

Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing for Pharmacists;

De Montfort University

Frequently Asked Questions

Application Form/Application Process

Q: How much detail should I include in my answers on the application form

A: Each question on the application form is accompanied by some guidance about the purpose of the question and the level of detail required in the answer. There is also guidance on the application form with regards to the approximate number of words we suggest should be included for each answer. We recommend reading the application form in its entirety prior to answering questions.

Q: What happens after I submit my application?

A: Once an application is submitted to pharmacy@precrruitment@dmu.ac.uk, a member of the module team replies to the email to acknowledge receipt of the application form. Following on from this, the application is screened against set scoring criteria. If the application meets the scoring threshold, applicants are invited to a 25 - 30 minute interview: this is a supportive and structured conversation designed to ensure that you are meeting the entry requirements for the course and identify any potential barriers to learning and assessment at this early stage. It is also an opportunity for you to ask questions related to the course. A final decision with regards to suitability for the course is then made.

Designated Prescribing Practitioners and Learning in Practice Hours

Q: What is a DPP?

A designated prescribing practitioner, or DPP, is a workplace supervisor for pharmacist independent prescribing students. They play an important role in providing training and support to help to develop and assess their student's prescribing competence and skill in their chosen area of practice throughout their independent prescribing studies and during the student's 'Learning in Practice Hours'.

Each student will have one stated designated prescribing practitioner.

Q: Who can be a DPP?

Historically, pharmacist prescribers in training were supervised and certified as competent by designated medical practitioners, registered with the General Medical Council. This supervisory role has now been extended, such that non-medical prescribers may now also act as DPPs.

It is expected that DPPs supervising pharmacist independent prescribers in training will satisfy the following criteria:

- DPPs must be a registered healthcare professional in Great Britain or Northern Ireland and in good standing with their professional regulator
- DPPs must be registered with their regulator as a legally independent prescriber for at least the last three years, with no significant gaps in practice which would affect this three-year requirement.
- DPPs must have at least three years' active and recent prescribing practice, patient-facing clinical and diagnostic skill within the student's chosen therapeutic area/scope of practice, with no significant gaps in practice which would affect this three-year requirement.
- Have the support of the employing organisation(s) or learning in practice setting(s) to act as a DPP who will provide supervision, support and opportunities to develop competence in prescribing practice for the pharmacist prescriber in training.
- Have experience of teaching, supervising and assessing other health care professionals in clinical practice.
- Have adequate indemnity insurance in place for their own professional and supervisory role as a DPP and ensure that all learning in practice settings have adequate indemnity insurance in place.
- DPPs must meet all competencies defined within the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Competency Framework for Designated Prescribing Practitioners.

Q: Can a close friend or relative act as my DPP?

No. This is because with any practitioner that you have a close personal relationship, there is a risk that they may not have an objective view of your development. This may be translated into the

feedback which they are providing to you. The use of a close friend or relative as a DPP is incompatible with our accreditation against the GPhC Standards for the initial education and training of pharmacist independent prescribers. Similarly, during learning in practice hours, student should avoid shadowing or carrying out learning in practice hours with any practitioner with whom they have a close personal relationship as part of the course.

Q: I would like to provide some more information about the course to my DPP. Where can I obtain this information?

A: Under the 'Useful Links' heading on the bottom right-hand corner of the Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing webpage, there is a link to the DPP Handbook. This handbook provides detailed information about the course for DPPs.

Q: Can my DPP be a non-medical prescriber?

A: Yes, our course at DMU is accredited to new GPhC Standards for Initial Education & Training for Independent Prescribers, thus, DPPs for this course can be non-medical prescribers. The requirements of DPPs and selection criteria for DPPs is the same whether your DPP is a medical or non-medical prescriber – please see the DPP handbook for further information related to the selection criteria for DPPs. However, if you are using a non-medical prescriber as a DPP, you will need to spend a minimum of 20 hours with a medical prescriber focusing on diagnostic processes relevant to your prescribing practice.

Q: For the course, I am aware that I need to complete a minimum of 90 hours of learning in practice. How many of these hours should be spent with my nominated DPP?

A: At DMU, we ask that at least 45 hours of your learning in practice hours are spent with your DPP, to allow sufficient time for your DPP to help to develop and assess your competence in your chosen area of practice. If you are using a non-medical prescriber as a DPP, you will need to spend a minimum of 20 hours with a medical prescriber focusing on diagnostic processes relevant to your prescribing practice.

Q: I been asked to provide some remuneration to my DPP. Is this advised?

A: No. We are aware that there are organisations who are charging a 'finders-fee' for putting pharmacists in contact with a DPP, and that some DPPs are charging directly for access to learning in practice hours. We believe that both of these arrangements are inappropriate and are likely to be problematic for you as a learner. Your DPP is such a vital resource in the success of your IP qualification, and you want your DPP to be objective, supportive and accessible. From experience, with these arrangements, pharmacists are more likely to have poor relationships with their DPPs and may struggle to access the support and guidance required for success on the course.

If you are considering such an arrangement you need to ensure that you have had contact with your DPP prior to starting on the course, that you have satisfied yourself that the DPP understands the

requirements of the course, the support that they are required to provide, and that they are fully committed to their role. You should be personally arranging for the paperwork required for your application to be completed and not relying in an intermediary to provide you with the completed paperwork.

The nature of the relationship between you and your DPP will be explored at interview, and if there are any concerns that the arrangement is inappropriate, may act as a barrier to learning and/or assessment, or that the DPP will not be objective in their assessment of your performance, then your application will be rejected, as we do not want you to commence studying the course if there is a significant chance of you being unable to complete it based on your DPP relationship.

Equipment for the Course

Q: Should I buy an aneroid sphygmomanometer and stethoscope for the course?

A: You do not need to buy this equipment for the course, as you will have time to practice using a sphyg' and stethoscope during study days. However, if you feel they would be useful for your future practice and whilst studying on the course, you may wish to buy these.