

PGCert Enhanced Clinical Practice

Enhancing Skills, Improving Care:
Empowering the AHP Workforce

Transformative learning for Enhanced Clinical Practice

The PgCert in Enhanced Clinical Practice has been developed for Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) to offer post-registration development by providing a comprehensive pathway for career progression and enhancing clinical expertise.

Enhanced clinical practice is a level of practice where individuals with specific knowledge and skills in a field of expertise work in complex environments providing specialist decision making, as part of a pathway of care.

This PGCert is delivered to celebrate the clarity and depth of practice that is profession specific whilst providing multiprofessional opportunities ensuring the development of knowledge, skills and capabilities required for patient populations, service needs and workforce transformation.

This PGCert supports the development of autonomous professional practice at an enhanced level across the four pillars of practice and is underpinned by:

- Enhancing your clinical knowledge and skills within your scope of practice
- Encouraging proactive leadership within your team and clinical speciality
- Facilitating education practice
- Developing evidence-based practice

This course is aligned to priorities addressed in the NHS Long Term Workforce Plan and has been mapped against the Enhanced Clinical Practice schemas for AHPs to ensures professionals are in the ‘right place, at the right time, with the right skills’ to meet the evolving needs of the UK health and social care sector.

The PGCert Enhanced Clinical Practice is available from both our Bournemouth and London campuses.

Who is This Course For?

This is a post-registration course for Registered AHPs who have a minimum of two years’ experience after qualification.

You must have registration with the appropriate professional regulatory body and be working clinically in a patient facing role with the opportunity to work at an enhanced level within your employment. You must have agreement from employers to support, with respect to time and opportunity, both in the workplace setting and at the University. You will need to be working a minimum of 30 hours per week ideally.

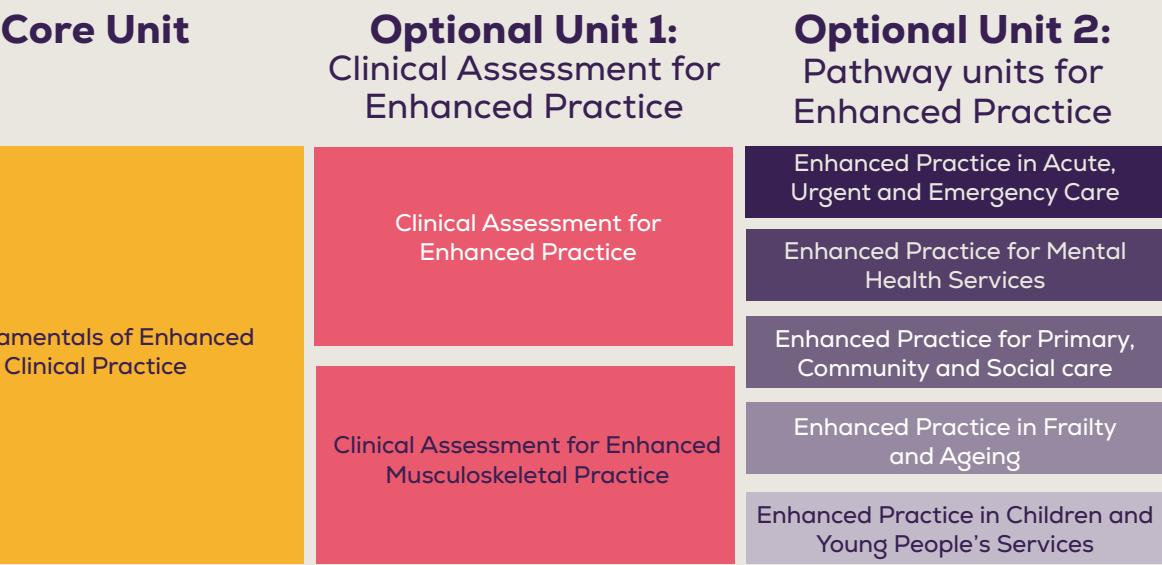
Evidence of Prior Learning

Consideration will be given regarding any recognition of prior learning and will be reviewed to ensure it meets the learning needs of this course and meets the learning outcomes of any units where exemption is requested.

