

Making an application for a Prescribing Programme

Guidance on completing your statement of purpose

From your student checklist, and other uploaded documents, the admissions team can confirm that you meet some of the mandatory criteria set by your professional regulator but the student statement is used to support this evidence of meeting the entry criteria, as well as determining your preparedness to undertake the programme of study. You may wish to consider some of the following questions when writing your statement:

- Why you are applying for this prescribing programme?
- What patient facing experience do you have that has prepared you for the programme?
- What experience do you have in your intended scope of practice?
- What prescribing decision making experience do you have in your intended scope of practice?
- What role have you had in clinical interventions and medicines optimisation that has prepared you for this prescribing programme?
- What experience do you have in working in a multidisciplinary team that as prepared you for this prescribing programme?
- How does your intended prescribing role benefit patients?
- What support networks do you have whilst you are completing your studies?
- How do you keep up to date in your practice and reflect on your impact on patient care?
- If you are currently studying another programme at the same time, how will you manage your workload?

You should write as much as is necessary to provide evidence to support your application. Overleaf there are extracts of the entry criteria which may help you to reflect on your statement contents.

Guidance on accompanying evidence

Your statement of purpose, combined with your other application documents, may provide sufficient information on meeting the entry criteria, but where you reflect that there are gaps you should consider evidence you could provide that would enhance the admission team's understanding of your experience. Alternatively, the admissions team may request further evidence if they feel your application does not demonstrate your clinical and/or therapeutic experience sufficiently. Common examples of supplementary evidence include:

- Evidence of academic credits for a module focused on your proposed scope of practice (e.g. a short-course module including learning outcomes focused on your proposed scope of practice).
- Evidence of completion of an advanced history taking and/or diagnostic reasoning module
- For pharmacists: a PG Certificate or PG Diploma in Pharmacy Practice, or equivalent, which includes evidence of a focus during the learning on your proposed scope of practice (e.g. an assessed rotation within your intended scope of practice and/or coursework showing evidence-based interventions for patients within your intended scope of practice)
- Submission of a professional portfolio of experiential learning showing proficiency in your intended scope of practice
- Attendance at continuing education events linked to your intended scope of practice
- Submission of CPD or revalidation records linked to your intended scope of practice
- Interview with a member of the admissions team

Entry criteria as set by the relevant professional regulators

GPhC entry criteria:

- be registered as a pharmacist with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) or, in Northern Ireland, with the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (PSNI)
- be in good standing with the GPhC and/or PSNI and any other healthcare regulator with which they are registered
- have at least two years' appropriate patient-orientated experience post registration, in a relevant UK practice setting
- have an identified area of clinical or therapeutic practice in which to develop independent prescribing practice
- have relevant clinical or therapeutic experience in that area, which is suitable to act as the foundation of their prescribing practice while training

HCPC entry criteria:

- be registered with the HCPC in one of the relevant Allied Health Professions (physiotherapists, podiatrists, therapeutic radiographers, paramedics, diagnostic radiographers, dietitians)
- have normally at least three years relevant post-qualification experience in the clinical area in which they will be prescribing
- be working at an advanced practitioner or equivalent level
(N.B. in this context advanced practitioner is sometimes interpreted by the Royal Colleges as advanced clinical practitioner; where relevant you should also refer to profession specific guidance e.g. [The College of Paramedics](#))
- be professionally practising in an environment where there is an identified need for the individual to regularly use independent or supplementary prescribing
- be able to demonstrate support from their employer/sponsor including confirmation they will have appropriate supervised practice in the clinical area in which they are expected to prescribe
- be able to demonstrate medicines and clinical governance arrangements are in place to support safe and effective independent and/or supplementary prescribing
- be able to demonstrate how they reflect on their own performance and take responsibility for their own Continuing Professional Development (CPD) including development of networks for support, reflection and learning

NMC entry criteria:

- be a registered nurse (level 1)
- have been a registered nurse with the NMC for at least one year
- have the necessary governance support structures in place to undertake the programme (e.g. clinical support, access to protected learning time and employer support where appropriate)
- have the necessary competence, experience and academic ability to study the programme
- have the capability to provide safe and effective practice at the level of prescribing including:
 - clinical/health assessment
 - diagnostics/care management
 - planning and evaluation of care

Clinically enhanced pathway for pharmacists

If you are applying for the clinically enhanced pathway you will need to state this in your application and provide information on how you have prepared for this more advanced pathway; you will need to have evidence of post-registration level 7 academic credits to be eligible for this option. This pathway focuses on using physical examination skills and history taking to provide holistic care to patients and therefore focuses on a range of body systems not just those in the intended scope of practice

The clinically enhanced module is designed for pharmacists who are working in an established role as a pharmacist which will transition to a prescribing role usually requiring regular physical assessment of patients. It is most relevant to roles in outpatient clinics, GP practice, urgent care, accident and

emergency, rapid access secondary care services and care homes, although any applicant can state a reason their individual circumstances make this pathway more appropriate for their studies.

It is recommended that applicants who are likely to be frequently diagnosing patients with a range of conditions in a more independent and autonomous role consider the CIPPET advanced history taking and physical assessment module which would likely better suit their needs. Students can study this advanced practice module before or after their prescribing qualification.

There is an additional charge for studying the clinically enhanced pathway. For more information you can email the admissions tutor via cippet@reading.ac.uk.