

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

KEY FACTS

Programme name	Advanced Clinical Practice (Apprenticeship)
Award	MSc
School	School of Health & Psychological Sciences
Department or equivalent	Nursing
Course Code	NUPACA
Programme code	NUMSACA01
Route Code	PSACPA
Type of study	Part-time
Total UK credits	185
Total ECTS	92.5

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The City, University of London integrated MSc Advanced Clinical Practice (Apprenticeship) Programme has been designed by advanced practice clinicians and academics specifically for registered healthcare professionals working in primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare settings who intend to work in an advanced clinical practice role.

The aim of the programme is to prepare you to become a competent and confident Advanced Clinical Practitioner (ACP) within your specialty, sector or setting and has been designed specifically around the four pillars of advanced practice to equip you with the knowledge, skills and values and attitudes (behaviours) to meet the requirements of the Degree Apprenticeship Standard Advanced Clinical Practitioner (ST0564) and the Multi-Professional Framework of Advanced Clinical Practice introduced by the Health Education England in 2017 (HEE, 2017). This is a student-facing programme and prospective students are required to work in a clinical environment which will support their development as an ACP. Please follow this link for more information about the multi-professional framework for advanced clinical practice in England: <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Multi-professional%20framework%20for%20advanced%20clinical%20practice%20in%20England.pdf>

Standards and definition of Advanced Clinical Practice Apprenticeship

The Institute of Apprentices (IoA, 2018) recommends that an apprenticeship “should be in a recognised occupation, involve a substantial programme of on and off-the-job training and the apprentice’s occupational competence should be tested by an independent, end-point assessment. Apprenticeships are employer-led: employers set the standards, create the demand for apprentices to meet their skills needs, fund the apprenticeship and are responsible for employing and training the apprentice. But the needs of the apprentice are equally important: to achieve competence in a skilled occupation, which is transferable and secures long term earnings power, greater security and the capability to progress in the workplace” (IoA, 2018).

The qualification requirement for the ACP (Apprenticeship) is a Master’s degree at level 7 and the End Point Assessment (EPA) module forms the final part of assessment for the student to be awarded an MSc in Advanced Clinical Practice (Apprenticeship) degree. The degree will combine on-programme academic and work-based learning and assessment together with an EPA that provides a synoptic assessment of the achievement of knowledge, skills and

behaviours as outlined in the standard for the EPA plan (Skills for Health, 2018). Please follow this link for more information about the Advanced Clinical Practitioner (Apprenticeship): <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/advanced-clinical-practitioner-degree/> and this link for the apprenticeship standard and assessment by Skills for Health: <https://haso.skillsforhealth.org.uk/standards/#standard-355>

Programme content

The core modules and dissertation for the MSc ACP (Apprenticeship) programme are the same as for the MSc ACP programme to ensure the students' academic experience and preparation is comparable between the two programmes. Preparation for the EPA module runs throughout the MSc ACP (Apprenticeship) programme before you undertake the final three-month EPA period and assessment following confirmation of successful completion of 165 credits (core taught modules and dissertation) of the MSc ACP programme. The EPA is your opportunity to demonstrate the integration of knowledge, skills and behaviours you have developed over the course of the programme in relation to Advanced Clinical Practice Apprenticeship requirements.

In order to progress to EPA, you must meet the Gateway criteria detailed in the End Point Assessment document (Skills for Health, 2018 - <https://haso.skillsforhealth.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/2018.03.22-Advanced-Clinical-Practitioner-Assessment-Plan.pdf>) and outlined in the "Progression requirements for EPA" section at the end of the programme specification. You must also provide confirmation from your employer that you are ready to undertake the EPA. The format of the written confirmation will be discussed and agreed with employers before student recruitment.

This multi-professional programme of study is aimed at practitioners aspiring to develop and work at an advanced level of practice but also those already working at an advanced level but want to improve their skills across the four pillars of advanced clinical practice. It will equip you with the knowledge, skills and professional behaviours (values and attitudes) to work at an advanced clinical level, exercise autonomy and decision-making in the context of complexity, uncertainty and varying levels of risk and holding accountability for the decisions that you make. Prospective students will come from a range of regulated healthcare professions such as nursing, pharmacy, therapeutic or diagnostic radiography, physiotherapy, paramedics and occupational therapy, and work in a variety of specialties, settings or sectors. You will have the opportunity to study in an interdisciplinary environment which will provide a more holistic approach to your clinical skills.

Non-medical prescribing eligibility

If you are undertaking Non-Medical Prescribing as part of this programme, you should also work within a profession that offers you the possibility to register as a qualified non-medical prescriber on completion of the non-medical prescribing module as part of this programme (please visit the Health & Care Professions Council to see a list of eligible professions <https://www.hcpc-uk.org/about-us/>). In addition to the study requirements, you will need to be working in an advanced clinical practice role, or in a role where you will be supported to develop as an ACP and have identified and secured the support of a clinical supervisor.

Confirmation of support by your employer is required to enrol on the apprenticeship programme and your progress, both academic and in the workplace, will be monitored at regular intervals prior to gateway progressions.

Definition and pillars of Advanced Clinical Practice

This dynamic and innovative programme will prepare you to meet the degree apprenticeship standard Advanced Clinical Practitioner (ST0564) and the required standards outlined in the Multi-Professional Framework for Advanced Clinical Practice (MPFACP) in England, which defined advanced clinical practice as (HEE, 2017:8):

‘Advanced clinical practice is delivered by experienced, registered health and care practitioners. It is a level of practice characterised by a high degree of autonomy and complex decision making. This is underpinned by a master’s level award [...] that encompasses the four pillars of clinical practice, leadership and management, education and research.

Advanced clinical practice embodies the ability to manage clinical care in partnership with individuals, families and carers. It includes the analysis and synthesis of complex problems across a range of settings, enabling innovate solutions to enhance people’s experience and improve outcomes.’

As an ACP apprentice, you will be required to demonstrate core capabilities across the four pillars of advanced practice applied to your specialty, sector or setting. The programme has modules mapped to the four pillars of advanced clinical practice as set out in the knowledge, skills and behaviours of the apprenticeship standard. Three of the four pillars (Clinical leadership, Education, and Research) correspond to the following modules: Professional Leadership’, ‘Leading and Evaluating Learning in Healthcare Practice’, ‘Foundations in Research Methods and Data Analysis’ and “Advanced Practice Dissertation”, and you will be expected to apply the learning from these core capabilities to your speciality, sector or setting.

The MPFACP states that in addition to being able to demonstrate and apply the core capabilities across the four pillars, it is ‘essential’ that those working at an advanced clinical practice level have developed and are able to evidence specialist clinical competencies (i.e. knowledge, skills and values and attitudes) applicable to their speciality, sector or setting. As such this programme has been designed with just over half (95 credits) of the credits being acquired through dedicated clinical modules. The “Advanced Clinical Assessment, Critical Thinking and Diagnostic Reasoning across the Lifespan” and for those practitioners who are in roles in which they are eligible/required to prescribe “Independent and Supplementary Non-Medical Prescribing (V300)” modules further develop the core capabilities which you will be expected to apply to your specialty, sector or setting. In addition, through the Advanced Clinical Practice Portfolio, you will have the opportunity to develop and evidence your specialist clinical competence within your specialty, sector or setting. Moreover, with preparation and support throughout your programme, the final EPA is your opportunity to demonstrate the integration of knowledge, skills and behaviours you have developed over the course of the programme in relation to the Advanced Clinical Practitioner Apprenticeship Standard.

It is acknowledged that the MSc Advanced Clinical Practice (Apprenticeship) programme will provide you with the framework and the underpinning theoretical knowledge, skills and behaviours to become a confident and competent ACP, therefore additionally a significant proportion of your learning and consolidation of learning will occur in clinical practice. In order to evidence that you have achieved the core capabilities and specialty specific competencies you will be required to complete a minimum of 500 hours of supervised clinical practice which is designed to prepare you as an advanced clinical practitioner.

Aims

The aim of the MSc Advanced Clinical Practice (Apprenticeship) Programme is to provide you with the skills and competence to become an ACP within your specialty, sector or setting and has been designed specifically around the four pillars of advanced practice to equip you with the knowledge, skills and behaviours to meet the requirements of the degree apprenticeship Advanced Clinical Practitioner Standard (ST0564) and the Multi-Professional Framework of Advanced Clinical Practice (HEE, 2017).

Programme overview

The City University London MSc Advanced Clinical Practice (Apprenticeship) has been mapped to the Degree Apprenticeship Advanced Clinical Practitioner Standard (ST0564) and the four pillars of advanced clinical practice identified in the Multi-Professional Framework of Advanced Clinical Practice (HEE, 2017).

