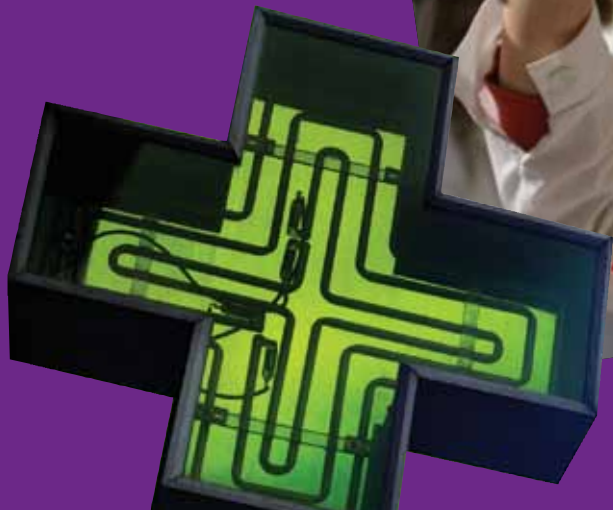




ROYAL  
PHARMACEUTICAL  
SOCIETY



INTERESTED IN  
**PHARMACY?**



IF YOU'RE WONDERING WHICH EXAMS TO TAKE AND ARE THINKING OF GOING TO UNIVERSITY YOU'LL FIND THIS LEAFLET VERY USEFUL INDEED.

[rpharms.com/careers](http://rpharms.com/careers)

# CARING, PROFESSIONAL EXPERTS IN MEDICINE

PHARMACISTS ARE THE COUNTRY'S MAIN EXPERTS IN MEDICINES AND PHARMACY IS ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING AREAS OF HEALTHCARE.

In the next 50 years we will see some amazing developments in science that will lead to the introduction of new medicines for all kinds of illnesses and diseases. Pharmacists will be involved with these new medicines every step of the way, from their development in the lab to their distribution in the community and in hospitals.

## WHERE CAN PHARMACY TAKE ME?

The answer to this is anywhere! Pharmacists' skills are in demand worldwide. Pharmacists are expert health professionals and after five years of study and training you'll find many doors open to you and a career that offers security, flexibility, variety, opportunity, satisfaction and excellent rewards.

## WHAT'S THE PAY LIKE?

Although we cannot advise on exact salary figures, a quick survey shows that as a qualified pharmacist you could probably expect a starting salary equivalent to around £20,000 to £30,000 (in today's money) depending on the area of pharmacy you choose to work in. After 10 years you could expect to be earning the equivalent of anywhere between £35,000 and £60,000 (in today's money). Pharmacy technicians could expect a starting salary equivalent to around £13,000 - £15,000 rising to £25,000 - £30,000 after 10 years (again, in today's money).

## WHERE COULD I WORK?

Pharmacists work in all kinds of places and work very closely with doctors and nurses, often in local health centres or local pharmacies. They also work in local and National Health Service (NHS) management, in NHS and private hospitals, in the pharmaceutical industry and within universities and colleges. Pharmacists also work in specialist areas such as veterinary pharmacy and in the armed forces. Others go on to careers in Government departments and specialist agencies. In short, the opportunities are endless!



# QUALIFICATIONS

## WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO BECOME A PHARMACIST?

### TO QUALIFY AS A PHARMACIST

You must take an accredited four-year Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) degree course followed by the successful completion of a year of preregistration training within a pharmacy workplace (for which you get paid). As an MPharm student you will have placements in a variety of different fields throughout your degree which will help you build your skills in different areas of pharmacy and may help you decide where you prefer to work when you graduate.

Finally you must pass the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) registration exam after which you will be able to register and practise as a pharmacist. In Northern Ireland you must be registered

with the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (PSNI). Pharmacists who are registered with either PSNI or GPhC are eligible for registration with the other organisation.

All UK schools of pharmacy are listed in this booklet and more details are at [www.rpharms.com/careers](http://www.rpharms.com/careers). All UK MPharm degrees are accredited by the GPhC. Please remember it is vital that you check the precise entry requirements of your chosen school of pharmacy.

### England, Wales & Northern Ireland

Although most courses are geared to those with A-levels in chemistry and two of biology/mathematics/physics, students may also be considered with chemistry

and one of biology/mathematics/physics (and one other subject).

You need basic literacy and numeracy skills (eg: GCSE in English language and mathematics).

**Scotland** In Scotland, students require Highers in chemistry and English plus two of either mathematics, physics or biology.

**Other qualifications** Approximately one third of students admitted to schools of pharmacy have other qualifications. These include the Irish School Leaving Certificate, National or Higher National Certificates or Diplomas, International Baccalaureate or Access qualifications.

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**AMISH PATEL**  
**MANAGING DIRECTOR OF**  
**HODGSON PHARMACY**

After university, I went into the family business and became a pharmacy manager and contractor. I like interacting with patients on a day-to-day basis and enjoy the challenges of running a community pharmacy. Everyday there is always something new to learn and the ongoing challenge is to offer new health services for patients, as well as continually growing and developing the business.

I also represent pharmacy contractors for our county in my Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC). This has given me the opportunity to help develop the new electronic prescriptions service as well as its relevant regulations and policies.



**COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS WORK AT THE FRONTLINE OF HEALTHCARE IN CITIES, TOWNS AND VILLAGES ACROSS GREAT BRITAIN. THEY WORK FROM THEIR OWN PHARMACIES OR OUT OF LOCAL HEALTHCARE CENTRES AND DOCTOR'S SURGERIES.**

As a community pharmacist your job would be all about helping the public, assessing their conditions and making decisions about which medicines they should take. You'll be involved in dispensing medicines and offering your patients advice and practical help on keeping healthy. It is a very responsible job and community pharmacists tend to be highly respected members of their communities.

