

Please find below the latest edition of our Advanced Practice Programme Newsletter. We would appreciate if this could be circulated widely with your colleagues.

Department of Nursing and Midwifery, University of the Highlands and Islands



Advanced Practice Programme Newsletter

Advanced Nurse Practitioner and Advanced Professional Practice – Nov 2020



Welcome to the fourth edition of the Advanced Practice programme newsletter. In this edition we share some news, key dates and information about available educational provision and opportunities.

As everyone knows 2020 has been a uniquely challenging year for our department staff, students and practice partners. The department took a considered decision, early in the pandemic, to continue with educational provision within the constraints affecting us all. This has necessitated many changes in practice, teaching delivery, assessment, communication and student support. However this continuity has allowed many students to progress with their studies although for some this has become unrealistic at present. Affected students will have opportunity to resume their studies in the future as circumstances allow.

It is to the great credit of our staff, students and practice partners that despite recent circumstances we continue to move forward and have achieved so much together. We were therefore delighted to be able to confirm a range of academic awards at the end of Academic Year 19/20 and we warmly congratulate our former students on their achievements.

Awards

ANP MSc 7 (4 distinctions)
ANP PG Dip 7 (1 distinction)
PG Certificate in HE – 3
NMP CPD 34

Neil Angus, Head of Postgraduate Studies



Course Enquiries

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Key Dates

27th November 2020
Closing date for ANP / APP / MSc
Programme Applications
[Apply Here](#)

11th December 2020
All students undertaking NMP
module in Semester 2 must have
submitted all necessary
documentation by this date.

27th April 2021
Next deadline for RPL applications

New Applicant Deadline



The closing date for new applicants wishing to commence study in January 2021 is **Friday 27th November 2020**.

Programme and Application details are available from the [Advanced Nurse Practitioner / Professional Practice MSc webpage](#).

Module Enrolment

New Students – After acceptance of an unconditional offer new students will receive an email notification to complete programme enrolment and module selection. This is issued by the Student Records Office and is sent to personal email addresses. The process will commence from **Monday 16th November**. Please look out for this communication and ensure prompt completion of these important administrative tasks.

Continuing Students - Continuing students should have completed module selections for Semester 2 (commencing January 2021) during the annual programme enrolment process. Existing module enrolments can be checked in UHI Records>Student Hub>Modules. If this was not completed please email your name, student ID, intended module name / code and start date to the Student Records Office at sro@uhi.ac.uk. Please include 'Semester 2 Module Enrolment' in the subject line of your email and always use your University email address.

New Student Induction (ANP/APP/MSc Programme only)

A short online induction for new PG students is scheduled on **Friday 8th January (14:00 – 16:00)**. This offers an opportunity to meet some of the department teaching staff and will provide general information about the MSc pathway, the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) process and a session on studying at Master's level. The induction will be recorded and materials will be available online for anyone who is unable to attend on the day. Further details including set up and access details will be forwarded to relevant students in due course. Students enrolling for stand-alone NMP modules are not expected to attend the programme induction.

Semester 2 Module Teaching

During Semester 2 (Jan 2021 starts) most module teaching and assessment will continue to be delivered and supported via the UHI Virtual Learning Environment (Brightspace). Dates for Semester 2 study days are now confirmed. New students will be provided with this information via the admissions office and continuing students can access this in the Programme area of the PG Hub.

Semester 2 Modules

Modules available in January 2021 include:

- [Professional Leadership and Resilience \(20 credits\)](#)
- [Clinical Assessment for Advanced Practice \(40 credits\)](#) * **Starts 11 January 2021**
- [Non-Medical Prescribing \(40 credits\)](#) * **Starts 4 January 2021**
- [Improvement Science: Enhancing Quality in Health and Social Care \(20 credits\)](#)
- [Complexities of Care in Multi-morbidity \(20 credits\)](#)
- [Understanding Research in Evidence -Based Practice \(20 credits\)](#)
- [Quality Improvement Dissertation \(60 credits\)](#)
- [Applying Research Skills for Clinical Impact Dissertation \(60 credits\)](#)

Notes:

- Starred modules must be included in the module selections of students following the Advanced Nurse Practitioner route
- The Improvement Science module is a pre-requisite for students who wish to undertake a Quality Improvement Dissertation
- The Semester 2 start date is 25 January 2021 except for modules indicated in red

Support for Learning

For some new PG students it may have been quite a while since they last undertook formal academic study and it is recognised that this can be anxiety provoking. Therefore, in addition to 'in-module support' a range of additional study skill resources are now available in the induction area of the PG Hub of our virtual learning environment (VLE). Resources, available to all students, include information on learning technologies including Brightspace (VLE), studying online, becoming an effective learner and preparing for assessment.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

RPL is a process by which students on the Post Graduate Advanced Practice / MSc programmes may gain academic credit for previous learning. This can offer considerable financial and time saving benefits when working towards a postgraduate award. The application process is rigorous, but not onerous, and may allow up to 80 academic credits to students who intend to exit their studies with a PG Diploma or MSc award. RPL claims are submitted after commencing the programme and before embarking on final programme modules. Submissions need to meet a quality threshold defined by acceptability, sufficiency, authenticity and currency.

The most recent RPL submission window closed on 27th October and outcomes will be confirmed after 3rd December 2020. The next opportunity for submission of RPL evidence is 27th April 2021 with outcomes being confirmed after 25th May 2021. Please note that all RPL evidence must be provided by the submission date and applications received after published deadlines will be carried forward to the next available date.