Option for practitioners eligible/required to practice as Non-medical prescribers

Apprenticeship Standard	Advanced Clinical Practice	Clinical Leadership	Education	Research
HEE Pillar	Clinical Practice	Leadership & Management	Education	Research
Module(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APM052 Advanced Clinical Assessment, Critical Thinking and Diagnostic Reasoning Across the Life-span • APM060 Independent and Supplementary Non- Medical Prescribing (V300) • APM055 Advanced Clinical Practice Portfolio • APM057 End Point Assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APM032 Professional Leadership • APM057 End Point Assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APM058 Leading and Evaluating Learning in Healthcare Practice • APM057 End Point Assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HRM020 Foundations in Research Methods and Data Analysis • APM056 Advanced Practice Dissertation • APM057 End Point Assessment

Year 1

It is anticipated that you will take one module per academic period (with the exception of the APM055 and APM056). The programme diet is only suggestive and can be flexible to accommodate student needs and numbers, and module availability during each academic period.

In the first year it is anticipated that you will commence four modules, of which you will complete three as the Advanced Clinical Practice Portfolio runs over two years). Year one will enable you to begin to develop and apply the core capabilities across the four pillars (advanced clinical practice, research, clinical leadership and education) and relate them to your area of practice.

In addition, during Period 1 you will also commence preparation for the End Point Assessment (EPA) which will continue over the first two-year period throughout the programme. Following an introductory session to help you understand the process and requirements of the EPA, you will have group tutorials and one-to-one tutorial sessions with your module leader to support you in the preparation of case studies specific to your specialty, sector or setting, as you develop your expertise throughout the programme. You can use these case studies as part of the EPA examination at the end of your programme. During the 2-year preparation period for the EPA, you will attend six 3-hour group tutorials (one per academic period) and 18 contact hours of one-to-one tutorials in addition to independent self-directed study. You will develop your clinical expertise and competence through preparing the Advanced Clinical Practice Portfolio and preparation for the EPA throughout the programme:

Period 1

APM032 Professional Leadership (15 credits)

The second pillar in the MPFACP is leadership and management as ACPs are expected to lead practice within their specialty, setting or sector. This second module in professional leadership will help you realise and develop your inherent leadership qualities in order to deliver high quality, person centred care and create a culture of innovation. You will be empowered to step up and lead and learn about developing positive and collaborative working relationships.

APM055 Advanced Clinical Practice Portfolio (undertaken over a period of 24 months) (15 credits)

In tandem with the “Advanced Clinical Assessment, Critical Thinking and Diagnostic Reasoning across the Lifespan” module you will also take the Advanced Clinical Practice portfolio so that you can evidence your clinical competence as an ACP within your specialty, setting or sector. You will develop this portfolio with guidance from your module leader and continuous support from your clinical supervisor to ensure it relates directly to your area of clinical interest.

Period 2

During period 2 of year one you will start working on the development of the core capabilities relating to clinical practice by completing the first module within the Advanced Clinical Practice part of the apprenticeship standard and clinical practice pillar of the MPFAP.

APM052 Advanced Clinical Assessment, Critical Thinking and Diagnostic Reasoning Across the Life-span (30 credits)

This module will provide you with the opportunities to develop your knowledge of clinically relevant biological sciences, patient consultation, history taking and physical assessment skills. In addition, you will advance your analytical, critical reasoning, diagnostic skills and take a holistic, humanistic and collaborative approach to patient management.

Period 3

HRM020 Foundations in research methods and data analysis (15 credits)

The aim of the first module which has been designed to meet the needs of clinicians is you provide you with the understanding and skills in research to enable to you access and critically appraise evidence relevant to your particular field. The skills developed in this module will not only be invaluable in your practice as an ACP, but are essential in meeting the requirements of the rest of the programme with developing and enhancing evidence-based learning and critical enquiry. It will also provide you with the fundamental skills and competence to develop and investigate research questions and to audit and evaluate your practice utilising a structured research methodology approach.

Year 2

During the second year of the programme, you will continue to develop the core capabilities relating to clinical practice. If you are in a role where you are able/required to prescribe by undertaking the Non-medical Prescribing within the Advanced Clinical Practice part of the apprenticeship standard and Clinical Pillar of the MPFACP. Tutorial support for the Advanced Clinical Practice Portfolio and preparation for the EPA will continue throughout this year. By the end of year two, it is anticipated that you will have completed all the core modules, submit the Advanced Clinical Practice Portfolio and have started your MSc Dissertation in period 3 of Year 2, which will then continue in Year 3, over periods 2 & 3.

Period 1

APM060 Independent and Supplementary Non-medical Prescribing (V300) (30 credits)

As this module requires extensive clinical supervision support and clinical placement days, it runs over two academic periods and through collaborative, interprofessional learning will encourage you to acquire, critically explore, share, apply and synthesize specialist knowledge and technical expertise fundamental in accountable and proficient prescribing of medicinal products.

Period 2

APM058 Leading and Evaluating Learning in Healthcare Practice (15 credits)

Education is a core part of the apprenticeship standard and a pillar of the MPFACP. In this third module of the programme you will focus on teaching and education in an interprofessional setting. It will encourage a critically reflective approach to considering your own practice and explore evidence-based approaches to teaching, coaching and facilitation.

Period 3

APM056 Advanced Practice Dissertation (45 credits)

The final module of the programme before progressing to the EPA, is the dissertation, which draws upon research knowledge and critical appraisal skills developed throughout the programme. The dissertation is the element of the programme that provides you with the opportunity to undertake a piece of original, independent research, focused on the topic or topics pertinent to your specialty, setting or sector. It will build on the knowledge and the research skills you developed throughout the programme. **You will continue to work on this during Period 1 and 2 of year three.**

Year 3

In the final year of the programme you will complete the MSc dissertation and undertake the End Point Assessment (EPA).

Period 1 and 2

You will continue to work on the Advanced Practice Dissertation.

In order to progress to the EPA module to be awarded the MSc Advanced Clinical Practice (Apprenticeship) on successful completion, you will need to have confirmation of successful completion of 165 credits of the MSc degree in ACP. This includes all core modules and the Advanced Practice Dissertation. Once you have confirmation of the pass mark and ratification by the Assessment Board for your MSc dissertation, you can progress to the EPA.

Period 3

APM057 End Point Assessment (20 credits)

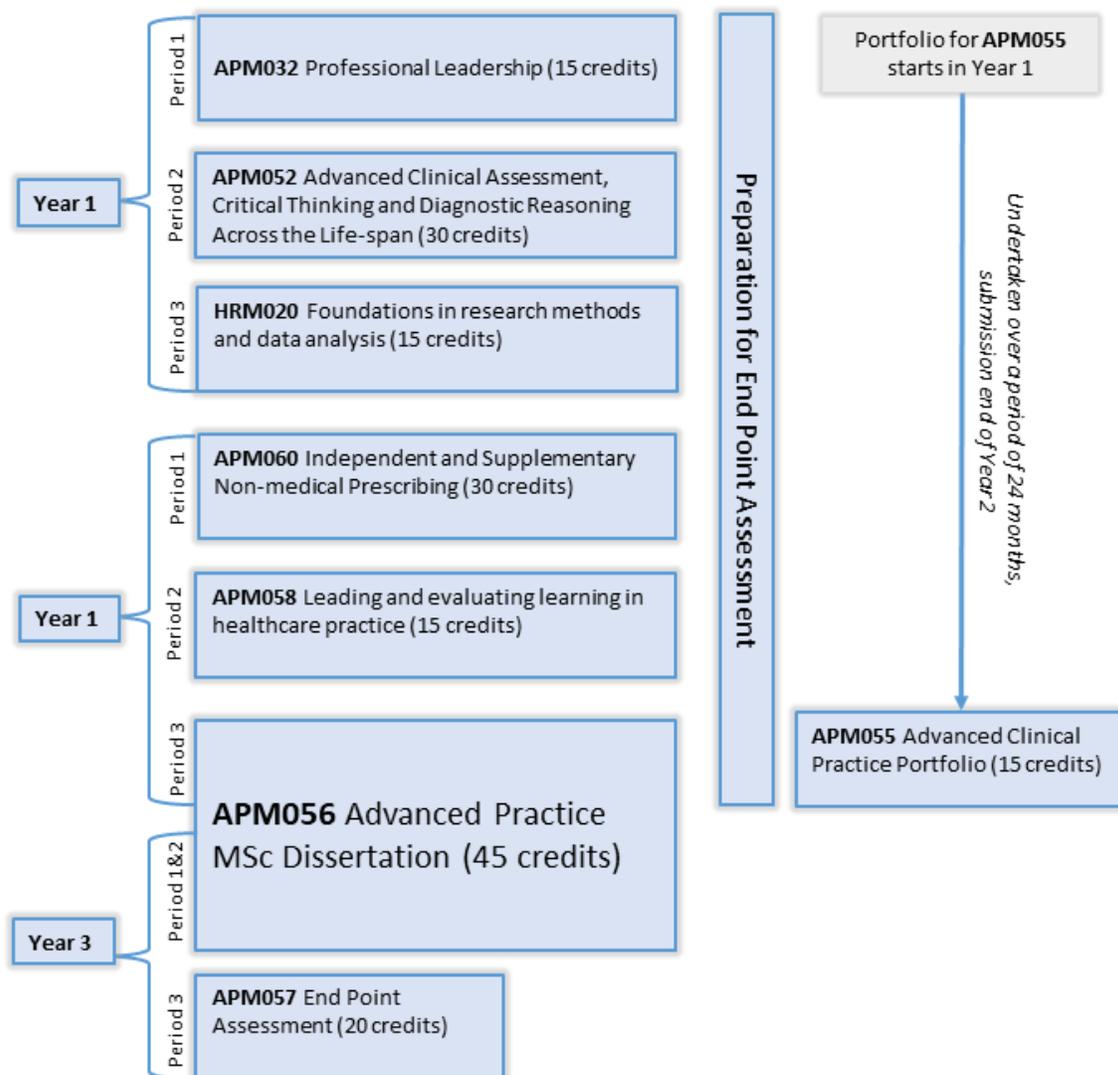
During the three-month EPA period at the end of your programme, you will have three 3-hour group tutorials and three 1:1 tutorial sessions to help you review your learning from the case studies for your EPA examination and supervision for the development of your practice change report and presentation. Group sessions will also include examination preparation and presentation skills and practice. In accordance with national standards, the EPA is awarded at 20 credits giving you thus a total of 185 credits when you are awarded the MSc Advanced Clinical Practice (Apprenticeship).

