University of Suffolk

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	**PgD Advancing Practice**
Awarding Bodies	**University of Suffolk**
Level of Award[1]	**FHEQ Level 7**
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	**None**
Credit Structure[2]	**120 Credits at level 7**
Mode of Attendance	**Part-time**
Standard Length of Course[3]	**3 to 5 years part-time**
Intended Award	**PgD Advancing Practice**
Named Exit Awards	**PgC Advancing Practice**
Entry Requirements[4]	• **120 credits at honours academic level or show an ability to work successfully at Masters level;** • **No less than two years post registration experience with no less than six months experience in the relevant clinical speciality;** • **Access to relevant area of clinical practice with support of their organisation on their advancing role;** • **Current registration with the relevant regulatory body e.g. NMC, HCPC.** **This course is not open to visa sponsored students (those students sponsored by the University under the student route).**
Delivering Institution	**University of Suffolk**

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the PgD Advancing Practice course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 7 in the 2025-26 academic year[5].

Course Summary

This programme of study has been designed to facilitate students in the development and evidencing of the knowledge, skills and competencies required to work at an advanced level within their own professional setting and role.

Students will be supported to develop a critical awareness of current problems and new insights at the forefront of their professional practice. Students will examine care development

[1] For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014)
[2] All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the Higher education credit framework for England.
[3] Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards.
[4] Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the Admissions Policy and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the University's DBS webpage.
[5] The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the Admissions Policy.

and delivery from their own professional standpoint and also take account of how other disciplines challenge and contribute to the quality of care delivery.

The PgD Advancing Practice provides the opportunity for students to engage in a critical exploration of the Advanced Practice agenda in healthcare practice with particular emphasis on leadership skills coupled with modules designed to facilitate knowledge and skills in relation to assessment/examination skills, clinical reasoning and decision-making during the first year of study. Year two commences with the Non-Medical Prescribing module which should be considered core unless the student has already completed the Prescribing qualification or works in a profession where Non-Medical Prescribing is not supported. In this case, students will be supported by the course team to choose two optional modules of study.

Course Aims

- To enable students to engage in critical debate of issues pertinent to the roles and responsibilities within advanced professional practice and respond to them appropriately;

- To develop practitioners who are able to work in a professionally autonomous way demonstrating leadership within their area of practice and who are accountable for their own professional and clinical decisions;

- To enable students to critically evaluate personal and professional development needs in relation to advanced professional practice and implement appropriate responses;

- To enable student's to meet the challenges of undertaking research at master's level within their field of practice;

- To develop an individual who is able to act as a role model and an educator to initiate change and management development opportunities within the clinical setting;

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the PgD AdvancingPractice course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 7 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)[6].

At the end of the course students will be able to:

<u>Knowledge and understanding and cognitive skills</u>

1. Independently propose and evaluate alternative approaches to person-centred practice.

2. Critically appraise conceptual models, theories and vocabulary in the subjects covered within the course.

3. Deal with complexity and contradiction in knowledge proffered for practice
4. Make sound judgments in the absence of complete data.

5. Discern between different research methods and their suitability for undertaking research in specific areas of person-centred, compassionate care.

[6] As set out in the QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014)

6. Demonstrate systematic knowledge, understanding and critical awareness of current problems within their field of practice.

7. Synthesise information and ideas and develop a creative approach to problem-solving in advanced practice.

8. Engage with colleagues to discuss and critically debate a variety of perspectives.

9. Critically evaluate the impact of health and social care policy on patients/clients / relevant others and health care practitioners and evaluate the culture of the specific clinical area of work in relation to the institution in which they practice.

10. Undertake a comprehensive assessment of a patient and accurately interpret findings in order to develop a suitable plan of person-centred, compassionate care.

Subject-specific skills

11. Demonstrate expertise in a variety of contexts within their field of practice.

12. Effectively engage others in the delivery of enhanced, person-centered care.

13. Take responsibility for personal and professional development in relation to advanced practice.

14. Work as an autonomous practitioner within an inter-professional team that values person-centred care.

15. Demonstrate the ability to deliver an appropriate range of interventions based on the situation of the patient.

16. Identify the scope and limitations of their role, including critically evaluating legal and ethical implications with respect to other members of staff, local and national policies, and frameworks.

Key/common skills

1. Critically analyse and appraise existing sources of information.

2. Critically evaluate elements of management and leadership in relation to the advanced practice role.

3. Demonstrate the ability to present complex arguments to a group in a competent manner.

4. Demonstrate self-reflectivity and an awareness of the need for continuing professional development.

5. Work collaboratively with others within health care and the wider environment to enhance the understanding of advanced professional practice.

6. Utilise problem-solving skills in a variety of theoretical and practical settings.

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following Professional Standards and Frameworks:

- Health Education England Multi-professional framework for advanced clinical practice in England

Course Structure

The PgD Advancing Practice comprises modules at level 7.

Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type[7]
Level 7			
	Effective Leadership for Advanced Practice	20	M
	Holistic Assessment	20	M
	Clinical Reasoning and Decision Making	20	M
	Research Methods	20	M
	Optional Modules:		
	Independent and Supplementary Non-medical Prescribing (V300) **NB**: This module is advised for those in ACP roles, where the student's profession or employer requires it. For students that have already completed the prescribing qualification at Level 6 or for whom prescribing is not available to their registered profession, students will need to choose alternative optional modules. Academic advice and guidance will be offered to these students to facilitate the choice of relevant and appropriate modules from the department's wider Master's provision	40	O
	Reflexivity in Contemporary Healthcare Practice	20	O
	Coaching within Healthcare	20	O
	Dementia Care	20	O
	Applied Pharmacology for Advanced Practice	20	O
	Living well with Cancer	20	O
	Public Health and Epidemiology	20	O

[7] Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards

	Mental Health Foundations: Emotional Needs & Resources	20	O
	Critical Care	40	O

Awards
On successful completion of the Effective Leadership for Advanced Practice, Holistic Assessment, Clinical Reasoning and Decision Making, Independent and Supplementary Non-medical Prescribing (or 40 credits of options as listed above) and Research Methods modules, students will be awarded a PgD Advancing Practice. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a PgC Advancing Practice on successful completion of the Effective Leadership for Advanced Practice, Holistic Assessment and Clinical Reasoning and Decision Making modules.

Course Delivery
The course is delivered at Ipswich. Students studying part-time on PgD Advancing Practice are likely to have approximately 30 tutor structured learning hours per semester. Tutor structured learning will be a mix of lectures, seminars and practical activity. Students will normally be expected to undertake 10 hours of independent study in an average week, but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment
A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course will include essays, seminar presentations and one written examination during year one and a combination of essays, seminar presentations, examinations and Objective Structured Clinical Examinations during year two.

Course Team
The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute.

Course Costs
Students undertaking PgD Advancing Practice will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Part-time UK	£1,016 per 20 credit module
Part-time EU/International	£1,690 per 20 credit module*

*International students on health courses may also incur a placement fee. For information please contact the Admissions Department on 01473 338348 or via email admissions@uos.ac.uk.

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Academic Framework and Regulations
This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the website.