



## **Programme Specification**

### **Assistant Practitioner (Mental Health) [UCS]**

Version: 2023-24, v1.0, 27 Jun 2023

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## Section 1: Key Programme Details

### Part A: Programme Information

**Programme title:** Assistant Practitioner (Mental Health) [UCS]

**Highest award:** FdSc Assistant Practitioner (Mental Health)

**Interim award:** CertHE Assistant Practitioner (Mental Health)

**Awarding institution:** UWE Bristol

**Affiliated institutions:** University Centre Somerset

**Teaching institutions:** University Centre Somerset

**Study abroad:** Yes

**Year abroad:** No

**Sandwich year:** No

**Credit recognition:** No

**School responsible for the programme:** CHSS School of Health and Social Wellbeing, College of Health, Science & Society

**Contributing schools:** Not applicable

**Professional, statutory or regulatory bodies:** Not applicable

**Apprenticeship:** Not applicable

**Mode of delivery:** Full-time

**Entry requirements:** For the current entry requirements see the UWE public website

**For implementation from:** 01 September 2023

**Programme code:** B82M13

## Section 2: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

## **Part A: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes**

**Overview:** Supporting the mental health and emotional wellbeing of adults requires knowledgeable, skilled and compassionate practitioners. This programme aims to develop the skills and knowledge of individuals currently working within social care and mental health services. It is a vocational higher education qualification, which integrates both theory and work-based learning, in order to increase individual's knowledge and skills in the delivery of person-centered care.

This two-year programme is a route for individuals to develop their current practice in social care and mental health settings. On successful completion of the programme you may be eligible to apply for advanced entry to a BSc(Hons) health and social care programme (for example BSc(Hons) Nursing), or top up to a BSc (Hons) non-professionally regulated programme, for example the UWE BSc (Hons) Health and Social Care.

Students are required to be in suitable employment and undertake mandatory work placement throughout the programme. The suitability of work placement settings must be agreed by the designated College or University Centre.

The Programme will enable individuals to have the evidence base to support their practice and allow them to work in an effective and informed way, with adults who require support with mental health and wellbeing. The ability to deliver evidence based care, to challenge opinions, to evaluate their own work and to cope with the demands of the dynamic nature of nursing is fundamental to this preparation. The programme also fulfils a need identified within professional networks organised through Health Education England (South West) to provide clear and appropriate career pathways particularly within the field of mental health and a qualification that will also support the creation of Band 4 assistant practitioners.

**Educational Aims:** The broad aims of this programme are as follows:

Contribute to local employer aims for improved performance, recruitment and

retention strategies through negotiation of mutually beneficial work based learning opportunities.

To produce practitioners who understand, adhere to and promote professional codes of conduct and standards of practice.

Develop students' ability to become autonomous learners and to reflect upon personal skill development, thus encouraging life-long learning.

Enable progression to further study, including top up to honours degree programmes.

Widen access to Higher Education in this field.

#### Specific Aims:

To provide students with high quality teaching and learning experiences that are relevant to careers in the mental health and social care sectors.

Develop subject specific knowledge and understanding appropriate to the delivery of high quality care and service improvement.

To develop the capacity for critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis, through the application of knowledge to a wide range of contexts relating to study within the broad field of mental health and social care.

Develop appropriate research and communication skills to underpin safe and high quality practice that meets professional codes of practice.

Prepare students to use skills developed in an employment context, enabling them to work independently and collaboratively within their designated remit.

**Programme Learning Outcomes:**

On successful completion of this programme graduates will achieve the following learning outcomes.