Programme flowchart

The flowchart below represents a suggested Programme overview over the 3 years leading to an MSc in Advanced Clinical Practice (Apprenticeship) award. Exit awards are available for students who don't complete the full MSc programme; please see "What award can I get" for details.

Please note that the programme diet on this flowchart is only suggestive and can be flexible to accommodate the student needs for example if they have prior learning or require extending their studies; this will be adjusted accordingly in discussion with the Programme Director and Course Team.

Suggestive programme diet for practitioners eligible /required to prescribe



Option for practitioners NOT eligible/required to prescribe

Apprenticeship Standard	Advanced Clinical Practice	Clinical Leadership	Education	Research
HEE Pillar	Clinical Practice	Leadership & Management	Education	Research
Module(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APM052 Advanced Clinical Assessment, Critical Thinking and Diagnostic Reasoning Across the Life-span • APM055 Advanced Clinical Practice Portfolio • Elective module(s) to a total of 30 credits • APM057 End Point Assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APM032 Professional Leadership • APM057 End Point Assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APM058 Leading and Evaluating Learning in Healthcare Practice • APM057 End Point Assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HRM020 Foundations in Research Methods and Data Analysis • APM056 Advanced Practice Dissertation • APM057 End Point Assessment

Year 1

In the first year it is anticipated that you will commence five modules, of which you will complete four as the Advanced Clinical Practice Portfolio runs over two years). Year one will enable you to begin to develop and apply the core capabilities across the four pillars (advanced clinical practice, research, clinical leadership and education) and relate them to your area of practice.

In addition, during Period 1 you will also commence preparation for the End Point Assessment (EPA) which will continue over the first two-year period throughout the programme. Following an introductory session to help you understand the process and requirements of the EPA, you will have group tutorials and one-to-one tutorial sessions with your module leader to support you in the preparation of case studies specific to your specialty, sector or setting, as you develop your expertise throughout the programme. You can use these case studies as part of the EPA examination at the end of your programme. During the 2-year preparation period for the EPA, you will attend six 3-hour group tutorials

(one per academic period) and 18 contact hours of one-to-one tutorials in addition to independent self-directed study. You will develop your clinical expertise and competence through preparing the Advanced Clinical Practice Portfolio and preparation for the EPA throughout the programme:

Period 1

APM032 Professional Leadership (15 credits)

The second pillar in the MPFACP is leadership and management as ACPs are expected to lead practice within their specialty, setting or sector. This second module in professional leadership will help you realise and develop your inherent leadership qualities in order to deliver high quality, person centred care and create a culture of innovation. You will be empowered to step up and lead and learn about developing positive and collaborative working relationships.

APM055 Advanced Clinical Practice Portfolio (undertaken over a period of 24 months) (15 credits)

In tandem with the “Advanced Clinical Assessment, Critical Thinking and Diagnostic Reasoning across the Lifespan” module you will also take the Advanced Clinical Practice portfolio so that you can evidence your clinical competence as an ACP within your specialty, setting or sector. You will develop this portfolio with guidance from your module leader and continuous support from clinical supervisor to ensure it relates directly to your area of clinical interest.

Period 2

During period 2 of year one you will start working on the development of the core capabilities relating to clinical practice by completing the first module within the Advanced Clinical Practice part of the apprenticeship standard and clinical practice pillar of the MPFAP.

APM052 Advanced Clinical Assessment, Critical Thinking and Diagnostic Reasoning Across the Life-span (30 credits)

This module will provide you with the opportunities to develop your knowledge of clinically relevant biological sciences, patient consultation, history taking and physical assessment skills. In addition, you will advance your analytical, critical reasoning, diagnostic skills and take a holistic, humanistic and collaborative approach to patient management.

Period 3

HRM020 Foundations in research methods and data analysis (15 credits)

The aim of the first module which has been designed to meet the needs of clinicians is you provide you with the understanding and skills in research to enable to you access and critically appraise evidence relevant to your particular field. The skills developed in this module will not only be invaluable in your practice as an ACP, but are essential in meeting the requirements of the rest of the programme with developing and enhancing evidence-based learning and critical enquiry. It will also provide you with the fundamental skills and competence to develop and investigate research questions and to audit and evaluate your practice utilising a structured research methodology approach.

Year 2

During the second year of the programme, you will continue to develop the core capabilities relating to clinical practice. If you are not in a role where you are able/required to prescribe, you can choose an elective module(s) to support your individual advancement of advanced skills and knowledge within your specialty, setting or sector. Tutorial support for the Advanced Clinical Practice Portfolio and preparation for the EPA will continue throughout this year. By the end of year two, it is anticipated that you will have completed all the core modules, submit the Advanced Clinical Practice Portfolio and have started your MSc Dissertation in period 3 of Year 2, which will then continue in Year 3, over periods 2 & 3.

Period 1

Elective module credits students who are in roles where they are not able/required to prescribe will complete 30 credits (either a single 30 credit module, or two 15 credit modules) from the modules offered across the school of health & Psychological sciences. The elective module is to support your individual advancement of specialist skills and knowledge within your speciality, setting or sector. Following discussion and agreement with your clinical supervisor and the programme director you will be able to choose a module from the School of Health & Psychological Sciences which will support your practice as an ACP. For some practitioners this may related to a particular condition (e.g. asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), for others it may relate to a particular intervention (e.g. evidence-based psycho-social interventions in mental health), to particular patient groups (e.g. promoting child and adolescent psychological development).

Period 2

APM058 Leading and Evaluating Learning in Healthcare Practice (15 credits)

Education is a core part of the apprenticeship standard and a pillar of the MPFACP. In this third module of the programme you will focus on teaching and education in an interprofessional setting. It will encourage a critically reflective approach to considering your own practice and explore evidence-based approaches to teaching, coaching and facilitation.

Period 3

APM056 Advanced Practice Dissertation (45 credits)

The final module of the programme before progressing to the EPA, is the dissertation, which draws upon research knowledge and critical appraisal skills developed throughout the programme. The dissertation is the element of the programme that provides you will the opportunity to undertake a piece of original, independent research, focused on the topic or topics pertinent to your specialty, setting or sector. It will build on the knowledge and the research skills you developed throughout the programme. You will continue to work on this during Period 1 and 2 of year three.

Year 3

In the final year of the programme you will complete the MSc dissertation and undertake the End Point Assessment (EPA).

Period 1 and 2

You will continue to work on the Advanced Practice Dissertation.

In order to progress to the EPA module to be awarded the MSc Advanced Clinical Practice (Apprenticeship) on successful completion, you will need to have confirmation of successful completion of 165 credits of the MSc degree in ACP. This includes all core modules and the Advanced Practice Dissertation. Once you have confirmation of the pass mark and ratification by the Assessment Board for your MSc dissertation, you can progress to the EPA.

