ADVANCED CLINICAL PRACTITIONER

MASTERS DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP
Manchester Metropolitan University is one of the most popular universities in the UK, currently educating over 38,000 students. The University takes its responsibility for creating work-ready graduates very seriously and maintains close industry and business links.

Our Degree Apprenticeships are practice-focused. They equip our apprentices with the skills to ensure they are ready to take on the industrial challenges of tomorrow and make their mark. We develop our programmes in partnership with employers, to meet the needs of industry and individuals.

As pioneers of Degree Apprenticeships, we have become industry leaders, allowing us to build unrivalled partnerships with some of the UK’s largest employers and innovative small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
ADVANCED CLINICAL PRACTICE

“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 innovative solutions to enhance people’s experience and improve outcomes.” (HEE Advanced Clinical Practice Multi-Professional Framework – 2017.)

This innovative programme has been developed in collaboration with regional healthcare providers and experts in advanced clinical practice to support clinicians to develop expertise in their scope of practice.

With a strong emphasis on research methodology and quality improvement, this programme will allow apprentices to research, develop, implement and evaluate a quality improvement project within their scope of practice. This will benefit the delivery and redesign of existing and new services.

The Masters Apprenticeship equips advanced practitioner graduates with the necessary skills, behaviours and expertise to realise their future career aspirations. The flexible nature of the apprenticeship also allows the employer to tailor the programme to meet their individual service needs. The programme is funded via an organisation’s apprenticeship levy commitments.

APPRENTICE SUPPORT IN PRACTICE

Support ‘in practice’ is integral to the successful completion of this programme. Apprentices will have a designated mentor to support their work-based learning.

In addition, a Skills Coach will be assigned to support the apprentice to align their university and work-based learning.

THE QUALIFICATION

Upon successful completion of the course, participants will achieve a masters degree in Advanced Clinical Practice.

WHO IS THE PROGRAMME FOR?

The Advanced Clinical Practitioner Masters Degree Apprenticeship programme has been designed to ensure the educational requirements of the future advanced practice workforce are met. The curriculum is delivered in line with the Multi-Professional Framework for Advanced Clinical Practice (HEE, 2017).

This is a programme for experienced clinicians seeking to progress their professional practice, delivering effective end to end patient care.

CORE BEHAVIOURS

Successful Advanced Clinical Practitioners will treat people with dignity, respecting people’s diversity, beliefs, culture, needs, values, privacy and preferences. They will show respect and empathy for those they work with and have the courage to challenge areas of concern. Clinicians will work to best practice, be adaptable, reliable and consistent, while showing discretion, resilience and self-awareness.
FROM OUR APPRENTICES’ POINT OF VIEW

FROM OUR APPRENTICES’ POINT OF VIEW

Sara Harris is an Advanced Clinical Practitioner Degree Apprentice. She is a Community Specialist Paramedic at North West Ambulance Service.

INSPIRED TO LEARN MORE
After completing my degree at Manchester Metropolitan University, I had wanted to embark on a Masters Programme in Advanced Clinical Practice to complement my role as a Community Specialist Paramedic.

CHOOSING THE APPRENTICESHIP ROUTE
I was quite daunted by the amount of work that would be required by a normal masters qualification – on top of working full-time and having a family.

Starting the three-year Masters Apprenticeship has made it possible for me to undertake the programme in a more supportive way.

A HIGH LEVEL OF SUPPORT
I am supported both as a Masters student and an apprentice, allowing me to have protected time at work to both learn and study. The course has elements of academic and practical application and emphasises putting learning into practice.

I am also supported in the workplace by a programme tutor, Skills Coach, and work-based mentor, enabling me to discuss any issues and action plan work required for the programme.

The University also offer other opportunities to learn, with extra classes that you can attend on academic writing and critical thinking.

IMPROVING PATIENT CARE
I would encourage anyone who is looking to improve their patient care, their knowledge and understanding of body systems and diseases, as well as research, education and leadership skills to consider this programme.

RETURNING TO STUDY
Returning to Manchester Metropolitan University on the Advanced Clinical Practitioner Degree Apprenticeship course, with the support of my employers, has provided me with unprecedented opportunity for growth and development within my clinical career. I am gaining advanced knowledge, experience and awareness of how multiple healthcare professionals’ work within their fields.

James McDonald is also an Advanced Clinical Practitioner Degree Apprentice. He works as a Physiotherapist at North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS.

“I am gaining advanced knowledge, experience and awareness of how multiple healthcare professionals work within their fields.”
In order to create an environment where apprentices will be able to achieve successful outcomes, both academically and within their organisations, the University has put in place a wide range of support.

