

Foundation Degree in **Medicines Management**



School of
Pharmacy and
Biomedical Sciences

Foundation Degree in Medicines Management

This Foundation degree course is designed to encourage practising pharmacy technicians into higher education and to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge for extended medicines management roles.

The course is suitable for individuals already practising in community, primary care, hospital and prison pharmacies or GP dispensing surgeries, who wish to further their skills in patient-focused and inter-professional aspects of medicines management.

The University of Portsmouth is committed to providing excellence in all areas of teaching and learning and pioneered the development of this Foundation degree specifically for pharmacy technicians. The course is run by an experienced team that includes members of different sectors of the pharmacy profession. State-of-the-art facilities and extensive tutorial and online support is available for students undertaking this Foundation degree.

The course is a three year part-time programme running from September to May, with attendance at study days for an average of eight days per year. The course is predominantly a work-based programme that takes work commitments into consideration as well as prior learning – which could be credited towards your Foundation degree.



Course content

The course provides a therapeutic framework for the development of patient-centred care and will prepare you for effective team working, delivery of training, audit design and strategic development. You will study nine units, including one optional unit:

Year one

- **Introduction and Lifelong Learning:** patient-focused care and Continuing Professional Development (CPD)
- **Scientific Principles and Teamwork:** monitoring of drug treatment and multidisciplinary working
- **Intermediate Medicines Management*:** patient consultation skills and medicines management

You will also choose to study one of the following optional units:

- **Dispensary Checking*:** accuracy checking of dispensed items
- **Primary Care Role in Medicines Management:** practice-support role of pharmacy technicians

Year two

- **Therapeutics for Medicines Management:** pharmacology and therapeutics for medicines management
- **Advanced Medicines Management*:** enhanced development of medicines management and inter-professional working

Year three

- **Practitioner Audit:** development of a practice-based audit
- **Strategic and Professional Development:** advanced CPD and enhancement of the pharmacy technician's role
- **Train the Trainers*:** teaching and facilitation within the workplace

*Students with current accredited certificates from South East Medicines Management Education and Development (SEMMED) or South East (South Coast) Pharmacy Education and Training (SE(SC)PET), such as regionally accredited Checking Technician or Medicines Management qualifications, or the National Pharmaceutical Association Checking Technician course, can apply for accreditation of prior learning for the above units indicated with an asterisk. These units will then not have to be undertaken.

Additional information

Your learning experience

This programme is centred on work-based learning within your own practice setting. There are a variety of assignments which will be undertaken in your workplace and reflective practice is encouraged. The ethical aspects of medicines management, facilitation and leadership skills and personal development will be considered. You will have access to a work-based facilitator for support and guidance in your workplace study.

Course content will also be delivered using a student-centred approach. This will include lectures, group work and a wealth of resources and communication tools available within the course Virtual Learning Environment (an online learning tool).

A variety of assessment methods will be used to assess your knowledge and ability including assignments, recorded activities and CPD records. There are no exams within this Foundation degree.

Our facilities and resources

You will have access to University-wide resources including our student support services, computer suites and our newly extended library, which houses an excellent collection of journals and books. In addition you will have access to Foundation Direct, our support centre for all students studying Foundation degrees. The centre will provide you with study skills advice, subject-specific guidance, careers management and CPD planning.

Career prospects

It is envisaged that after completing this course participants will take on new management and patient-centred roles traditionally undertaken by pharmacists and other healthcare professionals. Graduates will be able to make a considerable contribution to the enhancement of patient care and service delivery.

If you are interested in further study, successful completion of this Foundation degree will also allow you to progress on to the BSc (Hons) Applied Science course.

Entry requirements

You will need an NVQ3 (or equivalent) in pharmacy services, plus two years relevant pharmacy experience.

Course fee

The course fee is £875 per annum for September 2007.

For the academic year 2007–2008, South Central Strategic Health Authority will fund a number of places for technicians employed within the NHS.

Employers and Primary Care Trusts may also fund places.



Find out more

For further information contact the course leader:

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General information about Foundation degrees is available on the Foundation degree website:
www.foundationdegree.org.uk

General information about facilities at the University of Portsmouth is available on the University website: www.port.ac.uk

For information about studying a Foundation degree at Portsmouth visit the Foundation Direct website:
www.port.ac.uk/foundationdirect



The Foundation degree in Medicines Management was developed by the Division of Pharmacy Practice (School of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences, University of Portsmouth) in conjunction with South East Medicines Management Education and Development (SEMMED) and a reference group comprising employers, the National Pharmaceutical Association, clinical pharmacists, community pharmacists and pharmacy technicians.



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