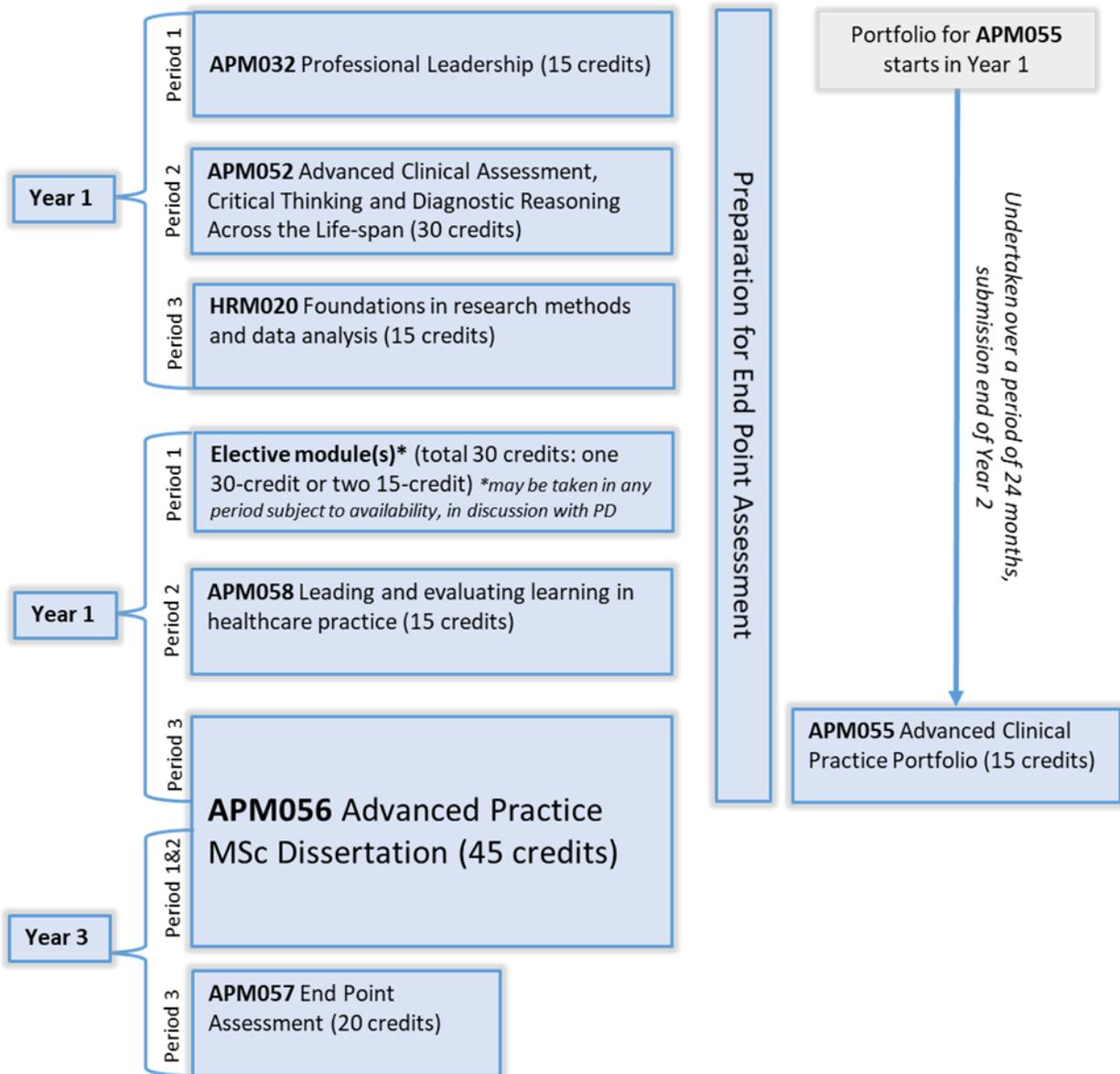
Period 3

APM057 End Point Assessment (20 credits)

During the three-month EPA period at the end of your programme, you will have three 3-hour group tutorials and three 1:1 tutorial sessions to help you review your learning from the case studies for your EPA examination and supervision for the development of your practice change report and presentation. Group sessions will also include examination preparation and presentation skills and practice. In accordance with national standards, the EPA is awarded at 20 credits giving you thus a total of 185 credits when you are awarded the MSc Advanced Clinical Practice (Apprenticeship).

Suggestive programme diet for the non-prescribing option

Please note that the programme diet on this flowchart is only suggestive and can be flexible to accommodate the student needs for example if they have prior learning or require extending their studies; this will be adjusted accordingly in discussion with the Programme Director and Course Team.



WHAT WILL I GAIN FOR EACH EXIT AWARD?

Through studying at postgraduate level, you will build on the basic academic skills of explanation, application and analysis that you developed at undergraduate level and will be encouraged to apply a critical analysis from a wider perspective [QAA (2014) UK Quality Code for Higher Education].

Postgraduate Certificate

For all of you completing the Postgraduate Certificate in Health Sciences, you will develop the capacity to examine and think critically to question and evaluate current practice through reflection, dialogue and debate. You will have critical insight and awareness of current problems and will be able to solve these by critically evaluating and synthesising theories and evidence to apply to your field of practice. You will also use a range of techniques to undertake your scholarly work.

Postgraduate Diploma

For all of you completing the Postgraduate Diploma in Developing Clinical Practice, in addition to the above you will have a systematic understanding of knowledge related to your clinical practice, specialty or setting from different perspectives to broaden your expertise and skills. You will have a practical and conceptual understanding of how research methods and techniques, enquiry and current evidence can be critically applied to effect change in your area of professional practice. You will use appropriate critiques of knowledge and techniques and you will demonstrate autonomy and self-direction in managing complex issues and solving problems.

MSc

For all of you completing the MSc in Advanced Clinical Practice (Apprenticeship), in addition to the above, you will demonstrate original application of knowledge alongside practical understanding of how you will use established techniques of research and enquiry to create and interpret knowledge within your area of clinical practice. You will develop and demonstrate a conceptual understanding that enables you to evaluate critically current research, methodologies, and advanced scholarship in your discipline. You will be engaged in research or scholarly activity that contributes new knowledge to your professional field and enables you to develop new skills to a high level.

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

Each learning outcome has been linked to the Degree Apprenticeship Standard Advanced Clinical Practitioner (ST0564) and HEE Multi-professional Framework for Advanced Clinical Practice:

Key: Apprenticeship standard – ACP (Advanced clinical practice), CL (Clinical leadership), E (education), R (research)

HEE framework - CP (Clinical Practice), LM (Leadership and Management), E (Education), R (Research)

On successful completion of this programme, you will be expected to have:

Knowledge and understanding:

- Critically discuss professional responsibility and autonomy and the limits of own competence and professional scope of practice, and evaluate own practice including when working with complexity, risk, uncertainty and incomplete information. [Apprenticeship standard: ACP 1.1, CL 3.4, R 4.2] [HEE: CP 1.2; LM2.3]
- Evidence the underpinning subject-specific competencies i.e. knowledge, skills and behaviours relevant to the role setting and scope, and demonstrate application of the capabilities to these, in an approach that is appropriate to the individual role, setting and scope. [Apprenticeship standard: ACP 1.8] [HEE: CP 1.11]
- Participate in multi-disciplinary service and team evaluation, demonstrating the impact of advanced clinical practice on service function and effectiveness, and quality (i.e. outcomes of care, experience and safety). [Apprenticeship standard CL 3.4, R 4.2] [HEE: LM 2.3]. Disseminate best practice research findings and quality improvement. [Apprenticeship standard R 4.6] [HEE: R4.7]
- Critically assess and address own learning needs, negotiating a personal development plan that reflects the breadth of ongoing professional development across the four pillars of advanced clinical practice. [Apprenticeship standard: E 2.2] [HEE: E 3.1]
- Engage in self-directed learning, critically reflecting to maximise clinical skills and knowledge, as well as own potential to lead and develop both care and services. [Apprenticeship standard: E 2.2] [HEE: E3.2]
- Engage with, appraise and respond to individuals' motivation, development stage and capacity, working collaboratively to support health literacy and empower individuals to participate in decisions about their care and to maximise their health and well-being. [Apprenticeship standard: E 2.1] [HEE: E 3.3]

Skills:

- Work in partnership with individuals, families and carers, using a range of assessment methods as appropriate (e.g. of history-taking; holistic assessment; identifying risk factors; mental health assessments; requesting, undertaking and/or interpreting diagnostic tests; and conducting health needs assessments). [Apprenticeship standard: ACP 1.2] [HEE: CP 1.4]
- Demonstrate effective communication skills, supporting people in making decisions, planning care or seeking to make positive health changes. [Apprenticeship standard: ACP 1.4] [HEE: CP 1.5]
- Use expertise and decision-making skills to inform clinical reasoning approaches when dealing with differentiated and undifferentiated individual presentations and complex situations, synthesising information from multiple sources to make appropriate, evidence-based judgements and/or diagnoses [Apprenticeship standard: ACP 1.5] [HEE: CP 1.6] and initiate, evaluate and modify interventions which may include prescribing medicines, therapies, life style advice and care. [Apprenticeship standard: ACP 1.6] [HEE: CP 1.7]

