

## **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 designed to help you understand the programme, the entry requirements, and the application process.

### **The Qualification**

The Independent and Supplementary Prescribing programme leads to a dual qualification.

Successful students will be qualified to:

- Prescribe independently, meaning they are responsible and accountable for assessing patients with both diagnosed and undiagnosed conditions, and for making decisions about their clinical management — including prescribing.
- Prescribe as a supplementary prescriber, in partnership with an independent prescriber (Doctor or dentist), as part of an agreed clinical management plan.

### **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.
- Confirmed proficiency in clinical/health assessment, diagnostic/care management and planning and evaluation of care.
- Evidence capability to study at chosen level (6 or 7)

Applicants working in the aesthetics industry must also meet the following pre-requisites:

- Be a regulated professional whose regulator deems aesthetic medicine as within scope of practice. In addition, active and compliant member of a professional standards register (related to cosmetic medicine) or practice from a private healthcare environment that is regulated by a health care regulator (Care Quality Commission, Health Improvement Wales, Health Improvement Scotland or the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority).
- Working full time within the field of aesthetic medicine for at least 1-year post-registration (or part time equivalent).
- Minimum of accredited level 7 PGCert in cosmetic/aesthetic medicine (from an accredited training provider) and evidence of ongoing CPD since the original qualification.
- Possess professional indemnity insurance to cover all liability risks associated with practice.

#### 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.
- Confirmed proficiency in clinical/health assessment, diagnostic/care
- management and planning and evaluation of care.

## **Structure of the programme**

The course is delivered over 12 weeks, with teaching taking place every Wednesday and Thursday. After this initial teaching period, students have a further 12 weeks to complete their assessments. During this assessment period, on-campus attendance is not required.

Teaching is primarily delivered face-to-face at our Blackheath Lane Campus in Stafford, supported by directed study and some online lectures. The programme is designed to promote inter-professional learning, with nurses and Allied Health Professionals taught together and encouraged to share knowledge and experiences.

We offer two intakes per year: September and January.

## **Programme Credits and Study Levels**

The qualification is worth 40 academic credits and can be studied at either:

- Level 6
- Level 7

Both levels lead to the **same prescribing qualification** and follow the same teaching and assessment structure. However, Level 7 students are assessed at a higher academic standard for certain assessment components.

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</i>	40%	50%

<i>clinical management plan included in an appendix</i>		
<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

**Note:** Students choosing to study at Level 7 must provide evidence of academic ability to study at that level.

### **Progression Pathways**

The Level 6 qualification can be used:

- As part of a degree top-up
- As part of the Level 7 Advanced Clinical Practice (ACP) Pathway at University of Staffordshire, subject to agreement with the course lead

The Level 7 qualification can contribute to a Master's degree, such as the Advanced Clinical Practice (ACP) MSc.

For more information on the ACP pathway, visit:

[Health, science and wellbeing - University of Staffordshire](#)

### **Flexible Completion Options**

Students have the option to complete the programme over three or six months.

This flexibility applies only to:

- Completion of practice hours
- Achievement of competencies
- Submission of written assignments

All other assessments (e.g., exams, OSCE) must be completed within the initial 12-week timeframe.

Students will be offered this flexible option during the first week of the programme and must confirm their choice with the programme leader by the end of Week 2.

### **Prescribing Practice Requirements**

Students are required to complete 78 hours of prescribing-related practice in their clinical area. During this time, they must complete a Practice Assessment Document (PAD), which includes competencies aligned with the [Royal Pharmaceutical Society \(RPS\) Competency Framework \(2021\)](#).

NMC registrants will need both a Practice Assessor (PA) and a Practice Supervisor (PS). Please note: The roles of Practice Supervisor and Practice Assessor cannot be held by the same person for the same student, in accordance with NMC requirements. In exceptional circumstances, one individual may be required to adopt both roles. In such cases, this **must be discussed and agreed with the University** prior to the student starting the programme.

HCPC registrants will not require a Practice Supervisor. They will need a Practice Educator (PE) who is responsible for verifying practice hours and signing off the 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

***For Aesthetics applicants, in addition to these pre-requisites, the PS should also meet the following requirements:***

- Be an active and compliant member of a professional standards register (related to cosmetic medicine) or practice from a private healthcare environment that is regulated by a health care regulator (Care Quality Commission, Health Improvement Wales, Health Improvement Scotland or the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority).
- At least 1 year (or part time equivalent) experience of prescribing independently within the field of aesthetic medicine.
- Minimum of accredited level 7 PGCert (from an accredited training provider) in cosmetic/aesthetic medicine.
- Professional indemnity insurance to cover all liability risks associated with the practitioner's practice.

**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
- ***For Aesthetics applicants, in addition to these pre-requisites, the PA should also meet the following requirements:***
- Be an active and compliant member of a professional standards register (related to cosmetic medicine) or practice from a private healthcare environment that is regulated by a health care regulator (Care Quality Commission, Health Improvement Wales, Health Improvement Scotland or the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority). Is a member of Joint Council for Cosmetic Practitioners (JCCP), British Association of Medical Aesthetics Nurses (BAMEN), etc (or equivalent).

- At least 3 years (or part time equivalent) experience of prescribing independently within the field of aesthetic medicine.
- Minimum of accredited level 7 PGCert (from an accredited training provider) in cosmetic/aesthetic medicine.
- Professional indemnity insurance to cover all liability risks associated with the practitioner's practice.
- Must declare any conflict of interest to ensure the assessor is able to make an objective assessment of the student's prescribing practice.

