

Department of Life Sciences

Postgraduate Clinical Pharmacy Courses

SL500136: Advanced Clinical Assessment
and SL500331: Foundations of Clinical Examination
Information for Applicants

Please note that the requirements and paperwork for these units may differ slightly from the instructions specified in the online application system guidance (which is generic for all University programmes). Where differences exist, please ensure that you follow the requirements noted in this document.

You need to complete the following forms for your application to be considered:

- The Online Application Form (only external applicants who are not currently on an AP3T course)
- This Essential Information Form (all applicants including current AP3T students)

Applications

The **Foundations of Clinical Examination and Advanced Clinical Assessment (ACA)** units are specifically designed for prescribing pharmacists taking the next step into advanced clinical roles.

The two units are co-requisite and run in parallel. This means you **must take both together**. Successful completion will lead to the award of a total of 45-CATS credits.

We accept students who are self-funding, employer-sponsored or funded through national funding bodies such as NHS England.

Entry Requirements

- Applicants must be registered with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) or Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (PSNI) as a pharmacist.
- Applicants must be annotated on the GPhC or PSNI register as an Independent Prescriber or be about to attain annotation following successful completion of an accredited Independent Prescribing unit.
- Applicants must be able to take a comprehensive medical history from a patient.
- Applicants must be working in a clinical setting where they will be able to both observe and carry out hands-on clinical examinations on a range of patients with suitable supervision throughout the duration of the unit.
- Applicants must have up to date Basic Life Support (BLS) training.
- Applicants must have up to date Safeguarding level 2 Adults and Children training.

If your first language is not English, and you have not graduated from an undergraduate degree programme from a UK or English-speaking University, then you will need to provide details of your performance in either the TOEFL or IELTS tests. If you do not have any of the above, it may be necessary to carry out a telephone interview to ascertain your level of English.

University regulations require that we see the original copy of your undergraduate degree certificate (this can be in lieu of your undergraduate degree transcript) – please upload a copy to your online application. We may require you to bring the original to a face-to-face workshop, but we will inform you of this nearer the time.

Admissions for Pharmacists working/planning to work in the NHS

If you are working in or plan to work in the NHS, we follow the NHS Values Based Recruitment Guidance. We strongly believe in the NHS values and will be looking for them in our applicants.

All applicants will be assessed on individual merit, as well as their understanding and practice of NHS values in pharmacy. This assessment may take a variety of forms, including an interview. We strongly encourage all applicants to read the NHS Constitution before attending the interview. Read the NHS Constitution at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-nhs-constitution-for-england>

Outcome of the Admissions Decision

All candidates will be notified of the decision of the University as soon as possible in advance of the start of the unit. Please note that all elements of the application must be submitted on time for you to be considered for a place on the programme. If the demand for places is greater than the number of places available, then the admissions panel will review applications following agreed selection criteria. Priority is given to those enrolled on a larger programme of study with us such as a Diploma or MSc.

Professional and Academic References

We require two references to support your application, ideally one would be work-based (for example a line manager) and the second would have an academic focus (for example a university tutor from previous postgraduate or undergraduate studies, or a professional who has knowledge of your academic abilities. If you are unsure who would be suitable, please contact us to discuss. Please note that CPPE has an organisational policy to refuse reference requests.

Your **professional/employer referee** must be someone who can provide a statement about your professional competencies as an Independent Prescriber along with an assessment of your ability to undertake the unit. It cannot be the same person as your academic referee.

It is your responsibility to check that your references have been completed and uploaded by your referee, you are able to check if a reference has been uploaded on your application tracker under 'View list of documents you have already uploaded'.

Completing the Online Application Form

Personal Details: You must provide a daytime contact number and email address you check regularly to help us to contact you quickly. Please do **not** give a shared mailbox address.

Funding Arrangements: Indicate how you intend to fund your study.

Your Education: Provide information of your formal education achievements and of any relevant training courses that you may have undertaken in recent years.

Professional Experience: Provide information about your current and previous relevant employment and details of your GPhC/PSNI Registration.

Your English Language Proficiency: If your first language is not English, and you have not graduated from an undergraduate degree programme from a UK or English-speaking University, then you will need to complete this section and provide details of your performance in either the TOEFL or IELTS tests. If you do not have any of the above, it may be necessary to carry out a telephone interview to ascertain your level of English.

Equality of Opportunity: We need to monitor our equal opportunities policy and ask that you complete this section of the form.

Why Bath? Indicate how you heard about this programme and what influenced you to study at Bath.

Disability Support: We welcome applications from people with disabilities and/or long-term health conditions, which can include but is not limited to specific learning difficulties (e.g. dyslexia), mobility or sensory impairments and mental health conditions, and consider their applications on the same academic basis as those from other applicants. If you have a disability/long term health condition, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Disability Advice Team on **01225 385538** or email disabilityadvice@bath.ac.uk

Criminal Convictions: We are required to collect this information

Declaration: You must complete this mandatory declaration.