- Exercise professional judgement to manage risk appropriately, especially where there may be complex and unpredictable events and supporting teams to do likewise to ensure safety of individuals, families and carers. [Apprenticeship standard: ACP 1.5] [HEE: CP 1.8]
- Work collaboratively with an appropriate range of multi-agency and inter-professional resources, developing, maintaining and evaluating links to manage risk and issues across organisations and settings. [Apprenticeship standard: ACP 1.3] [HEE: CP1.9]. Initiate and develop effective relationships, fostering clarity of roles within teams, to encourage productive working. [Apprenticeship standard: CL 3.2] [HEE: LM 2.1]
- Act as a clinical role model/advocate for developing and delivering care that is responsive to changing requirements, informed by an understanding of local population health needs, agencies and networks. [Apprenticeship standard: CL 3.5] [HEE: CP 1.10] Role model the values of their organisation/place of work, demonstrating a person-centred approach to service delivery and development. [Apprenticeship standard: CL 3.3] [HEE: LM 2.2]
- Actively engage in peer review to inform own and other's practice, formulating and implementing strategies to act on learning and make improvements. [Apprenticeship standard: CL 3.4, R 4.2] [HEE: LM 2.4] and lead new practice and service redesign solutions in response to feedback, evaluation and need, working across boundaries and broadening sphere of influence. [Apprenticeship standard: CL 3.3, 3.5] [HEE: LM 2.5]
- Actively seek feedback and involvement from individuals, families, carers, communities and colleagues in the co-production of service improvements. [Apprenticeship standard: CL 3.5] [HEE: LM 2.6]
- Critically apply advanced clinical expertise in appropriate facilitative ways to provide consultancy across professional and service boundaries, influencing clinical practice to enhance quality, reduce unwarranted variation and promote the sharing and adoption of best practice. [Apprenticeship standard: CL 3.1, 3.2] [HEE: LM 2.7]
- Demonstrate team leadership, resilience and determination, managing situations that are unfamiliar, complex or unpredictable and seeking to build confidence in others. [Apprenticeship standard: CL 3.3] [HEE: LM 2.8]
- Develop your practice in response to changing population health need, engaging in horizon scanning for future developments (e.g. impacts of genomics, new treatments and changing social challenges). [Apprenticeship standard: ACP 1.8] [HEE: LM 2.9]
- Demonstrate receptiveness to challenge and preparedness to constructively challenge others, escalating concerns that affect individuals', families', carers', communities' and colleagues' safety and well-being when necessary. [Apprenticeship standard: CL 3.7] [HEE: LM 2.10]
- Advocate for and contribute to a culture of organisational learning to inspire future and existing staff. [Apprenticeship standard: E 2.4] [HEE: E 3.4]
- Facilitate collaboration of the wider team and support peer review processes to identify individual and team learning. [Apprenticeship standard: E 2.3] [HEE: E 3.5]

- Identify further developmental needs for the individual and the wider team and supporting them to address these. [Apprenticeship standard: E 2.3] [HEE: E3.6]
- Supporting the wider team to build capacity and capability through work-based and inter-professional learning, and the application of learning to practice [Apprenticeship standard: E 2.3] [HEE: E 3.7]
- Critically engage in research activity, adhering to good research practice guidance, so that evidence-based strategies are developed and applied to enhance quality, safety, productivity and value for money. [Apprenticeship standard: R 4.1] [HEE: R 4.1]
- Develop and implement robust governance systems and systematic documentation processes, keeping the need for modifications under critical review. [Apprenticeship standard: R 4.5] [HEE: R 4.6]
- Evaluate and audit own and others' clinical practice. Select and apply valid, reliable methods and consider the findings. [Apprenticeship standard: R 4.2] [HEE: R4.2]
- Critically appraise and evaluate the outcome of relevant research, evaluation and audit, using the results to underpin practice. [Apprenticeship standard: R 4.4] [HEE: R4.3]
- Adopt a critical approach to help identify gaps in the evidence-base. Alert others to these and consider how they could be addressed. [Apprenticeship standard: R 4.3] [HEE: R4.4]
- Identify potential need for research. This may involve acting as educator; leader; innovator and contributor to research activity. [Apprenticeship standard: R 4.3] [HEE: 4.5]

Values and attitudes:

- Practise in compliance with the respective code of professional conduct and within the scope of practice, being responsible and accountable for your decisions, actions and omissions at this level of practice. [Apprenticeship standard: ACP 1.1] [HEE: CP 1.1]
- Act on professional judgement about when to seek help, demonstrating critical reflection on own practice, self-awareness, emotional intelligence, and openness to change. [Apprenticeship standard ACP 1.3] [HEE: CP 1.3]
- Negotiate an individual scope of practice within legal, ethical, professional and organisational policies, governance and procedures, with a focus on managing risk and upholding safety. [Apprenticeship standard: ACP 1.7, CL 3.6] [HEE: LM 2.11]
- Act as a role model, educator, supervisor, coach and mentor, seeking to instil and develop the confidence of others. [Apprenticeship standard: E 2.3] [HEE: E 3.8]
- Facilitate collaborative links between clinical practice and research through proactive engagement, networking with academic, clinical and other active researchers. [Apprenticeship standard: R 4.4,4.6] [HEE: R 4.8]

This programme has been developed in accordance with the QAA Subject Benchmark.

Registration Period

The maximum period of registration to complete the MSc ACP (Apprenticeship) programme, including the EPA, as a part-time student is 5 years.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

This part-time programme provides a framework for you to incorporate both academic and clinical teaching and learning. It uses a blended approach which includes face-to-face and online learning and teaching strategies.

Time commitments

Academic teaching and learning

This part-time programme comprises of individuals modules which are delivered primarily one day per week during the academic year. It is anticipated that you will undertake approximately 60 credits per year over three years, but this may not be precise depending on modules each year. There is an expectation that you will undertake a significant amount of private study: one 15 credits module at level 7 (master's level) represents a total of 150 hours of study. Contact hours vary from module to module, however are normally in the range of 20-40 hours.

For the MSc Advanced Clinical Practice (ACP) (Apprenticeship) programme, this equates to 1850 hours of academic study time over 3 years, for a total of 185 credits including the EPA at 20 credits (this excludes the 500 hours of supervised clinical practice learning).

Clinical practice teaching and learning

The MPFACP requires you to develop and apply your core capabilities within your specialty, setting or sector. In addition, you are also expected to be able to evidence your specialist clinical competence as an ACP. As such, an important and significant amount of your learning on the MSc ACP (Apprenticeship) programme will occur in clinical practice and you are required to complete a minimum of 500 hours of supervised clinical practice learning. This will be under the direction of a senior and experienced clinician who you will have identified in your practice setting and will be verified through your Advanced Clinical Practice Portfolio. While your clinical supervisor will have overall responsibility for your clinical training, you may agree with him or her to identify others within the multi-disciplinary team who you will work with, or be assessed by, in order to maximise your training opportunities.

Prescribing option

The 500 hours of supervised clinical practice learning, 230 hours will be met by completion of the following modules:

- **APM052** Advanced Clinical Assessment, Critical Thinking and Diagnostic Reasoning across the Lifespan requires 90 hours of supervised clinical practice
- **APM060** Independent and Supplementary Non-Medical Prescribing (V300) requires 90 hours of supervised clinical practice
- **APM058** Leading and Evaluating in Learning Healthcare Practice requires evidence of 50 hours in practice

The remainder 270 hours of the supervised clinical practice learning will be evidenced in your **APM055** Advanced Clinical Practice Portfolio.

Non-prescribing option

The 500 hours of supervised clinical practice learning, 140 hours will be met by completion of the following modules:

- **APM052** Advanced Clinical Assessment, Critical Thinking and Diagnostic Reasoning across the Lifespan requires 90 hours of supervised clinical practice
- **APM058** Leading and Evaluating in Learning Healthcare Practice requires evidence of 50 hours in practice

The remainder 360 hours of the supervised clinical practice learning will be evidenced in your **APM055** Advanced Clinical Practice Portfolio.

- **APM055** Advanced Clinical Practice Portfolio requires that you evidence the 500 supervised clinical practice hours required in the programme and will include the practice learning hours required for the above 3 modules. This can be within your setting or area of practice or in other areas you will agree with your supervisor that are related to your speciality and can enhance your skills and competencies as an ACP to provide holistic care.

Learning activities

The programme uses a blended approach encompassing both face to face and online learning and teaching strategies. It makes full use of available learning technologies whilst recognising the value of face to face interaction and facilitation. The approaches used reflect the higher level of ability of graduates and provide you with opportunities to integrate learning. The variety of methods used will develop your current strengths and preferred learning styles, but will also help you to acquire further educational strategies to meet the required outcomes of the programme. A range of methods will be used throughout the programme, including:

- **Lectures:** Most modules will use lectures as a learning strategy. A lecture enables information to be presented in a logical manner to larger groups of students. This is a useful method for presenting an overview of new materials and in stimulating you to read further around the subject area. Lectures may be in 'real time' or recorded. A lecture can help you to feel secure developing your understanding of complex knowledge required for your field of practice and point you to significant areas for further study. It will also provide you with the opportunity to ask questions and clarify queries in real time and face to face with your lecturer and also to interact with other students in your programme.
- **Supervised Clinical Practice Learning:** The aim of supervised clinical practice is for you to observe, participate and practise your skills within your speciality, sector or setting. This will help you to develop your core capabilities and apply these to your practice as well as consolidate your specialist clinical competencies required to undertake an ACP role.
- **Small Group Work / Group Activities:** The learning within these small groups will encourage you to apply theory to practice and to develop a deep and systematic

understanding of subject matter. They encourage team working and can be motivating, enhance communication skills and challenge powers of reasoning. Small groups will often combine practitioners from a range of professional backgrounds and specialities to enable you to gain an appreciation of the integration of physical and mental health skills and competencies to support and care for your patients and populations within your sector, setting and specialty. Small group work will entail you giving presentations to demonstrate achievement of set tasks and enhance your competence to deliver your message in an effective way; engaging in practical sessions to develop your clinical skills; or debates to engage you in group discussions around contemporary or complex issues or to pursue specific lines of enquiry. Small groups may meet in the classroom or in a 'virtual environment' such as a discussion forum or online tutorial.