**APPRENTICES**

- **Dedicated Skills Coach**
  A dedicated Apprenticeships Skills Coach can assist with study skills, advise on University regulations and procedures, and provide pastoral support.

- **Functional Skills**
  Provision of functional skills if required.

- **Personal Learning Plan**
  Additional learning support requirements identified and met through a Personal Learning Plan.

- **University Services**
  Full access to University services — including disability services, wellbeing, the library, IT services and university sports facilities.

- **Cutting-Edge Facilities**
  The Faculty of Health, Psychology and Social Care is based in the state-of-the-art Brooks building. The award-winning, £139m development opened in October 2014 and is home to Manchester Metropolitan’s Faculty of Health, Psychology and Social Care and Faculty of Education.

  Inside the Brooks building are outstanding specialist facilities across all areas of health, psychology, social care, and education. This includes a simulation suite, nursing ward, VR room and skills rooms to simulate a health and social care setting.

**Online Study Environment**

Study materials can be accessed 24/7 via our online study environment, Moodle. Our programme is designed to support learners who live and work outside of the north-west. Moodle enables apprentices to access reading lists, download journal articles, contribute to online discussion groups, email tutors, listen to podcasts and submit assignments.

**University Library**

The main University Library is located on the All Saints Campus and is open 24/7 during the academic year.

The Library provides access to a wide range of books, texts, journals, and business information and statistics. It also runs a number of workshops for mature students on study and research skills.

Many of the Library’s resources are available online. For example, apprentices can search the library catalogue, renew and reserve books, and download journal articles and research information.

**EMPLOYERS, LINE MANAGERS AND MENTORS**

- **Apprenticeships Team Support**
  The Manchester Metropolitan Apprenticeships Team is available to support employers throughout the apprenticeships process, including:
  - Holding meetings with staff and managers to understand operational challenges and training needs;
  - A dedicated account manager, providing a single point of contact with the University;
  - Working in partnership to tailor content and delivery;
  - Sending regular reports of attendance and apprentice progress;

- **Progress Reviews**
  Line managers and mentors are supported through regular progress reviews to set, monitor and evaluate objectives and targets.
Delivered and Structured

To allow you the flexibility to choose a study route that is most appropriate for your organisation and individuals, we offer two delivery models. A two-year route with attendance at University two days a week and a three-year route with attendance at University one day per week.

The programme, whether studied over two or three years, is designed to ensure the educational requirements of the future advanced practice workforce are met. The curriculum is delivered in line with the Multi-Professional Framework for Advanced Clinical Practice (HEE, 2017). This clinically-based programme has a strong emphasis on research methodology and quality improvement.

Apprentices will research, develop, implement and evaluate a quality improvement project within their scope of practice. This will benefit the delivery and redesign of existing and new services within their organisation. The flexible nature of the Apprenticeship also allows the employer to tailor the programme to meet their individual service needs. All apprentices must complete the six core units and a choice of two flexible units.

Core Units (Compulsory)
- Clinical Examination and Decision Making
- Education in Advanced Practice
- Leadership for Integrated Care
- Research Methodology for Quality Improvement
- Research for Quality Improvement Practice Project
- End Point Assessment

Flexible Units (Choice of Two)
- Advanced Musculoskeletal Practice
- Non-Medical Prescribing
- Advanced Care of the Mental Health Patient
- Advanced Care of the Frail and Older Adult
- Advanced Diagnostics and Management of the Acutely Ill Patient
- Radiology in Musculoskeletal
- Injection Therapy
- Advanced Practice Independent Study
- Evidence-Based Approach to Stroke Management
- Multi-Professional Approach to Stroke Rehabilitation

End-Point Assessment (EPA)
The EPA forms the final part of the integrated degree apprenticeship for the Advanced Clinical Practitioner at level 7. The EPA dictates the learning outcomes, assessment strategy and marking criteria and must be followed by the University.

Two-Year Model
This modular programme requires apprentices to participate in learning and skills development for approximately two days a week.

Alongside the University learning, apprentices will complete structured work-based learning, supported by their mentor, in order to further develop their advanced clinical practice skills.

The programme is supported by a bespoke online portfolio, designed to enable apprentices to collate evidence of their ongoing competence against the four pillars of advanced practice: clinical practice, clinical leadership, education and research.

Who is it suitable for?
The two-year route is suited to learners:
+ who are better working at a faster pace and may have studied previously at postgraduate level;
+ who may be able to gain credit for previously completed clinically-focused units, such as Non-Medical Prescribing;
+ and/or employees of larger organisations/teams with the opportunity to release staff for two days per week.

