University of Suffolk

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	**PgC Academic Practice**
Awarding Bodies	**University of Suffolk**
Level of Award[1]	**FHEQ Level 7**
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	**Accredited by AdvanceHE (against D1 and D2 of the UK PSF2023)**
Credit Structure[2]	**60 Credits at Level 7**
Mode of Attendance	**Part-time**
Standard Length of Course[3]	**1 year part-time**
Intended Award	**PgC Academic Practice**
Named Exit Awards	**None**
Entry Requirements[4]	**Students must normally be employed as academic staff or as professionals supporting HE students' learning at the University of Suffolk and/or its Partners** **Students need to be leading, teaching or supporting a module or modules for at least 10 hours in the academic year in which study begins, working at or above FHEQ Level 4 or equivalent.**
Delivering Institution	**University of Suffolk**

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the PgC Academic Practice course. The information provided is accurate for students entering Level 7 in the 2025-26 academic year[5].

Course Summary

The Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice guides students in applying contemporary theory and research methods in academic practice, with opportunities to reflect upon, evaluate, innovate and enhance practice in teaching, research and knowledge exchange.

The programme will support students in applying research scholarship and evidence-based practices in learning, teaching and curricular design as well as the supervision and communication of research. While providing a robust foundation in academic practice, the programme will enable students to personalise their learning through critical evaluation of own practices, practice-based action research, ultimately enhancing professional effectiveness. On

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[1] For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2024)

[2] All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the Higher education credit framework for England.

[3] Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards.

[4] Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the Admissions Policy and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the University's DBS webpage.

[5] The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the Admissions Policy.

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completion of the first module students will be eligible for Associate Fellowship of Advance HE (D1). On completion of the full programme, students will be eligible for Fellowship recognition by Advance HE (D2).

Course Aims

In providing this course, the University and the course team aim to provide a supportive and challenging framework within which you can acquire, develop and critically reflect upon the knowledge, understanding, practice, skills and values of an engaged Higher Education academic professional practitioner (Professional Standards Framework (**PSF2023**). The PGCAP course aims are fully aligned to the University of Suffolk Values and UK Professional Standards Framework 2023[6] (**PSF2023**) descriptors 1 and 2 are to:

1. Equip educators to develop learner-centred, inclusive, and creative educational environments that promote inclusivity and innovation and support diverse student needs **(V1, V2; A1, A4; K2, K3, K5).**

2. Empower educators with the professional skills and transformative teaching methods to foster student success and positive educational change **(V1, V3, V5, A1, A2, A3; K1, K2, K4, K5).**

3. Advance professional development for staff, fostering a collaborative culture of lifelong learning and sustainable educational practices **(V3, V4; V5, A5; K4; K5).**

4. Develop a community of educators and researchers who collaboratively engage with and contribute to wider academic and civic communities **(V1, V4; A4, A5; K3, K4, K5).**

5. Develop a culture that rewards inclusive and innovative academic practices, values creativity, promotes diversity of thought, and upholds the highest standards of evidence-based practice **(V2, V3, V4, V5, A2, A5; K4, K5).**

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the PgC Academic Practice course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for Level 7 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)[7].

1. Effectively design and implement purpose-driven learning experiences that integrate evidence-based pedagogical strategies to promote student engagement and retention demonstrating a commitment to student-centred learning **(A1, A3, A4, K1, K2, V1, V4).**

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[6] Advance HE PSF2023 https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/teaching-and-learning/psf
[7] As set out in the QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014)

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2. Strategically embed research-informed and real-world learning methodologies into teaching practices, demonstrating that curricula remain contemporary, resilient, and rigorously aligned with advancements in respective disciplines **(A5, K5, V3).**

3. Skilfully apply and adapt diverse, innovative pedagogical foster critical thinking and problem-solving capabilities within diverse and complex learning communities, fostering inclusive environments where all students can engage with complex, real-world challenges **(A2, K2, V1).**

4. Develop and implement robust and resilient assessment strategies that include complex and real-world challenges to deliver insightful, as well as actionable feedback, facilitating sustained and scaffolded enhancement of student learning outcomes **(A3, K3, K5, V5).**

5. Foster dynamic, collaborative learning environments that promote effective knowledge exchange and professional growth, while advancing inclusivity and equal opportunities for all learners **(V4, V5, A4, A5, K4, V2, A5).**

The PGCAP course has also identified four important values for a professional approach to academic practice that it would seek to promote participants, through all aspects of the course i.e. in its design, content, delivery and support mechanisms. These fully align to the Professional Values of the **PSF2023** and the University of Suffolk Values:

1. Ongoing professional growth and reflective practice that place students at the heart of the learning journey, fostering respect, empowerment, and equitable opportunities for all learners. (V1)

2. Promote equal opportunities through inclusive practices, ensuring that every student, colleague, and community member can fully participate and thrive being adaptive, critically informed, and creative. (V2)

3. Embrace a culture of innovation and evidence-based practice, integrating cutting-edge research and professional insights to inspire transformative learning experiences. (V3)

4. Foster a community of practice that enhance mutual learning and collaboration, empowering learners, educators, and colleagues to grow through shared knowledge and experience. (V4)

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks / Professional Standards / **PSF2023** Competency Frameworks:

- Professional Standards Framework (**PSF2023**) for teaching and supporting learning in Higher Education (HEA, 2023).
- QAA Characteristics Statement for Master's Degree (February 2020)

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Course Structure

The PgC Academic Practice comprises modules at Level 7.

Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

Module	Credits	Module Type[8]
Curriculum Design in Higher Education [CDHE] (D1, **PSF2023**)	30	M
Evidence and Innovation in Higher Education [EIHE] (D2, **PSF2023**)	30	M

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a PgC Academic Practice.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich Campus. Students studying part-time on PgC Academic Practice are likely to have approximately 30 hours tutor structured learning per module plus 80 hours of work-based activities. The tutor structured learning hours will be a mix of blended seminars and workshop activities. Students will normally be expected to undertake up to 190 hours of independent study per 30 credit module.

Course Assessment

The assessments in this course aim to provide participants with opportunities to critically, reflectively and creatively engage with evidence, professional practice, research and data. The chosen assessment methods are aligned with each module's learning outcomes, to scaffold evidence-based academic.

Assessments will consist of coursework, including reflective portfolios, critical reflections, and reports, supporting the development of a sustainable and resilient curriculum as well as use evidence and data to inform their work, and engage in strategies that promote participation and retention to foster a deeper understanding of the learning process and enhances participants' ability to critically reflect on their practice.

Special Features

On successful completion of the PgC Academic Practice students are eligible for fellowship of AdvanceHE.

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[8] Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards

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Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge.

Course Costs

Students undertaking the PgC Academic Practice will not be charged tuition fees directly. Tuition fees will be agreed between the University and their employer.

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).