Structure of the Programme

The two units are intensive, and students should expect to devote at least 10-14 hours a week to study and undertaking relevant workplace learning.

- Clinical topics

The units will allow you to develop your examination skills for the following body systems:

- respiratory system
- cardiovascular system
- abdominal system

You will also be introduced to examinations for the following systems:

- musculoskeletal system
- neurological system (new for autumn 2026)

You will be expected to reach an entry-level competence in all these clinical assessments, but you will **select one from: respiratory, cardiovascular or abdominal systems as a focus for your learning** throughout the two units. This will include a written assessment in which you will explore in detail the relevant anatomy, pathophysiology and available evidence for your selected system. This will also form the basis of your five assessed consultations later in the course.

We ask you to select from these three options as the examinations are transferrable to a wide range of clinical settings. Please **propose your clinical area of focus as part of your application** and relate this to your current clinical role and experience. If you have any questions about this, please don't hesitate to contact the ACA team - we are always happy to discuss.

Please note that this unit covers examination skills for adult patients only: the unit does **not** cover paediatric assessment.

- Practice-based learning

Learning in clinical practice is an essential component of these units. Students must be assured they will be able to secure sufficient clinical time for work-based skills development **before** accepting a place to study these units. Some students find that they need to secure additional clinical time outside their usual working hours to gain a sufficient range of experiences so we recommend you create a plan for the 9-months of the study pathway to ensure you will have sufficient learning in practice time.

As a rough guide, you are required to undertake approximately 45-50 hours of clinical activity either observing a suitably qualified professional* or being appropriately supervised yourself. These hours should include opportunities for de-brief, and your written accounts must show development in knowledge, reasoning and reflection skills. These hours can be roughly divided in the following way:

- Three structured observation tasks where you will observe and reflect on any three different clinical examinations which formed part of a wider consultations.

- Two structured observation tasks where you will observe and reflect on clinical examinations carried out within your selected area of focus (respiratory, cardiovascular or abdominal)
- Five structured consultation tasks when you will lead a consultation (under supervision) including carrying out clinical examinations within your selected area of focus (respiratory, cardiovascular or abdominal)
- A more general clinical activity log recording at least 25 hours of practice-based learning. This can include a whole range of clinical examinations and should be much broader than your selected area of focus. It should be roughly divided between learning from observation and learning from active application of your new examination skills.

*A 'suitably qualified professional' most commonly refers to a GP, Consultant or Registrar (and may be your designated clinical supervisor). However, the student (or supervisor) may nominate another healthcare professional, if that individual has a suitable level of skills and experience in both clinical examination and clinical reasoning.

- Unit Workshops

There are ten workshop days and one in-person assessment day for these units, and satisfactory attendance and engagement during these days is a compulsory element of the course so please ensure you can attend before making your application. They are predominantly in-person at the [University of Bath campus](#) but a few are delivered using live online learning.

Please refer to the [Advanced Clinical Assessment webpage](#) for information about workshop dates for each cohort. **Please ensure that you can commit to attend all workshop dates prior to application.** We cannot offer alternative learning to make up for missed workshops and sessions are not recorded.

Workshops involve a variety of elements including: lecture-based sessions, practical demonstrations, case-based discussions, supervised practice time with actors, and role-play.

- Assessment

The assessments are split across the two units and are designed to integrate your clinical and academic skills. Students will have opportunities for formative feedback from the teaching team across the units.

Foundations of Clinical Examination	Advanced Clinical Assessment
Learning Needs Analysis	Clinical Portfolio (observation tasks and clinical activity log, see above)
Foundations of Examination Task	Case Presentation
Managing Clinical Uncertainty Task	Five Consultation Reports
Exploration of Ethical Practice Task	Satisfactory workshop attendance and engagement and sign-off by your practice-based supervisor
	Four station Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)

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Essential Information Form

The updated Essential Information Form for 2026 applications will be available here very shortly.

We hope the information above will be useful to you while you prepare your application.

Please check here again later in May 2026 to download the updated form for inclusion with your online application.

You will need to include information about the following:

- You must disclose any current or pending formal investigations into your practice **or** any pending issues that may affect your ability to practice.
- Declaration of your suitability to study the units
- Declaration of support from your employer
- Declaration of suitable supervisor (who is not someone you have a personal relationship with)
- Declaration of sufficient indemnity cover
- Primary focus for examination skills (cardiovascular, respiratory, or abdominal):
- Description of your current clinical area and how you have developed clinical knowledge and expertise in this area to date.
- Environment for practice-based learning
- Proposed name and email for Clinical Supervisor
- Information on who is providing funding for your studies (including for those self-funding)