Three-Year Model
This modular programme requires apprentices to participate in learning and skills development for approximately one day a week.

Alongside the University learning, apprentices will complete structured work-based learning, supported by their mentor, in order to further develop their advanced clinical practice skills.

The programme is supported by a bespoke online portfolio, designed to enable apprentices to collate evidence of their ongoing competence against the four pillars of advanced practice: clinical practice, clinical leadership, education and research.

Who is it suitable for?
The three-year route is suited to learners:
+ looking to study at a steadier pace, who may not have previously studied at a postgraduate level;
+ and/or employees of smaller organisations/teams where releasing staff for more than one day per week may be challenging.
OVERVIEWS

**CORE AND FLEXIBLE UNIT OVERVIEWS**

**CORE UNITS**

Clinical Examination and Decision Making
The aim of this unit is to equip Advanced Clinical Practitioner apprentices to be able to use a range of approaches to safely assess all body systems, take a comprehensive history and arrive at a clinically reasoned differential diagnosis. Included in this unit is the ability to critically analyse the information gained and produce a robust management plan at an advanced clinical level, taking into account local, national policies and the available evidence-base.

Education in Advanced Practice
This unit will allow Advanced Clinical Practitioner apprentices to critically review their own professional development and their contribution to the education of others. The unit will specifically focus on motivational and educational theories that underpin healthcare development and advanced practice.

Leadership for Integrated Care
Leadership is of critical importance to advanced clinical practice in the context of integrated health and social care. In this unit, apprentices will have the opportunity to interrogate the complexities of leadership and team working in contemporary health and social care settings. They will explore the evidence that informs effective leadership in the integrated and/or interdisciplinary care context. They will critically reflect upon the intricate interpersonal and interprofessional relationships demanded by integrated care. Alongside this, apprentices will explore the values that underpin successful leadership and excellence in service delivery.

Research Methodology for Quality Improvement
This unit introduces the apprentice to the concept of quality improvement applied within the contexts of clinical practice and healthcare delivery. It will prepare the apprentice to design and undertake sound quality improvement projects within their own area(s) of clinical practice.

Research for Quality Improvement Practice Project
This unit will enable the apprentice to apply and integrate relevant knowledge, understanding, and skills developed within the Research Methodology for Quality Improvement unit. This is achieved through the production of a scholarly piece of work related to quality improvement within their own area of clinical practice.

**FLEXIBLE CLINICAL OPTIONS (CHOICE OF TWO)**

Radiology in MSK
The aim of this unit is to prepare Advanced Clinical Practitioner apprentices working in an MSK role to work effectively within a multidisciplinary team and develop an understanding of the use and limitations of the range of imaging techniques utilised in the assessment of MSK presentations.

Non-Medical Prescribing
To prepare suitably qualified nurses and AHPs to become safe and competent independent.supplementary prescribers (for NMC registrants and HCPC registered physiotherapists, therapeutic radiographers, podiatrists and paramedics) or supplementary prescribers (HCPC registered dieticians and diagnostic radiographers).

Advanced Care of the Frail and Older Patient
To suitably prepare the Advanced Clinical Practitioner apprentice to recognise frail patients, assess, clinically reason and manage them appropriately and collaboratively across primary and secondary care. This is of critical importance to advanced clinical practice given the developing context of integrated health and social care working environments.

Advanced Treatment and Diagnostics of the Acutely Ill Patient
The aim of this unit is to equip the Advanced Clinical Practitioner apprentice with the necessary skills and knowledge to request and interpret diagnostic tests in order to effectively plan and manage complex and unpredictable episodes of care.

Advanced Practice Independent Study 1 & 2
These units provide the Advanced Clinical Practitioner apprentice with an opportunity to develop their advanced practice knowledge base in a chosen, relevant area of advanced clinical practice. This includes reference to the four pillars of advanced practice, essential to advanced clinical practice.

Advanced Musculoskeletal Practice
The content of this unit is essential for those Advanced Clinical Practitioner apprentices working in or entering a first contact role or primary care. This unit covers ordering and interpreting imaging, rheumatology and blood tests, red flags, pain pharmacology and advanced musculoskeletal reasoning.

Injection Therapy
This unit is essential for those Advanced Clinical Practitioner apprentices working in, or entering, a first contact role or primary care; to develop cognitive and psychomotor skills essential to the advancement of the clinician specialising in injection treatments for musculoskeletal lesions.