- **Practical Skills Laboratory:** In some of the clinical modules you will have the opportunity to apply the theory of what you have learned to practice with the support of the module team who are all experienced clinical practitioners.
- **Guided Independent Study:** During the programme you will have time allocated to undertake prescribed activities individually or in study groups. These activities will form part of the formative assessment strategy to help you to complete the summative assessment or may be set tasks which you should complete prior to attendance at a taught session.
- **Student Directed Learning:** You may also use some of the additional study time to explore areas of interest, practise skills and prepare for assessments. Whilst this time counts towards the theoretical hours for the programme, it will be up to you to decide exactly how you spend this time and which areas of learning you wish to pursue. You may negotiate with relevant module leaders which areas of study might be appropriate. You may also use this time to attend any of the seminars and master classes open to post-graduate students which will provide you with wider skills to enhance your competence in undertaking an ACP role.
- **Online Learning:** This uses computer and internet-based technologies and resources. These technologies will be used to facilitate, distribute and enhance learning. The portal to online learning at City is situated within a virtual learning platform named Moodle. You will be given user instructions and access rights to Moodle and other appropriate online resources such as Elsevier Clinical Skills. All of the modules have an online element, this includes access to recourses including PowerPoint presentations, links to articles and will have some elements of online learning such learning activities and forums. Some modules such as the 'Advanced Clinical Practice Portfolio' and 'Leading and Evaluating Learning in Healthcare Practice' are delivered entirely online. To maximise your learning experience for all modules you are encouraged to access Moodle and use/participate recourses/activities on a regular basis.
- **Group and 1:1 tutorials:** These tutorials will support you in the selection and development of case studies as part of your EPA. They will also prepare you for the EPA examination and presentation of your practice change report.

Formative assessments – prescribing option

A range of formative assessments will be adopted such as portfolio proposals, discussion forum activities, cases studies, student presentations, and research proposal.

Year 1

HRM020 Foundations in Research Methods and Data Analysis

- An online multiple-choice test with clear feedback of results (including the correct answer for each question) provided for each student.

APM055 Advanced Clinical Practice Portfolio

- A proposal for the negotiated project with your clinical supervisor and module leader outlining your project to evaluate the impact of your role as an ACP.

APM058 Leading and Evaluating Learning in Healthcare Practice

- Discussion forum activities

APM032 Professional Leadership

- Students are encouraged to identify a case study of up to 1,000 words as the basis for their summative assignment. Students will be encouraged to submit their formative work in advance of the final session when individual feedback will be given. There will also be opportunity for guided class discussion with a question and answer session.

APM052 Advanced Clinical Assessment, Critical Thinking and Diagnostic Reasoning Across the Life-span

- Assessment will take place in your own clinical practice setting as you undertake your Skills Validation Portfolio

Year 2

APM060 Independent and Supplementary Non-Medical Prescribing (V300)

- Student presentation with peer feedback on a medication used within own area of practice

Year 3

APM056 Advanced Practice Dissertation

- A written research proposal

APM057 End Point Assessment

- Preparation of three referenced written case studies built from the apprentice's own practice which can be used to support the completion of the open book examination.

Formative assessments – non-prescribing option

A range of formative assessments will be adopted such as portfolio proposals, discussion forum activities, cases studies, student presentations, and research proposal.

Year 1

HRM020 Foundations in Research Methods and Data Analysis

- An online multiple-choice test with clear feedback of results (including the correct answer for each question) provided for each student.

APM055 Advanced Clinical Practice Portfolio

- A proposal for the negotiated project with your clinical supervisor and module leader outlining your project to evaluate the impact of your role as an ACP.

APM058 Leading and Evaluating Learning in Healthcare Practice

- Discussion forum activities

APM032 Professional Leadership

- Students are encouraged to identify a case study of up to 1,000 words as the basis for their summative assignment. Students will be encouraged to submit their formative work in advance of the final session when individual feedback will be given. There will also be opportunity for guided class discussion with a question and answer session.

APM052 Advanced Clinical Assessment, Critical Thinking and Diagnostic Reasoning Across the Life-span

- Assessment will take place in your own clinical practice setting as you undertake your Skills Validation Portfolio

Year 2

Elective module(s) to a total of 30 level 7 credits

- The formative assessment will depend on your module(s) choice

Year 3**APM056** Advanced Practice Dissertation

- A written research proposal

APM057 End Point Assessment

- Preparation of three referenced written case studies built from the apprentice's own practice which can be used to support the completion of the open book examination.

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?Assessment and Assessment Criteria

A range of assessment strategies will be used throughout the programme to test your knowledge, attitudes, skills and standards of competency across all four pillars of advanced clinical practice in all aspects of the Masters route. A variety of assessment types suits the spectrum of ability and learning preferences within the student body. As a graduate, some of the strategies used will be familiar to you, whilst others may not. The assessment strategy gives you the opportunity to demonstrate post-graduate levels of ability in both theory and practice. You will be expected to demonstrate evaluation, synthesis of ideas, creativity and originality of thought and the ability to operate within complex and unpredictable contexts. Most modules have only one summative assessment with 100% weighting but there are some modules where there is more than one assessment and the weighting for each assessment component is outlined clearly within the module specification.

Assessment strategies used within the programme may include:

Written assignment (including essays and reports): these enable you to explore and demonstrate the links between theory and practice. You will be expected to demonstrate a deep and systematic understanding related to set subject areas and use ideas at a high level of abstraction. You will demonstrate critical application of theories and principles to practice; critical appraisal of the evidence base; synthesis of ideas; an ability to critically reflect upon practice and generate suggestions for practice development. Essays may take the form of care studies in which you will be expected to relate your essay to a particular service user or they may be reflective accounts of learning achieved whilst undertaking set tasks such as community profiling or patchwork texts.

Examinations (short answer questions, multiple choice questions, calculations; scenario based; viva voce): enable you to demonstrate your ability to recall safe levels of knowledge which can be applied in practice. These are used when safety is of paramount importance for example the requirement for accurate drug calculations. Examinations can also test your ability to critically discuss safe, prioritised and evidence-based care for service users with complex needs. You may be required to participate in a viva voce which offers you the opportunity to articulate your knowledge and understanding about a particular subject or clinical situation.

- **Presentations:** these are oral face to face presentations that you give to fellow students or colleagues, facilitated by your clinical supervisor.
- **Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCEs):** these are practical examinations which enable you to demonstrate particular clinical and communication skills required for non-medical prescribing and advanced clinical assessment skills. You will be expected to critically reflect upon your performance in OSCEs.
- **Portfolios:** There are three portfolios within the programme; one for advanced clinical assessment, one for the advanced clinical practice portfolio which will draw together the learning from your supervised clinical practice throughout the programme. The portfolios enable you to demonstrate your knowledge, understanding, technical skills, numeracy and professional values. This will help you to demonstrate both your core capabilities across the four pillars of advanced clinical practice applied to your speciality, sector or setting across and your specialist competencies. You will also be able to record your 500 hours supervised clinical practice within the portfolio. You will be encouraged to integrate your theoretical and clinical practice learning, demonstrate and in-depth understanding of advanced clinical practice and how to apply these to your specialty, sector or setting. This will be achieved through collecting evidence of your development as an ACP, reflective accounts and feedback from colleagues, patients and service users.
- **Dissertation:** this project draws upon the research knowledge and critical appraisal skills developed throughout the programme. The dissertation element of the MSc Advanced Clinical Practice programme provides you with the opportunity to undertake a piece of original, independent research, building on and focusing on the topic or topics which are of particular interest to you and which you wish to explore in greater depth. Your MSc supervisor will support you throughout with refining your research question(s), utilising an appropriate methodology for your project and analysing and presenting your data for your dissertation.

End-point Assessment Organisation

The EPA will be delivered by City, University of London toward the MSc in Advanced Clinical Practice award and as such will require registration in the Register of End Point Assessment Organisations (RoEPAO). The assessment for the EPA comprises of two components:

- **Open book examination** comprising of eight examination questions selected by the End Point Assessment Organisation (EPAO) from the EPAO's bank of 24 questions reviewed annually.
- **Presentation of practice** comprising of a 1,500 words clinical practice change report (Element 1) and a 35-minute presentation to include 10 minutes questions on the clinical practice change report. The presentation will be assessed by a panel comprising the independent external assessor appointed by the EPAO and an internal moderator from the university who has not been involved in the ACP Apprenticeship programme.

Assessment Criteria are descriptions, based on the intended learning outcomes, of the skills, knowledge or attitudes that you need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured. Grade Related Criteria are descriptions of the level of skills, knowledge or attributes that you need to demonstrate in order to achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured and placed within the overall set of marks. Assessment Criteria and Grade-Related Criteria will be made available to you to support you in completing assessments. These are provided in programme handbooks, module specifications, on the virtual learning environment or attached to a specific assessment task.

Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be provided in line with our Assessment and Feedback Policy. In particular, you will normally be provided with feedback within three weeks of the submission deadline or assessment date. This would normally include a provisional grade or mark. For end of module examinations or an equivalent significant task (e.g. an end of module project), feedback will normally be provided within four weeks. The timescale for feedback on final year projects or dissertations may be longer. The full policy can be found at: https://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/68921/assessment_and_feedback_policy.pdf

Assessment Regulations

In order to pass your Programme, you should complete successfully or be exempted from the relevant modules and assessments and will therefore acquire the required number of credits. Please see the "Recognition of prior learning RPL" section.

The pass mark for most assignments within modules is 50%, there are however components of some modules which have different pass marks (e.g. the non-medical prescribing module). Please see in the individual module specifications for further details.

The End Point Assessment (EPA) follows the nationally approved integrated assessment plan specified by Skills for Health (2018) as part of the MSc ACP (Apprenticeship) programme. The grade for the EPA can be "Pass / Merit / Distinction / Fail", however there is no percentage score given for each (please see EPA module specification for further details). Moreover, the EPA grade will not be included in the total weighting of your percentage score for the MSc ACP (Apprenticeship) award. Your progression to the EPA period will be agreed with your employer and university programme director after you have successfully completed the core modules of the MSc ACP (Apprenticeship) programme. In addition, you can only start the EPA after successful completion of your Advanced Practice Dissertation and a "pass" mark has been confirmed for this module by the Assessment

Board. Following this, your EPA must be completed within a maximum of a three-month period.

If you fail an assessment component or a module, you will have the opportunity to re-sit either the failed assessment component or the module (please see individual module specifications for further details).

If you are successful in the resit, you will be awarded the credit for that module. The mark for each assessment component that is subject to a resit will be capped at the pass mark for the module. This capped mark will be used in the calculation of the final module mark together with the original marks for the components that you passed at first attempt.

If you do not pass the requirements for a module and do not complete your resit by the date specified you will not progress and the Assessment Board will require that you be withdrawn from the Programme.

If you fail to meet the requirements for the Programme, the Assessment Board will consider whether you are eligible for an Exit Award as per the table below.

If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at City, please see the full version of the Assessment Regulations at:

http://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/word_doc/0003/69249/s19.doc

Progression requirements and re-sit for EPA

In order to progress to the EPA you must meet the following Gateway criteria set by Skills for Health (20018) for the ACP (Apprenticeship) programme at level 7:

- Be registered with a statutory health and/or social care regulator (e.g. NMC) with proof of current registration
- Have achieved a minimum qualification of level 2 in English and Mathematics (as per general apprenticeship requirements). Although stated as a gateway criterion, at City, University of London, this is an entry to the Programme criterion in order to maintain uniformity of standards across academic programmes.
- The Skills for Health Gateway criteria requires confirmation of successful completion of 160 credits of the Master's Degree in Advanced Clinical Practice. However, as the MSc ACP Dissertation at City, University of London, is accredited at 45 credits, you will have achieved 165 credits at the gateway for EPA following completion of all core modules and MSc dissertation for this programme. An exception request was submitted for this and approved in order to keep core modules the same for the MSc ACP and MSc ACP Apprenticeship programmes.
- Have confirmation from your employer and/or clinical supervisor that you have met the requirements of the apprentice agreement and knowledge, skills and behaviour from the standard have been met within your workplace through completion and signing of the Advanced Clinical Practice Portfolio.
- Have written confirmation from your employer that you are ready to progress to the EPA.

Re-sit opportunity is also offered for the EPA components as per University assessment regulations and must be taken within three months of formal confirmation of the failed EPA. Your employer should also confirm to the EPAO that they support you in retaking the EPA by providing you with relevant study leave as necessary.

If you do not pass your re-sit for the EPA, you will exit the programme with a Postgraduate Diploma in Developing Clinical Practice award (see next page).

WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

MSc Advanced Clinical Practice (Apprenticeship)

To be awarded the MSc Advanced Clinical Practice (Apprenticeship) you must successfully complete all the modules listed below with a total of 185 credits. By entering the MSc ACP (Apprenticeship) programme you are expected to progress to and pass the EPA module following successful completion of the MSc Dissertation and the core taught modules. The final award for MSc ACP (Apprenticeship) will be ratified on successful completion of the EPA. The End Point Assessment (EPA) follows the nationally approved integrated assessment plan specified by Skills for Health (2018) as part of the MSc ACP (Apprenticeship) programme. The grade for the EPA can be “Pass / Merit / Distinction / Fail” with no percentage score given for each. Moreover, the judgement and overall mark for the EPA is done by an independent assessor and as such the EPA grade will not be included in the percentage weighting of your overall MSc score (see table below). If you fail or are unable to complete the EPA, you will be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Developing Clinical Practice as below as an exit award even if you have completed the MSc Dissertation.

Prescribing option	Non-prescribing option
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HRM020: Foundations in Research Methods and Data Analysis (15 credits) • APM055: Advanced Clinical Practice Portfolio (15 credits) • APM058: Leading and Evaluating Learning in Healthcare Practice (15 credits) • APM032: Professional Leadership (15 credits) • APM052: Advanced Clinical Assessment, Critical Thinking and Diagnostic Reasoning Across the Life-span (30 credits) • APM060: Independent and Supplementary Non-Medical Prescribing (V300) (30 credits) • APM056: Advanced Practice Dissertation (45 credits) • APM057: End Point Assessment (EPA) (20 credits) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HRM020: Foundations in Research Methods and Data Analysis (15 credits) • APM055: Advanced Clinical Practice Portfolio (15 credits) • APM058: Leading and Evaluating Learning in Healthcare Practice (15 credits) • PM032: Professional Leadership (15 credits) • APM052: Advanced Clinical Assessment, Critical Thinking and Diagnostic Reasoning Across the Life-span (30 credits) • Mod code: Elective module(s) (30 credits) • APM056: Advanced Practice Dissertation (45 credits) • APM057: End Point Assessment (EPA) (20 credits)

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Taught	7	120	75
Dissertation	7	45	25
EPA	7	20	0

Class	% required
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
Without classification	50

Postgraduate Diploma in Developing Clinical Practice (exit award)

To exit with a Postgraduate Diploma in Developing Clinical Practice you will be required to successfully complete the six core taught modules listed above (total of 120 credits) excluding the End Point Assessment and the Advanced Practice Dissertation:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Taught	7	120	100

Class	% required
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
Without classification	50

Postgraduate Certificate in Health Sciences (exit award)

To exit with a Postgraduate Certificate in Health Sciences you will be required to achieve 60 credits by successfully completing any combination of the core taught modules from this programme.

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Taught	7	60	100

Class	% required
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
Without classification	50

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Taught component

It is anticipated that over the first two years of the programme you will complete the six core modules listed below which cover the four pillars of advanced clinical practice. There is no elective module available in this programme, as you will be required to undertake the End Point Assessment in the final 3 months of your programme. The structure of the module components is detailed at the start of the programme specification.

Prescribing option

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Foundations in Research Methods and Data Analysis	HRM020	15	Core	No	7
Advanced Clinical Practice Portfolio	APM055	15	Core	No	7
Leading and Evaluating Learning in Healthcare Practice	APM058	15	Core	No	7
Professional Leadership	APM032	15	Core	No	7
Advanced Clinical Assessment, Critical Thinking and Diagnostic Reasoning Across the Life-span	APM052	30	Core	No	7
Independent and Supplementary Non- Medical Prescribing (V300)	APM060	30	Core	No	7

Non-prescribing option

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Foundations in Research Methods and Data Analysis	HRM020	15	Core	No	7
Advanced Clinical Practice Portfolio	APM055	15	Core	No	7
Leading and Evaluating Learning in Healthcare Practice	APM058	15	Core	No	7
Elective Module(s)		30	Elective	No	7
Professional Leadership	APM032	15	Core	No	7
Advanced Clinical Assessment, Critical Thinking and Diagnostic Reasoning Across the Life-span	APM052	30	Core	No	7

Dissertation component

You are normally advised to complete all of the taught modules successfully before progressing to the dissertation. This includes the Foundations in Research Methods and Data Analysis (HRM020).

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Advanced Practice Dissertation	APM056	45	Core	No	7

End Point Assessment (EPA)

In order to progress to the EPA, you will be required to have successfully completed all the core modules including the dissertation component. You can start the EPA once a “pass” mark has been confirmed for the Advanced Practice Dissertation module by the Assessment Board. Following this, your EPA must be completed within a maximum of a three-month period.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
End Point Assessment (EPA)	APM057	20	Core	No	7

TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?

The MSc Advanced Clinical Practice (Apprenticeship) programme is designed to develop you into a competent and confident Advanced Clinical Practitioner. On successful completion of the programme you will be able to undertake an Advanced Clinical Practice role within your specialty, setting or sector.