Current students can find information about RPL on the Advanced Nurse Practitioner / Advanced Professional Practice Hub on Brightspace. Intending applicants who may have queries about RPL can obtain further information by contacting the PG Programme Lead at neil.angus@uhi.ac.uk

NHS Highland Virtual Lecture Series



NHS Highland have developed a series of interesting webinars aimed at health care professionals in the Highland area. These can be accessed via NES Turas Learn and further information about previous and future webinars can be found [here](#)

Post Graduate Student Support from the Highland Health Sciences Library

The Highland Health Sciences Library has a small team of three (Rob, Chris and Nell) who look after your support needs.

Support includes:

- General advice and help
- Advice and help with literature reviews
- Document delivery to source hard to obtain materials, research and evidence
- Referencing and citation support

Though based in Inverness, student support is global in nature – our distance record for support so far is a post graduate student in Bangalore, India.

Since the advent of COVID the library service has been running remotely with all staff working from home and providing a wide range of teaching and other support.

– Rob Polson

– Chris O'Malley

– Ellen-Ann Novak



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Update on changes to supervision and assessment for Non-Medical Prescribing (NMP) students

New standards for prescribing supervision and assessment introduced three new roles -Academic Assessor (AA), Practice Assessor (PA) and Practice Supervisor (PS). The Practice Assessor replaces the former Designated Medical Practitioner (DMP) role.

Who can be a Practice Assessor (PA)?

A Practice Assessor must be a registered health care professional with an annotated prescribing qualification. A Practice Assessor must have a professional qualification (Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, AHP) and experience of prescribing.

How do I become a PA?

To be a Practice Assessor you must be a registered health care professional and have completed preparation for the role. The level of preparation for individuals differs depending on knowledge and experience. Updates and preparation programmes are available, delivered and supported by key persons in both practice and education environments locally. Preparation programmes vary from enabling practice assessors who already meet the role requirements to become familiar with the practice assessment documents / course requirements to a full preparation programme for those new to the role.

This is an exciting time for the NMP programme, and we already have nurses and pharmacists undertaking the Practice Assessor role. Here are some perspectives on what it is like being a practice assessor in clinical practice.

"From my perspective, undertaking the role of practice assessor has strengthened my working relationship with the NMP student. This has been extremely beneficial as we work closely together within the CMHT on a regular basis.

I have enjoyed sharing my expertise in psychotropic medication but it has been a two-way working relationship and I have also benefitted from learning from the NMP student in areas such as the mental health assessment process so it is a win-win situation".

Karen Macaskill, Principal Pharmacist

"A few months ago I was asked to be a PA for a nurse colleague working within East Caithness. As a pharmacist and Independent Prescriber, this is a new role as previously all the assessment and mentoring has been done by doctors. I was a bit wary at first but agreed as up-skilling members of our own team is beneficial to us all. I need not have worried, the course leaders organised a very helpful webinar to explain what was required of us and when.

I met with my student and together we agreed a plan for her to complete the objectives she required. This involved some initial work together and then arranging time when she could shadow myself or other colleagues and participate in clinics. Having worked in East Caithness for a number of years, it was simply a case of thinking through what she would need, what would be beneficial. We find that other prescribers are happy to help with this.

Keeping in touch with her has been easy despite the current COVID-19 arrangements via Teams or phone. I was worried initially it would be too much work, however that is simply not the case. We have met and discussed any concerns she has had, reviewed areas that needed a bit more work. There are a few scheduled reviews with both student and the university.

Next week I need to assess my student for a consultation, unfortunately this does need to be done via phone or near-me at present. I'm looking forward to this, it won't take very long to review and then discuss, and the university ensure we know what standards to assess against.

Overall, I have found becoming a PA has been very positive, ultimately it will mean closer working relationships with other members of the team and I have learned more about my student's specialist role".

Fiona Watson, Specialist Primary Care Pharmacist East Caithness

"I have thoroughly enjoyed the challenges of the new role of non-medical prescribing student assessor. I prepared myself by looking into the roles and the differences between mentor, assessor and supervisor. I also had to look at and my own personal style of learning alongside the leaning preferences of my student. I do feel it is a large responsibility, but the academic assessors are on hand to support both students and (practice) assessors. On a personal level, I had to revisit my understanding of prescribing, prescribing responsibilities, and my own knowledge base. It was good to revisit, subjects like half-life, efficacy, actions and elimination processes. It has been thought provoking, and I felt I was learning with my student, as she chose her personal formulary which included drugs that I am not familiar with. But I felt it was important to understand the actions and benefits, as well as any risks with her and if there was a non-pharmacological answer. Together we have been looking at models to assess and reach a differential diagnosis.

As an assessor it has been so rewarding to see the growth of knowledge and understanding of the student. Interestingly during COVID-19, we have been together with palliative patients, working with normally injectable drugs, but preparing them for sublingual or buccal use so that families can administer these. With midazolam it's been particularly of interest, to see how effective this has been. The benefit of this was that we learned together were not only making savings for the NHS, but giving families the feeling they are really helping and involved at these often emotional and difficult times"

Connie Fridge, Deputy Manager Inverness East and weekend coordinator Inverness East, West and Beaully

If you are interested in becoming a Practice Assessor or would like any further information regarding the role please contact the Programme Lead for NMP stephanie.holden@uhi.ac.uk. We do thank all our practice colleagues for their ongoing work in supporting and assessing our NMP students

Meet your Module Leaders

- [Michelle Beattie](#)
- [Jonathan Gray](#)
- [Leah Macaden](#)
- [Clare Carolan](#)
- [Steph Holden](#)
- [Jackie Matthew](#)
- [Graham Geddes](#)
- [Gill Hubbard](#)
- [Annetta Smith](#)
- [Trish Gorely](#)
- [Michael McPhee](#)

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