



UNIVERSITY OF THE
WEST of SCOTLAND

UWS

**Independent and
Supplementary Prescribing
(SCQF Level 9 & 11)**

**APPLICANT
INFORMATION**

Introduction and Module Overview

The Independent & Supplementary Prescribing modules aim to prepare practitioners to be safe independent and/or supplementary prescribers within their scope of clinical competence. The modules have been approved by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) and The Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and will lead to the annotation of an independent/supplementary prescriber* on the appropriate professional register.

The modules represent 30 SCQF credits, are offered at either SCQF Level 9 (degree level) or SCQF Level 11 (postgraduate/master's level) and are underpinned by the [RPS \(2021\) Competency Framework for All Prescribers, NMC \(2018\) Standards for Prescribing Programmes](#) and [HCPC \(2019\) Standards for Prescribing](#). An experienced, multi-professional academic team deliver the modules using a hybrid model of teaching and learning using the UWS virtual learning environment. In addition, work-based learning within your area of practice will be undertaken which is facilitated and supervised by a Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP)**.

Who can apply for this module?

Applications are welcome from first level nurses, midwives and specialist/community nurses, physiotherapists, podiatrists, therapeutic radiographers, paramedics, dieticians* and diagnostic radiographers*, who are in a current clinical post where prescribing is required. Applicants must have a minimum of 1-year post registration experience in the area in which they intend to prescribe and have a current professional registration with no restrictions on practice.

All applicants must have the support of their employing organisation to undertake the module; employers must agree to support a total of 84 protected learning hours, in addition to 90 hours of learning in practice. At the point of application, a Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP)** must be identified who can support the 90 hours of supervised learning in practice. (NMC registered applicants must also identify a Nominated Practice Supervisor (PS) unless there are exceptional circumstances).

All applicants must be able to demonstrate safe and effective practice in clinical/health assessment, diagnostics/care management and planning and evaluation of care within the intended area of prescribing practice. Applicants must also demonstrate the ability to study at the

SCQF level applied for; for level 9 entry this will normally be through completion of a previous level 9 module, for level 11 entry this will normally be through completion of an undergraduate degree. Applications may be considered for those without the required academic qualification but with prior learning or experience that can mapped to [RPS \(2021\) Competency Framework for All Prescribers](#). For further guidance on this, or for information on the additional requirements for Independent/Non-NHS applicants, please contact UWS using the details below.

* Dieticians and diagnostic radiographers will undertake the supplementary prescribing qualification only

**For NMC Registrants, the DPP is equivalent to the Practice Assessor; for HCPC registrants, the DPP is equivalent to the Practice Educator. DPPs (and Nominated PSs) must meet competencies within [RPS \(2019\) A Competency Framework for Designated Prescribing Practitioners](#).

Module Delivery and Content

The module will be delivered over two academic terms using a hybrid model for teaching and learning. Theory will be delivered using a blend of synchronous online workshops, tutorial support, asynchronous online learning activities, and academic support. Practice based learning will be within the applicant's own clinical area and contextualised to their intended area of prescribing practice.

Both the theoretical and practice based elements are based on the RPS (2021) Competency Framework for All Prescribers and therefore focus on:

The Consultation

1. Assess the patient
2. Identify evidence-based treatment options available for clinical decision making
3. Present options and reach a shared decision
4. Prescribe
5. Provide information
6. Monitor and review

Prescribing Governance

7. Prescribe safely
8. Prescribe professionally
9. Improve prescribing practice
10. Prescribe as part of a team

Module Assessment

The module has three assessment components, and all must be passed to pass module overall and record prescribing qualification.

1. Numeracy/Pharmacology Class Test (Numeracy pass mark: 100%; Pharmacology pass Mark: 80%)
2. Written Case Study (Pass mark 40% at level 9; Pass mark 50% at level 11)
3. Clinical Portfolio of Practice (Marked Pass/Fail, as assessed by DPP)

Module Fees

Please visit the fees section of the UWS website for the latest fee information at <https://www.uws.ac.uk/study/cpd-short-courses-modules/health-related-modules/>

Start Dates and Application Deadlines

Lanarkshire - September 2025

(applications must be submitted by 1st August 2025)

Lanarkshire - January 2026

(applications must be submitted by 28th November 2025)

NHS Employees

All NHS employees must gain approval to apply for the module from their own NHS Prescribing Lead/Team, who will then provide them with the UWS Prescribing Application Form. This is essential before any application can be accepted. For information on who to contact for this please see the information below.

Independent Applicants

All Independent applicants/Non-NHS employees must contact UWS, to discuss entry requirements and access a UWS Prescribing Application Form for Independent Applicants. Please note that it is a requirement of admission that the clinical area is registered with a Health Care Regulator, such as Health Improvement Scotland (HIS) and there may be a requirement for a UWS educational audit of the practice/clinic.

All applicants must then make an application directly to the University of the West of Scotland using our Online Application which can be accessed at: <http://apply.uws.ac.uk> where they will upload their completed UWS Prescribing Application form and required supporting evidence (full instructions can be found within the UWS Prescribing Application Form).

Please note that we will be unable to consider any application until all required documents have been uploaded to the Online Application system.



Health Board Contacts

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

Lynne Watret (Prescribing Lead)

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NHS Lanarkshire:

Use email below for enquiries:

E: practice.development@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk

NHS Ayrshire & Arran:

Jen Pennycook (Chief Nurse)

Use email below for enquiries.

E: QualityImprovementSupport@aapct.scot.nhs.uk

NHS Highland

Claire Henderson-Hughes

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NHS Dumfries & Galloway:

Gail Meier

Dept of Nursing Administration

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Scottish Ambulance Service

Gillian MacLeod (Prescribing Lead)

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UWS Contact

Elizabeth Rooney (Prescribing Lead)

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