

University of Central Lancashire



University of Central Lancashire (UCLan)			
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First cohort start date:	Sept 2024	Cohort size:	10
Number of cohorts per year:	1	Length of course:	30 months
Scope of delivery:		Regional	
Delivery methods:		Blended learning (Preston Campus predominantly)	
Number of academic hours covered by self-directed study:		tbc	
Proportion of practice hours and academic hours required:		tbc	
Is a direct entry PA programme already offered?		Yes – undergraduate and postgraduate	
If so, will Apprenticeship cohorts share tuition with direct entry PA cohorts?		Not confirmed but likely	
If all employer partners committed to rotation of placements, would the university coordinate placements for the cohort?		Unlikely	
Application process			
<p>The programme will be marketed from mid-September 2023. Prospective apprentices will be offered 'meet a tutor/employer' opportunities to have informal discussions. Learners could apply either through the University's online application portal or to the employer (individual or create a 'lead employer' scenario) between September and December. Applications would be considered jointly between the PA Admissions Team and employer (mid-January to February 2024) before shortlisting candidates for invitation to interview.</p> <p>Interviews will be conducted over Teams or face-to-face and are planned for March, with offers sent out in April. Successful candidates will be invited to an Offer Holder info-giving event at UCLan in August. Thereafter prospective learners will receive regular communications from the employer and University's central Admissions Team and from the PA Team (co-ordinated) to ensure they are well prepared for enrolment. It is unlikely there will be flexible start dates to the</p>			

apprenticeship programme because of the need to front load knowledge to ensure all learners are sufficiently safe to enter on-the job training / placements.

Entry requirements

Entry requirements have been set by the PA Apprenticeship Standard and align with current direct entry admissions criteria:

- Typically, entry requirements are a bioscience-related first degree or a Nursing and Midwifery Council Registered Nurse or Midwife, or a Health and Care Professions Council Registered Allied Healthcare Professional
- Applicants with substantial relevant experience will be considered
- Non-standard qualifications will be considered on a case-by-case basis
- A postgraduate qualification in merit or distinction may be considered if the applicant's first degree is lower than a second class award.
- Applicants must have GCSE passes in English and Maths at Grade 4 or above, or equivalent
- Following a successful application there follows an interview process prior to selection
- If English is not the first language: English language IELTS 7.0 (or equivalent) will be required in each of the testing areas (listening, reading, writing and speaking)

Supporting Information:

- All applications must be accompanied by a reference
- All applicants must provide a satisfactory enhanced DBS check or international equivalent
- All successful applicants will need to undergo occupational health screening (including tuberculosis, hepatitis B and C and HIV) prior to enrolment
- In relation to flexibility, as this is a level 7 entry programme there would be an expectation of minimum level Maths and English. If further support is needed, we have numeracy skills as part of our prescribing content and a specialised WISER team for academic writing support

APEL process and support

Recognition of accredited learning and accreditation of prior experiential learning is covered in E4 of our Academic Regulations <https://www.uclan.ac.uk/assets/student-contracts/2022-23/academic-regulations-2223.pdf> and 5.9 of our Admissions Policy.

UCLan staff will work with employers through recruitment and selection and at the point of admissions, to perform a detailed needs analysis of the apprentice and create an individual learner plan for them. This should include any additional skills support needed (including Maths and English) or additional qualifications that they may need to meet the requirements of the particular standard. This should also include an initial assessment of knowledge, skills and behaviours and an application of any relevant APL/APEL which should be agreed and documented as per standard university processes.

The initial assessment, including skills scan, individual baseline competency assessments and AP(E)L should be recorded on the commitment statement along with any additional required support for English and Maths. When assessing whether AP(E)L is applicable UCLan staff also need to be aware that only new learning can be funded and when considering what constitutes this to recognise the impact that higher level critical thinking can have on the advancement of skills and behaviours even if the apprentice has significant experience.