FAQs for Independent Prescribing

Who is the course for?

The course is accredited for pharmacists, nurses, midwives, physios, podiatrists, paramedics and therapeutic radiographers only.

Funding Opportunities?

There have been recent funding opportunities via Health Education England-West Midlands but you would need to contact them directly. Employers and local NHS trusts may also fund courses.

No degree?

We normally expect applicants to have a degree, but we will exceptionally consider applicants for prescribing as a standalone module who don’t have a degree but can show a strong profile of recent study at level 6 (degree level).

We would consider your application for the programme if you demonstrated evidence of good achievement in recent study at degree (Level 6) or master’s degree (Level 7) level alongside your professional qualifications. Diploma level study alone would not be sufficient for entry to the course.

Application Process:

Once you fill in the online form, this is reviewed by the admissions team here and then passed to the programme lead who will also review it. They will then indicate to the programme administrator whether they can send out a further supplementary application form for you to fill out within 2 weeks. Once this is complete and approved, the programme lead will arrange a telephone interview.

More information on being made a conditional offer.

References:

It would be appropriate to have professional colleagues/line managers/academics who can comment on your ability to complete the course.

Can Paramedics complete the programme?

We have now been approved to take on paramedics & therapeutic radiographers.
Joint Honours?

An ordinary degree (i.e. without honours) is normally less credit than a full honours. This would be accepted provided this is more than 60 credits at level 6 and there is evidence of ability to study at Masters Level 7 by way of further post-graduate qualifications and/or CPD.

Study days

There are only 1 or 2 study days per month which is when you will be required on campus. They start at 9am and finish at 5.30pm. Attendance is compulsory so you need to make sure you can attend all of the dates before you apply for the programme, particularly the assessment days as these cannot be rearranged.

Assessments

The programme is assessed via a number of ways – this is outlined under the learning and teaching tab on our webpages.

What will your Clinical topic be?

Students can pick a clinical area to focus on themselves e.g. hypertension, asthma etc. As part of the supplementary form which is part of the application process, you would need to discuss any patient-focused experience you have, in particular relating to patients linked to the clinical area you have chosen.

Case Studies:

Students do a case presentation in small groups as part of the module 1 assessment. There are a further 2 case studies with clinical management plans that are part of the written portfolio.

Eligibility criteria for your DMP:

The key requirements are as below:

- A named and approved (designated) medical practitioner (DMP) who has experience of the relevant field of practice
- Training and experience in supervision
- Agrees to provide student with opportunities to develop competences in prescribing, and support and assess the student during their clinical placement.
The DMP will support the development of competencies in practice around consultation and clinical skills. A minimum of 90 hours is required during the course with at least 50% of this time with the DMP.

Finding a DMP:

We don’t give out DMP contact details or ask if DMPs would like to be informed if someone is looking. Securing a DMP can be difficult and is a pre-requisite to application. It’s really important that applicants find a DMP themselves so that they build a rapport and a good professional working relationship.

Other advice:

- Make contact with local GP, consultants, hospital doctors
- Asking colleagues/friends

At present all professional regulators require clinical supervision by a medical practitioner. The option of supervision by an appropriate non-medical prescriber will be an option once all professional regulators (GPhC, NMC, HCPC) have completed consultations and the course has been accredited to new standards.

Unfortunately there is no national funding for acting as a DMP though CCGs may have local agreements that you could inquire about.

We do offer an induction evening for DMPs with support via a virtual learning environment. Applicants to the course are also sent a DMP handbook for discussion with prospective/confirmed DMPs.

If you would like a copy of the handbook for information please email prescribing@contacts.bham.ac.uk and Elly, the course administrator will be happy to send this on to you.

Clinical placement:

The minimum 90 hours should be completed by the time the student submits their portfolio.

Most students would probably complete ¼ to 1/3 of the hours in module one, with ¾ to 2/3 in module two but you would be expected to start spending time with your DMP as soon as possible to ensure they can identify learning and progress.

What can I do to prepare for the course?

- familiarise yourself with the learning outcomes for your professional regulator and ‘The Competency Framework for All Prescribers’. These can be found on our entry requirements webpage.
• Review your skills around calculations. Examples of types of questions are available on the [course details](#) webpage.
  Recommended texts*:
  Medication Safety, Book edited by Courtenay, Molly; Griffiths, Matt  2009
  Chapter 8 – Calculations
  Calculation skills for nurses, Book by Boyd, Claire  2013

• Review the recommended texts* for the course, in particular, pharmacology, history taking, clinical skills:
  - Kumar and Clark's Clinical Medicine, 8th Edition
  - Macleod's Clinical Examination, 13th Edition
  - Davidson's Principles and Practice of Medicine, 22nd Edition
  - Current BNF

• Meet with your DMP and start planning your time in practice
• Review your commitments and start planning for study days, self-directed learning and time in practice

*Recommended texts are available to students once registered (as books/on-line resources). Visitor access to libraries is available and you can find out more [here](#).