Future career options cross the span of the four pillars: clinical practice, leadership, education and research and may include senior ACP and consultant practitioner roles, senior leadership roles, clinical educator roles and research roles.

Academically, students may go on to undertake further study within the four pillars such as education programmes (e.g. post-graduate teaching qualifications), leadership programmes (e.g. master’s level awards in Health Management) or research programmes (e.g. masters in clinical research). Furthermore, many master’s students within the School go on to undertake doctoral education or enter a clinical academic career pathway.

If you would like more information on the Careers support available at City, please go to: <http://www.city.ac.uk/careers/for-students-and-recent-graduates>.

WHAT STUDY ABROAD OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE?

While there are no formal options to study abroad for this programme, you will be encouraged to network with other ACPs within your speciality, setting or sector internationally, to make links and raise your profile as an ACP.

WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

The MSc Advanced Clinical Practice (Apprenticeship) programme does not offer any placements. You will be required to have employer support for your participation in the programme, this includes the identification of a clinical supervisor and protected time for learning in practice. The Advanced Clinical Practice Portfolio, case studies for EPA preparation and clinical placement for the Non-medical Prescribing modules require that you are employed and work in clinical practice in order to meet the criteria for the four pillars of the Multi-Professional Framework of ACP (HEE, 2017).

Placements and practice visits

While the MSc programme does not offer or require placements and practice visits, these learning opportunities are extremely useful in your development as an ACP and are encouraged by the programme team. They may be as simple as arranging a visit to your local laboratory to gain insights into how your samples are processed, or more formal clinical placements in other specialties, settings or sectors. You and your clinical supervisor may identify that your individual development as an ACP may be enhanced by placements or practice visits in specific departments or services. For example, to work with particular patient groups, to gain experience in a particular setting or undertake/develop specific skills. These may be within your own practice setting (e.g. another department), will need to be negotiated with your employer and if external to your practice setting may require a licence to attend that particular service.

WILL I GET ANY PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION?

Independent and Supplementary Non-Medical Prescribing

If you are eligible/required to prescribe, on successful completion of the “Independent and Supplementary Non-Medical Prescribing (V300)” (APM060) module you will be eligible to apply to your regulatory body (the NMC or HCPC) to have your entry annotated as an independent non-medical prescriber. You may only prescribe once your prescribing qualification has been annotated on the appropriate regulatory register. Please see your specific regulatory body guidance about prescribing within your specialty, setting or sector.

Royal College of Nursing (RCN) *Credentialing by the RCN*

RCN Credentialing in Advanced Level Nursing Practice is open to nurses who can demonstrate that they are working at an advanced level, practice in the NHS or independent sector, and are either members or non-members of the RCN. Individual nurses can apply directly to the RCN for credentialing at an associated registration fee. Follow the link for further details on how to register for credentialing: <https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/professional-services/credentialing> Nurses who successfully achieve the full master's qualification, including non-medical prescribing in advanced practice from an RCN accredited university will have their credential awarded at no cost for the first three years. The MSc Advanced Clinical Practice (Apprenticeship) Programme is accredited by the RCN with a review date in July 2024.

HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?

There are three areas (professional, academic, and practice) that you will need to satisfy the in order to be accepted on the programme. The initial student selection will be made by your employer based on these criteria, followed by an application for the programme which will be reviewed by the Programme Team and Programme Director to determine your eligibility to enrol on the programme.

Professional

- You must have a current health professional registration with a regulatory body or equivalent, for example the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) or Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC).

Academic

- Applicants will have a second class or above (2:2 classification) honours degree in a relevant subject from an approved institution of higher education. Clinically experienced, senior health professionals without a degree who have evidence of master's level (level 7) study undertaken within the last five years will also be considered.
- Clinically experienced, senior health professionals with a degree classification lower than second class or without a degree and who are unable to demonstrate evidence of master's level study (level 7) within the previous five years, will be given the option to undertake a 15 credit module from Year 1 of the programme (as a standalone CPPD module), and if successful 15-credits can be RPLd into the ACP programme.
- In addition, as the Gateway Criteria to proceed with the End Point Assessment (EPA) set by Skills for Health (2018) for the ACP (Apprenticeship) programme at level 7 require that you have achieved a minimum qualification of level 2 in English and Mathematics, we will request evidence of this to be submitted with your MSc ACP Apprenticeship application. Where it is not possible to provide evidence of this, it is your responsibility to undertake the national numeracy & literacy (functional maths and English) before you can enrol on the Programme.

If your first language is not English, the following qualifications will meet the English language requirement for entry to post graduate course of study:

- A first degree from a UK university
- A first degree from an overseas institution recognised by City, University of London as providing adequate evidence of proficiency in the English language, for example, from institutions from Australia, Canada or the United States of America.
- International English Language Test Service (IELTS) a score of 7.0 is required with no subtest below 6.5
- Pearson Test of English (Academic) score 72 required
- Other evidence of proficiency in the English language, which satisfies the board of studies concerned, including registration with your professional regulator.

Practice

- A current job contract in a clinical area in a trainee/advanced clinical practice role or a role where you will have the opportunity to develop advanced clinical practice skills, knowledge and behaviours.
- You must have a minimum of 3-years post-registration experience, 2 of which must be within an area relevant to specialty, setting or sector.
- Provide written confirmation from your employer that they will support you to complete the programme and:
 - that you have a physician/surgeon or a non-medical advanced clinical practitioner (with a master's level award in advanced clinical practice) within your workplace to act as your clinical supervisor, and;
 - that they are willing to provide you with the support required to successfully complete the programme (clinical supervision, protected supernumerary 'training' time).

Tier 4 students

- The MSc Advanced Clinical Practice (Apprenticeship) is not available to tier 4 students as it requires students to be in employment to undertake the practice element of the programme.

References

- You will be required to have one satisfactory academic and one satisfactory clinical reference from your manager or clinical supervisor.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

In line with Senate Assessment Regulation 19, Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) will be considered for any student who has pursued appropriate studies in this or another institution or who possesses appropriate qualifications. RPL may be claimed for core and elective modules, subject to the following City Assessment Regulations 19:

- 9 (c) (ii): RPL will be permitted where the Programme Committee has assessed the claim in terms of acceptability, sufficiency, authenticity, currency and level and can demonstrate that the students previously assessed or experiential learning meets all of the learning outcomes stated in the Module Specification for the module for which they are to be awarded credit.
- 9(e) (iii): The volume of credit permissible via RPL is 60 credits (one third of the total credit for the programme). If you RPL more than 30 credits, a Postgraduate Certificate will not be available as an exit award. This applies to 15-credit or 30-credit core and/or elective modules and can be claimed towards RPCL (Recognition of Previous Certified Learning) or RPEL (Recognition of Previous Experiential Learning). You will be requested to provide justification of how your previous certified and/or experiential learning meets the learning outcomes of the modules in the ACP programme.

RPL can be requested for any of the following modules in the programmes:

- APM052 Advanced Clinical Assessment, Critical Thinking and Diagnostic Reasoning Across the Life-span
- APM032 Professional Leadership
- APM058 Leading and Evaluating Learning in Healthcare Practice
- HRM020 Foundations in Research Methods and Data Analysis
- APM060 Independent and Supplementary Non- Medical Prescribing (V300) (this is applicable to students who select the Prescribing option of the programme)
- ACP Elective Modules (this is applicable to students who select the Non-prescribing option of the programme)

RPL cannot be requested for the following modules:

- APM055 Advanced Clinical Practice Portfolio
- APM056 Advanced Practice Dissertation
- APM057 End Point Assessment

For students undertaking the Prescribing option of this programme

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) for Independent and Supplementary Non-Medical Prescribing

Independent and Supplementary Non-Medical Prescribing (Module APM060) is a core module on the MSc Advanced Clinical Practice (Apprenticeship) programme if you are eligible/required to prescribe. If you are an independent, non-medical prescriber and wish to gain RPL for the credits, you must meet one of the requirements listed below:

1. If you have already completed an “Independent and Supplementary Non-medical Prescribing” course at level 7 within the last 5 years and are currently registered as a prescriber and prescribing in practice, 30 credits can be RPLd into this programme providing there is supporting evidence.
2. If you have already completed an ‘Independent and Supplementary Non-Medical Prescribing’ course at level 7 longer than 5 years ago and are currently registered as a prescriber and are prescribing in practice, you will be required to provide evidence of this. In addition, you will need to evidence CPD relating to prescribing knowledge and practice.
3. If you have already completed an ‘independent and Supplementary Non-Medical Prescribing’ course at level 6, are currently registered as a prescriber and are prescribing in practice, you will be required to provide evidence of this. In addition to above you will be asked to produce an “RPL non-medical prescribing essay” at Level 7 which will be assessed in line with the University’s Assessment and Feedback Policy (detailed guidance on the essay is provided separately in the student handbook). Non-medical prescribing qualifications other than “independent and Supplementary Non-Medical prescribing” (for example V100 for district health nursing) will not be RPLd.

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Information is provided subject to Terms and Conditions for study at City, University of London.