Choose Your Learning Pathway

The course consists of one core unit, and two optional units depending on your profession and clinical focus.

The units are designed as multi-professional units where you will learn with people from other professions and includes the fundamentals to enhanced clinical practice, enhanced clinical assessment and pathway units which can be selected to your individual learning and development needs, your profession specific requirements and your clinical working environment.



Core Unit – Fundamentals of Enhanced Clinical Practice for AHPs

Delivery Mode: Online
Length of Study: 5 months with 9 study days

Aim: Fundamental to practice at enhanced level (and all levels of practice) is practitioners having and exercising a developed understanding of their personal scope of practice at any one point in time and the limits of their scope and competence and therefore knowing when they need to seek advice and guidance to ensure that patient safety is upheld. This core unit is designed around three pillars of practice which are fundamental to the development of enhanced practice: leadership, education and research.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Critically appraise and apply research and evidence-based resources to inform clinical reasoning, decision-making and management of resources in the management of individual patients’ care
2. Engage in quality improvement initiatives, clinical audit, service evaluation and research projects contributing to enhancing the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery and individual patient care.
3. Develop, design, deliver and review structured workplace learning and teaching initiatives to meet defined professional, workforce development, service delivery and patient care needs in ways that promote multi-disciplinary collaboration, co-production and continuous quality improvement.
4. Lead and support the development of others in workplace settings by deploying a range of approaches, including learning needs analysis, mentoring, preceptorship, coaching, facilitation, clinical supervision and appraisal..
5. Engage with and apply the principles of clinical leadership, underpinned by relevant theories and models to enhanced clinical practice critically evaluating their effectiveness within the context of a multi disciplinary team.
6. Critically reflect on your own personal development, communication and leadership skills within the scope of your role and practice

Assessment:

Portfolio of evidence (2000 word equivalent) mapped against the three pillars and supported by a critical narrative (3000- word equivalent) aligned to the pillars of practice

Optional Unit 1 (choose either/or)

Clinical Assessment for Enhanced Practice OR
Clinical Assessment for Enhanced Musculoskeletal Practice

Delivery Mode: Blended learning with face to face on-campus days and online study days with an on campus assessment day.
Length of Study – 2 months with 2 on campus days and 3 online study days

Aim: This clinical assessment unit aims to support and facilitate building and further developing your competence and capability at an enhanced level in history taking, assessment and examination. The unit includes advancement of human life sciences knowledge and understanding, using the application of anatomy, biomechanics, pathophysiology, and psychosocial factors within assessment and diagnostic processes, therefore supporting you to develop your capability in providing interventions within your scope of practice.

It focuses on holistic assessment using personalised approaches to care and therapeutic communication for consulting with individuals and their carers/families. Through the unit you will be supported to develop the skills which enable a higher degree of autonomy and responsibility with a depth of practice to consistently assess and manage complex patients appropriately.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Critically apply relevant anatomy and physiology, pathophysiology and psychosocial factors for person centred clinical assessment.
2. Demonstrate knowledge, skills, behaviours and critical understanding of history taking and physical assessment in the clinical setting using a systems-based approach
3. Critically apply evidence-based approaches, tools and techniques within a clinical assessment to distinguish normal from abnormal findings
4. Demonstrate competence in clinical assessment, identifying and managing clinical risk, signs and symptoms of serious pathology and/or deterioration

Assessment

30-minute Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) – assessing consultation, history taking, clinical assessment and examination, identifying normal from abnormal findings. This will be on campus.

