

University of Nottingham – Non-Medical Prescribing Course

Entry Requirements for Paramedics

1. Scope of Practice:

The prescribing qualification awarded to paramedics is the dual qualification of independent and supplementary prescribing. Students undertaking this course are (regardless of clinical need) taught and assessed in both forms of prescribing.

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.

Pending legislative change, it will be possible for paramedics to prescribe some controlled drugs as independent prescribers. Further detail can be found in Annex E of the College of Paramedics Publication: 'Improve Patients' Access to Medicines: A Guide to Implementing Paramedic Prescribing within the NHS and the UK.'

Under supplementary prescribing, i.e., in partnership with an independent prescriber (doctor or dentist); paramedics may prescribe licensed and unlicensed medicines from the whole British National Formulary including controlled drugs.

2. Entry Requirements:

For paramedics the course can only be undertaken at master's level. Applicants must therefore 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."

Paramedics wishing to apply for the non-medical prescribing course at the University of Nottingham must meet the following criteria:

- Registered with the HCPC in one of the relevant Allied Health Professions
- Be able to provide a HCPC pin number and expiry date
- Be living and working in the United Kingdom
- Be working at an advanced practitioner or equivalent level*

- Be able to provide evidence of **at least one** of the following:
 - MSc qualification / other study at master's level within last 6 years (applicable to healthcare)
 - If over 6 years ago; evidence of continuous advanced clinical practice*
 - Ongoing participation in masters level modules (applicable to healthcare)
 - Postgraduate diploma/certificate PLUS a commendation from the College of Paramedics confirming continuous advanced clinical practice*
- 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 5 years** 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
- 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

Note: Where an applicant has dual professional registration the applicant must meet the entry criteria for the professional regulator consistent with the employed job role. For example, a registered nurse and paramedic employed as a paramedic practitioner must meet HCPC paramedic entry criteria.

3. Supervision and assessment requirements:

All applicants **must** ensure that arrangements for practice **assessment** (and **supervision**) are in place and that those taking the roles have agreed to do so.

a) Assessment

AHP's applicants must have an agreement from a medical or non-medical prescriber to take the role of practice educator. The practice educator will act as both practice supervisor and practice assessor. If a medical practice educator is designated; they must meet the Department of Health criteria stated below:

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

- Has 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

b) Supervision

Whilst the requirement to have both a practice **assessor / educator** **and** a practice **supervisor** is specific to (and mandatory for) nurses and midwives; you may wish to take the opportunity to spend some of your practice time under the supervision of a non-medical prescriber or other doctor.

Where another professional is taking responsibility for practice supervision this must be agreed with your practice educator. The person taking the role of practice supervisor must be a doctor or registered health professional who:

- Is an active prescriber
- Works in the same clinical area as the AHP prescribing student
- Is a role model for safe and effective practice
- Has up to date knowledge of skills of prescribing 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 educator. The designated practice educator, practice supervisor and manager must all be different people. If this isn't possible, please contact a member of the academic team.

4. Self-employed applicants:

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.

* Advanced clinical practice is delivered by experienced, registered health and care practitioners. It is a level of practice characterised by a high degree of autonomy and complex decision making. This is underpinned by a master's level award or equivalent that encompasses the four pillars of clinical practice, leadership and management, education, and research, with demonstration of core capabilities and area specific clinical competence.

Advanced clinical practice embodies the ability to manage clinical care in partnership with individuals, families, and carers. It includes the analysis and synthesis of complex problems across a range of settings, enabling innovative solutions to enhance people's experience and improve outcomes

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