Evidence based approach to stroke management
This unit will help qualified Health Care professionals from a range of disciplines to gain an in-depth understanding of the causes, nature, assessment and identification of stroke, including: investigations, emergency treatment, common stroke mimics, scoring systems, stroke thrombolysis and intra-arterial and surgical interventions. The unit will also cover post stroke/longer term care including psychosocial, nutrition, mood, medication and physiological monitoring. The multi-professional management of patients during stroke rehabilitation will be addressed including the role of the wider multi-disciplinary team, psychological assessment and how the Mental Capacity Act affects stroke care. Participants attending this unit must be registered health care professionals working within stroke services.

Multi professional approach to Stroke rehabilitation
The unit critically reviews the rehabilitation pathway and multi-professional management of stroke patients across all sectors. There will be a focus on critically evaluating the evidence behind rehabilitative strategies in order to recognise the challenges faced by stroke survivors as they aim to achieve their full potential for recovery.
A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY AT THE RIGHT TIME

Natalie Critchley is in her second year of the Advanced Clinical Practitioner Masters Degree Apprenticeship. She is a Nurse Practitioner in the Accident and Emergency department of the Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS.

JOINING THE PROGRAMME
I’m currently a Nurse Practitioner in Accident and Emergency. I decided to do an Advanced Clinical Practitioner Masters Apprenticeship as I was looking for the next step in my career. My ambition is to eventually be a nurse consultant.

COMBINING WORK AND STUDY
The Masters Apprenticeship has been a fantastic opportunity at the right time. I’ve found combining studying and my full-time job a lot easier than I thought it would be.

My Skills Coach visits me at the hospital to make sure I’m on track and getting what I need from my employer. She also ensures that my employer is getting what they need from the Apprenticeship.

STRENGTHENING SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND CONFIDENCE
I think the Masters Apprenticeship has been the right decision for me. I’m doing the three year option, which I think is the best choice for me in my department. It gives me the chance to get to grips with the role and I know I’ll be a more confident practitioner, with the core skills I need, after I finish my Masters Apprenticeship.

ADVANCED CLINICAL PRACTITIONER APPLICATION INFORMATION

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Applicants must be registered with a statutory or regulatory body - HCPC, NMC or GPhC - and meet the essential criteria for Trainee Advanced Clinical Practitioner as specified by their employer.

It is a condition of apprenticeship funding, at all levels, that applicants are able to evidence GCSE English and Maths passes equivalent to Grade A*-C or commit to completing Functional Skills Level 2. This can be arranged if required and must be completed prior to end-point assessment.

HOW TO APPLY
Once an employer has confirmed that they will support their apprentice(s) on the programme, we will issue an application pack to interested applicants which includes the necessary forms and guidance.

The application form enables us to build up a picture of the candidate, their experience and the knowledge and skill areas they are looking to develop. We recommend that a CV is included, with a complete work history, as part of the application and that the personal statement is used to highlight management strengths and work achievements.

EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS
Please note that in order to meet the eligibility criteria for apprenticeship funding, candidates must:

+ Have a contract of employment that covers the full duration of the apprenticeship
+ Be working a minimum of 30 hours per week for their main employer
+ Be a citizen of a country within the European Economic Area (EEA), or have the right of abode in the UK and have been ordinarily resident in the EEA for at least the previous three years.
+ Have the agreement of their employer to abide by the requirements of allowing apprentices 20 per cent of their normal working hours to develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours of the apprenticeship standard.

WORK PLACE CONSIDERATIONS
Employers need to reflect on whether the workplace infrastructure is sufficient to fully support the apprentice in working as a trainee advanced clinical practitioner. Consideration also needs to be given as to whether the apprentice will be working in a new or emerging role within the workplace.

Apprentices will need to be supported in the workplace by a suitably qualified mentor who is able to assess clinical competency in practice and support the apprentice to develop as a competent advanced clinical practitioner.

OFF-THE-JOB TRAINING
Apprenticeship funding rules include a requirement that apprentices should spend at least 20% of their usual working time on developing relevant skills, knowledge and behaviours. In practice, this rule means that apprentices must undertake University tuition, online learning and assessments in combination with a range of other eligible activities undertaken in the workplace.

These can include, but are not limited to:

+ Developing evidence, undertaking reflective practice and gathering peer feedback towards the achievement of the skills and behaviours included in the Advanced Clinical Practitioner Degree Apprenticeship Standard.
+ Shadowing or mentoring of colleagues in their organisation or another organisation.
+ Formal or informal training relevant to the apprenticeship.
Get in touch

If you think the programme could work for your organisation, please get in touch. We will be happy to provide further information or guide you through the next steps. Just contact us using the details below.

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