

## FOUNDATION DEGREE IN MEDICINES MANAGEMENT

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY AND  
CHEMISTRY

Liverpool John Moores University

## Rationale for Programme Development

- Training Needs Analysis by Greater Manchester Strategic Health Authority
- Analysis in response to “A Vision for Pharmacy in the New NHS” and the Medicines Management Framework
- Training needs related to medicines management issues, formulary management and re-engineering of services around patients

## Pathway to programme proposal

- Establishment of a Working Group comprised largely of pharmacy professionals and service managers and LJMU Academic Manager.
- The requirement was to provide suitably qualified Pharmacy Technicians with the skills and expertise to carry out their future roles in medicines management

## Pathway to programme proposal

- Current level of Pharmacy Technician qualifications is at NVQ level 3.
- A Foundation Degree will allow a progression from this current level
- Working Group established general knowledge and skills structure
- Formation of Programme Planning Team comprising Pharmacy professionals and LJMU academics

## Who is the programme for?

- Pharmacy Technicians in Secondary Care , Primary Care Trusts and possibly community pharmacy – although currently a slightly different agenda
- Currently qualified to NVQ level 3 or equivalent experience
- Those Technicians who wish to enhance the service provision and their own development

## Who is the programme for?

- Will help to provide an extended role for Pharmacy Technicians
- Possible recognition by the Professional Body as Advanced Practitioners
- Students must be in appropriate employment – hence programme is offered in part-time mode only

## Foundation Degrees

- New employment-related HE qualification
- Designed in conjunction with employers to meet skills shortages at the higher technician and associate professional levels
- HEFCE encourages development of Foundation Degrees
- HEFCE will fund bids for new Foundation Degrees
- Nationally recognised
- Designed to raise skill levels
- Help to meet local/regional or national needs

## Foundation Degrees

- Offer flexibility
- Do have standard features but can be determined by diverse sector & employer needs, institutional style, partnerships between HEIs and FECs and student requirements
- Can be delivered in workplace, via internet or distance learning
- Offer progression to further professional qualifications or honours degree courses
- Can earn & learn!!

## Programme Delivery

- Largely, although not exclusively, distance learning and work-based learning
- Distance learning – geography and maintenance of service provision
- Work-based learning – only by use of work-based learning can students achieve the necessary skills and expertise

## Programme Delivery

- Distance learning supported by a virtual learning environment - Blackboard
- Attendance at LJMU – approx 1 day per month
- Work-based learning – supported through Blackboard, workplace mentor, portfolio development, project
- Mixture of professional and science modules
- Work-based learning concentrated mainly in the professional modules

## Programme delivery

- Science modules provide scientific background to medicines and their usage
- Will utilise wherever possible work-related learning

## MODULES – Year 1

- Key Skills for Pharmacy Technicians 12cr
- Introduction to Medicines Management 24cr
- Patient Focussed Pharmacy Practice 1 24cr
- Biological Chemistry 24cr

## MODULES – Year 2

- Clinical Skills 1 36cr
- Patient Focussed Pharmacy Practice 2 24cr
- Pharmaceutics 24cr

## MODULES – Year 3

- Clinical Skills 2 24cr
- Pharmaceutical Sciences 24cr
- Medicines Management Research Project 24cr

## Assessment & Mentor Support

### Assessment

- Portfolio
- Assessment in workplace
- Case Studies
- Assignments
- Examinations

### Mentor Support

- Will validate evidence
- Pharmacist with regular clinical/ward experience
- Experience of ward based assessment & training & core elements of course
- Technicians who qualify through this route can become mentors for future students
- Maximum of 2 students at any one time

## Commitment & Costs

- Approximately 20 hours per week
- This will constitute a combination of distance and work-based learning, tutor/mentor sessions and student's own time
- Attendance at the Higher Education Institute will be minimal
- Costs - ??????????????
- Financial Support provided dependent upon employer

## Articulated Progression Route

- New programme – BSc Hons in Medicines Management
- Level 3 delivered largely as Learning at Work
- Research methods module (12c), Dissertation module (24c), remaining credits derived from Learning at Work
- Part-time mode only

## Articulated Progression Route - benefits

- School is happy to be involved in this innovative approach
- Employers are supportive of this approach – unlike any other
- Carries the employment-related ethos of the FD to a logical conclusion
- Student remains in employment
- Further encouragement towards life long learning