**Programme Learning Outcomes**

- PO1. Demonstrate skills in evaluation; audit; critical appraisal; and research, in order to evaluate professional skills and intervention, enhancing clinical effectiveness; and reflective and evidence based practice.
- PO2. Use professional reasoning and problem-solving skills to underpin safe, effective and ethical interventions; promoting equality and respecting the rights, beliefs and identity of individuals and communities
- PO3. Demonstrate understanding of leadership roles and the ability to apply leadership skills in the political and policy context of practice
- PO4. Demonstrate the knowledge, understanding, and application of the fundamental holistic, personalisation, and scientific principles, approaches, theories, perspectives and factors that underpin and apply to mental health practice
- PO5. Recognise the nature and range of provision within mental health and social care services and how interdisciplinary approaches to care impact on the individual, their families and carers
- PO6. Demonstrate the communication and collaborative working skills necessary to develop effective and collaborative relationships, and work effectively with service users, carers, families, members of the interprofessional team and other agencies
- PO7. Undertake collaborative assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of care for people experiencing mental health difficulties, recognising the protective factors which support wellbeing
- PO8. Work at an appropriate technical and occupational level, using relevant and appropriate assessment, diagnostic and risk management skills, and evidence-based interventions, in order to meet the fundamental needs of care and support and promote the health and wellbeing of people with mental health needs
- PO9. Demonstrate the ability to recognise and respond appropriately and effectively in changing situations of care, including safeguarding concerns, and act independently where appropriate at a competent level
- PO10. Understand and effectively apply principles of quality assurance and/or clinical governance to practice

- PO1 Use skills in management of self; workload; health; and continuing personal  
1. and professional development effectively

## Part B: Programme Structure

### Year 1

The student must take 120 credits from the modules in Year 1.

### Year 1 Compulsory Modules

The student must take 120 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules

| Module Code | Module Title                                 | Credit |
|-------------|--|--------|
| UZYILT-30-1 | Anatomy and Physiology 2023-24               | 30     |
| UZYIM9-30-1 | Clinical Practice in Mental Health 1 2023-24 | 30     |
| UZYILV-15-1 | Communication for Practice 2023-24           | 15     |
| UZYILW-30-1 | Psychology and Sociology of Health 2023-24   | 30     |
| UZYIMC-15-1 | Risk Management for Mental Health 2023-24    | 15     |

### Year 2

The student must take 120 credits from the modules in Year 2

### Year 2 Compulsory Modules

The student must take 120 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules

| Module Code | Module Title                                    | Credit |
|-------------|---|--------|
| UZYIMA-20-2 | Clinical Practice in Mental Health 2 2024-25    | 20     |
| UZYIM3-15-2 | Methods of Enquiry 2024-25                      | 15     |
| UZYIM4-40-2 | Occupational Case Study 2024-25                 | 40     |
| UZYIM5-15-2 | Principles of Leadership and Management 2024-25 | 15     |

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|             |  |    |
|-------------|--|----|
| UZYymb-15-2 | Professional Assessment for Mental Health<br>2024-25 | 15 |
| UZYym6-15-2 | Professional Development 2024-25                     | 15 |

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### **Part C: Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Synopsis**

This programme is centered on the development of individuals who can respond professionally and skillfully to work challenges in mental health and social care, who are able to communicate effectively with clients and colleagues in the wider multi-disciplinary teams, and have the confidence to work autonomously within their skill set and sphere of responsibility. The programme covers the core knowledge and skills required in mental health and social care, including interpersonal communication skills, the application of appropriate health models to practice, psychology, sociology, anatomy, physiology, health and disease, pharmacology, mental health literacy, the influence and impact of social relationships, crisis care, research and assessment of skills competency in practice. Students will emerge with comprehensive understanding of factors that influence both the cause of poor mental health or social circumstance and the resulting care that may be offered.

### **Part D: External Reference Points and Benchmarks**

QAA UK Quality Code for Higher Education:

Foundation Degree Characteristics statement (2015)

The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies

(<https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/qualifications-frameworks.pdf>)

Institute for Apprenticeships & Technical Education:

Apprenticeship Standards

(<https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/healthcare-assistant-practitioner/>)

Skills for Health:

Career frameworks and qualification pathways

(<https://www.skillsforhealth.org.uk/careerframework/?sec=qp>)

Mental Health Core Skills Education and Training Framework: Framework Subjects  
2016

Mental Health Core Skills Education and Training Framework: Tier 3 learning  
outcomes

BSc ( Hons) Nursing ( Mental Health)

UWE Strategy 2030

UWE University policies

**Part E: Regulations**

Approved to University Regulations and Procedures.