registered midwife / SCPHN
- Can provide a NMC pin number and expiry date
- Be living and working in the United Kingdom
- Have the competence, experience, and academic ability to study at least degree level and can provide evidence of this

- Be able to provide evidence of a Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) **enhanced** certificate; issued within **3 years** of applying to the course
- Have **at least 1 year** or equivalent relevant post qualification experience
- Be competent to take a history, undertake clinical assessment and make a diagnosis in the area of practice I intend to prescribe
- Have approved funding arrangements in place (see course application webpage for more details)
- Have in place (or will have in place) an appropriate indemnity arrangement for my prospective role as a prescriber
- Have a clinical placement (e.g., ward, GP surgery) with an educational audit in place or undertake a 'self-audit' prior to enrolment on the course
- Have support from your manager, supporting organisation or other appropriate authority
- Take responsibility for your own continuing professional development
- Achieve a mark of at least 9 out of 10 in an online pre-course numeracy test provided by the University of Nottingham; School of Health Sciences

3. Supervision and assessment requirements:

a) Assessment:

Applicants must make sure a practice **assessor** has been assigned. They must be a registered healthcare professional and an experienced prescriber with suitable equivalent qualifications for the programme the student is undertaking. The practice assessor can be a medical or non-medical prescriber but must not be the same person as the practice supervisor.

Medical prescribers taking on the role of practice assessor must meet the Department of Health criteria to take on the role:

Department of Health eligibility criteria to act as the practice assessor for the assessment of non-medical prescribers by medical prescribers:

- Has normally at least 3 years recent clinical experience for a group of patients/clients in the relevant field of practice
- Is within a GP practice and is either vocationally trained or is in possession of a certificate of equivalent experience from the joint committee for Post-graduate Training in General Practice (JCPTGP)

OR

- Is a specialist registrar, clinical assistant or a consultant within an NHS Trust or other NHS employer
- Has the support of the employing organisation or GP practice to act as the practice assessor who will provide supervision, support, and opportunities to develop competence in prescribing practice
- Has some experience or training in teaching and / or supervising in practice

Non-medical prescribers taking the role of practice assessors must meet the School of Health Sciences role eligibility criteria shown below. This guidance has been developed in partnership with NHS Trust:

School of Health Sciences eligibility criteria to act as the practice assessor for a nurse/midwife prescribing student:

- A registrant on a health professions register
- To assess a V300 nurse prescribing student the assessor must be a V300 prescriber or other health professional who is an independent and supplementary prescriber
- To assess a V150 nurse prescribing student the assessor must be a V100, V150 or V300 prescriber
- An active prescriber with a minimum of one year post prescribing qualification experience
- Has some experience or training in teaching and / or supervising in practice
- Has agreement from the line manager for time to support the nurse prescribing student

b) Supervision:

Applicants must ensure that a practice **supervisor** has been assigned who has suitable equivalent qualifications for the programme the student is undertaking.

The practice supervisor must be a registered nurse or midwife, doctor, or registered health professional who:

- Is an active prescriber
- Works in the same clinical area as the nurse prescribing student
- Is a role model for safe and effective practice
- Has up to date knowledge of prescribing skills in the clinical area
- Can commit time to supervise and support the student

Please note: You must not be related to or in a relationship with your practice assessor. It also inappropriate to designate your line manager to be either an assessor or supervisor. If this is proving difficult, please contact the academic team.

4. Self-employed applicants and exceptional circumstances:

We are open to applications from those who are self-employed. You will be required to complete a 'declaration of governance for private sector working' document. A link to this form will be provided once your initial application to the course has been processed.

There may be exceptional occasions where it is not possible for the supervisor and assessor to be different people. Arrangements in such situations are subject to scrutiny and agreement of the teaching team. Where there is no opportunity for different people to act as supervisor and assessor in the clinical area; the student must identify a prescriber who meets the requirements to be a practice assessor.

This person will act as both supervisor and assessor. The NMP teaching team will identify an appropriate clinical non-medical prescriber who is able to act as the practice supervisor in a 'long arm' style supervision arrangement to support both student and assessor.

If you have any queries regarding the application process, please email: HS-CPD@exmail.nottingham.ac.uk

If you have any professional enquiries, please email: hs-prescribing@nottingham.ac.uk