### **Educational Audits**

It is important that prescribing students are adequately supported in their clinical area and that the environment is conducive to learning. Your line manager must indicate on the application form whether an educational audit has been completed, and specify the system used (e.g., a paper-based form, PARE system, etc.). The University may request to see this information. If an audit has not been completed, your line manager should note this on the form so that the University can arrange for one to take place if necessary.

### **Application Process**

1. Download the application form from the website: Your suitability for the course will be assessed based on the information provided. It is essential that you complete the form in full, ensuring all relevant sections are completed and signed. Incomplete or incorrectly completed forms may significantly delay your application and could result in a place not being offered. Guidance for completing the application form is included in the appendices.
2. Approval and signatures: Your application must be approved by the Non-Medical Prescribing (NMP) Lead for your Trust. In clinical settings where there is no designated NMP Lead, the individual responsible for prescribing data and governance in your area (e.g., a Chief Pharmacist, Lead GP, or Practice

Manager) must sign off the form. Forms not signed by an appropriate authority will be returned.

We accept appropriate digital signatures (not typed names) or handwritten signatures from all parties. Forms that are not signed appropriately will not be progressed.

Incomplete forms will be rejected, so please read the form carefully and ensure you have included all required information.

3. Online Application: Once the form is complete, click the 'Apply Now' link on the website. You will need to fill in the relevant sections of the online application and upload:
  - Your completed application form
  - Evidence of your qualifications and health assessment competency

(Upload these to the 'Documents' section of the online application.)

Applications are processed on a **first come, first served** basis.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Are there any skills that I need before I start?**

You must provide evidence in your application that you are able to study at the academic level required. If you have been out of higher education for some time, you may be directed to complete preparatory courses before beginning prescribing. We use a range of digital platforms during the programme, so IT literacy is essential.

#### **I would need to travel. Are there options to attend remotely?**

While some sessions may be delivered remotely (e.g., via MS Teams), the programme is primarily delivered face-to-face at our Blackheath Lane campus in Stafford. Due to the way the programme has been validated by the NMC and HCPC it cannot be offered as a distance learning programme (unlike some other modules

offered by the University where live sessions are routinely streamed to offer a choice of being on campus or at home).

**I am going on holiday during the course — can I still attend?**

If you are unable to commit to full attendance, you should wait to apply for the next available intake. The programme will not run during local school half-term weeks. We understand that unforeseen absences (e.g., due to illness) may occur; these can be discussed with the programme leader on a case-by-case basis.

**I've previously completed the V150 or V100. Can this be used towards the V300 course?**

Unfortunately, we do not offer Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) for these qualifications. However, your previous experience and knowledge will still prove helpful during the course.

**I have completed some parts of a prescribing course at another university, can this be used for 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 it 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 will need to reapply for the programme and start again.

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

The NMC/HCPC require that you are competent in health assessment before starting the prescribing course. Ideally, you should have already completed a health assessment module at Level 6 or Level 7 prior to applying.

University of Staffordshire offers the following relevant modules:

- *Principles of Physical Assessment* (Level 6)
- *Advanced Health Assessment* (Level 7 – available as a standalone module or as part of the ACP pathway)

Please visit our website for more information on available postgraduate courses:

[Postgraduate – Staffordshire University](#)

If you have not completed a formal health assessment module, we will consider other advanced qualifications which address health assessment. A professional colleague who is an experienced prescriber in your clinical specialty can also complete Section 4 of the application form to confirm your competence. They must clearly state how they have deemed you competent in health assessment and what evidence supports this.

Examples of acceptable evidence may include:

- Completion of an internal health assessment course
- A signed and completed competency document relevant to your area of practice

This supporting evidence must be uploaded to your online application to verify your competence.

**Please note:**

Section 4 of the application form must be completed and signed by a professional

colleague, even if you have previously completed a health assessment module. Applications with an incomplete or unsigned Section 4 will be rejected.

\*\* Please be aware that many of our Trust partners mandate a formal health assessment module before they will support their employees to apply for prescribing. Please discuss with your organisations NMP Lead.

### **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?**

We are pleased to accept applicants from the aesthetics industry. Please review the 'Aesthetics criteria' document, downloadable from the website which explains the additional requirements. If self-employed, you will also need to satisfy the prescribing governance requirements discussed below.

### **I am self-employed — can I apply?**

Yes — if you meet all the pre-requisites for the course, you are eligible to apply.

As a self-employed applicant, you must additionally:

- Provide two professional references on your application form
- Arrange adequate clinical supervision relevant to your area of practice to meet the practice assessment requirements
- Ensure an educational audit is completed for the area in which you work
- Provide clear information on the prescribing governance arrangements in your intended area of prescribing practice. This includes having adequate indemnity insurance that covers independent prescribing activity and securing a suitable practice learning environment with access to patient records, and clinical governance systems. Applicants must also demonstrate that they

work within robust clinical governance structures, including processes for audit, incident reporting, safe prescribing, and record-keeping, as well as access to relevant clinical guidelines. Clear confirmation of their intended scope of prescribing practice, written support from the organisations in which they provide clinical services, and access to secure IT systems for documenting prescribing decisions are also required.

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

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](mailto: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](mailto:lorna.smart@staffs.ac.uk)