Optional Unit 2 (choose one unit)

Enhanced Practice in Acute, Urgent and Emergency Care
Enhanced Practice for Mental Health Services
Enhanced Practice for Primary, Community and Social care
Enhanced Practice in Frailty and Ageing
Enhanced Practice in Children and Young People's Services

Delivery Mode: Online study days with an on-campus assessment day

Length of Study – 4 months with 6 study days

Aim: The generalised aims of the pathway units for optional unit 2 are to transition you to become a professional working at enhanced level of practice within your profession and specialist area. This will be achieved through enhanced anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology knowledge to provide specialist assessment, clinical reasoning in complexity, contextualised decision making and patient centred autonomy within your specific clinical environment.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate knowledge and skills in appropriate clinical assessments, including relevant anatomy and physiology, tools and measures, and interpretation of diagnostics
2. Critically appraise relevant interventions aligned to patient needs, considering evidence, guidelines and patient values
3. Critically evaluate risks to the delivery of care plans, identifying evidence-informed solutions
4. Demonstrate safe and effective practice through recognising and differentiating risk and acuity in complex care, utilising evidence informed strategies to support professional judgement.
5. Critically evaluate and reflect on your personal abilities, knowledge, skills and behaviours across your team, service and wider setting

Assessment

Poster and 15-minute presentation on critical evaluation of relevant interventions, presentation to include reflection of role development. Followed by 15-minute question and answer session. This will be on campus.

Pathways for Enhanced Clinical Practice

The PGCert Enhanced Clinical practice can be accessed in 3 ways:

1. Apprenticeship route
2. Direct access route
3. Standalone Units

1. Apprenticeship Route

The course is mapped against the Skills England Level 6 Enhanced Clinical Practitioner standard (ST0895) to provide a high standard of health care using judgment, skills, and knowledge. Enhanced clinical practitioner / Skills England.

The employer is required to support the completion of the required Off the Job (OTJ) hours of 439 hours by gateway to progress to End point Assessment (EPA). OTJ hours include attending classes at the university, tutor guided learning, work placed learning and independent study.

Tri-partite reviews will be held four times a year between the apprentice, apprenticeship tutor, and workplace supervisor.

Once the three units of study have been completed and 60 credits obtained you will work towards the gateway for the EPA, which will only start once the employer is content that you are consistently working at or above the level set out in the occupational standard, so you are deemed to have achieved occupational competence.

The EPA has two elements of assessment:

Assessment 1 is a Quality Improvement Project. The project's subject, title and scope in the form of a proposal briefing will need to be completed and submitted to the End Point Assessment Organisation (EPAO) and this will be signed off within a maximum of 3 weeks of the gateway being passed. The quality improvement proposal's subject, title and scope will be agreed between the employer and the EPAO at the gateway.

Assessment 2 is a professional discussion, which is underpinned by a portfolio of evidence that you will complete during the on-programme period of the apprenticeship. The portfolio should contain evidence related to the KSBs that will be assessed by this assessment method. The portfolio of evidence will typically contain 12 discrete pieces of evidence mapped against the KSBs.

The end award will be PGCert Enhanced Clinical Practice (Apprenticeship)

“ This PGCert provides a comprehensive pathway for career progression and enhances clinical expertise ”

2. Direct access route

The PGCert can be studied over 3 units of study to achieve the 60 credits with tuition fees for 2025/2026 being £2730

The end award will be PGCert Enhanced Clinical Practice.

3. Standalone Units

There is the opportunity to study individual units if required and the tuition fees for 2025/2026 for each unit is £910.

Credits will be awarded on completion of the unit(s)

For further information about these courses, please visit:

hsu.ac.uk/ecp-pgcert or hsu.ac.uk/ecp-apprenticeship

Support for Student

For all routes support is required from the university and employer with regards to time and opportunity to work at enhanced level of practice within the workplace.

HSU will provide support from the course lead, unit lead, apprenticeship manager and an academic personal support tutor able to provide profession specific support.

The employer will support through the identification of a mentor, to support occupational competence, and a supervisor, to support work placed learning. The employer should also support through their line management and organisational education support mechanisms.

HSU will provide initial training and ongoing support for supervisors and mentors to support their roles. are demonstrating readiness to change.

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