Community pharmacists are also taking on more of the clinical roles that have traditionally been undertaken by doctors,

such as the management of asthma and diabetes as well as blood pressure testing. They also help people give up smoking, alter their diets to make them healthier and advise on sexual health matters.

Some community pharmacists own their own businesses and enjoy the challenges of financial management and responsibility for staff, stock and premises that this brings. Others work for large high street pharmacy chains and have the opportunity to move around within an established company structure.



# COMMUNITY PHARMACY

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# HOSPITAL PHARMACY

**HOSPITAL PHARMACISTS ARE A VITAL PART OF THE HEALTHCARE TEAM. WORKING IN EITHER THE NHS OR PRIVATE HOSPITALS, BEING A HOSPITAL PHARMACIST MEANS YOU'RE PART OF A TEAM WHERE THE FOCUS IS FIRMLY ON PATIENTS.**

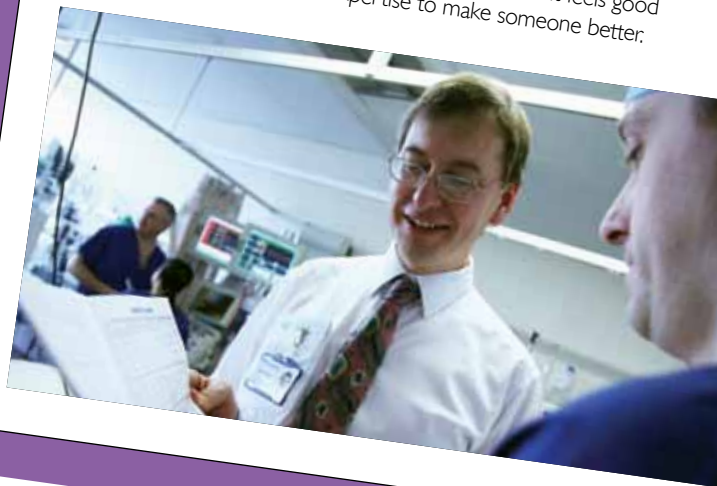
There are many areas in a hospital pharmacy you can get involved in which include buying, making, testing, supplying and monitoring the effectiveness of all of the medicines used in the hospital. You always provide information on medicines, such as side effects, to make sure that the medicine is right for each person.

There is a lot of variety in terms of what you can do and you will always be working within a team of pharmacy staff which include pharmacists and pharmacy technicians.

## **MARK TOMLIN CONSULTANT PHARMACIST, CRITICAL CARE**

As a consultant pharmacist working in critical care, my role is all about making sure that medicines are safe, suitable and at a reasonable cost. It is a very important job and I have a huge amount of responsibility for people's lives.

Patients in critical care can have many problems that can change quickly and require my medicines knowledge for each specific problem for each and every patient. Sometimes it can be very stressful but, at the end of the day, I work as part of a team with doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals so it feels good when you use your skills and expertise to make someone better.



You may then specialise later in your career in conditions such as diabetes, cancer and the heart. You can alternatively go into management or teaching roles within the pharmacy or the wider healthcare team (e.g. doctors, nurses).

**SONIA PATEL**  
**SENIOR ASSOCIATE SCIENTIST**

"Fulfilling, fascinating and fun are a few words I would use to describe working as an industrial pharmacist in Research & Development (R&D) at an international pharmaceutical company. I am motivated by inventing new medicines that improve and save people's lives and I feel like I am doing something positive and rewarding on a daily basis. I get to work at the forefront of cutting edge science, alongside world class researchers. Each day is different and involves a combination of laboratory work and attending technical meetings. This diversity – in addition to the many opportunities to grow and develop, move departments, travel overseas and take advantage of some excellent company benefits – makes working in industry an extremely attractive career option. I am thrilled to be part of this industry and I look forward with excitement to the rest of my career!"



# INDUSTRIAL PHARMACY

**INDUSTRIAL PHARMACISTS  
DO MANY THINGS BUT THEY  
ARE MAINLY INVOLVED IN THE  
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT  
OF NEW MEDICINES, ENSURING  
THEIR SAFETY AND QUALITY.**

Imagine how rewarding it would be to be part of a team responsible for creating and marketing a drug that helps millions of people all over the world? Industrial pharmacy can be an extremely rewarding career path leading to managerial positions within pharmaceutical companies.

Working in this exciting area of pharmacy means you will be using the latest technologies, processes and methods to develop new medicines for patients. Although many pharmacists start off their careers in industry in a laboratory based role, the areas that pharmacists work in

include many non lab roles. These are as Information Pharmacists, Regulatory Affairs, Marketing and Business Development.

A role which involves many different skills is that of a Qualified Person (QP). Here you are responsible for releasing product for supply to the market and confirming that it has been made and tested to the required quality standards in line with the registered methods and processes. Roles in Quality Assurance can involve overseas travel to either other locations in your own company or to the sites of suppliers.

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# PRIMARY CARE PHARMACY

PRIMARY CARE PHARMACISTS PLAY A SIGNIFICANT PART IN MANAGING MEDICINES. THEY HAVE A STRATEGIC ROLE, TO FOCUS ON MAXIMISING BENEFIT AND MINIMISING RISK OF MEDICINES, AS WELL AS MAKING THE BEST USE OF RESOURCES ALLOCATED FOR MEDICINES.

In some places practice pharmacists or primary care pharmacists also run medication review clinics and have lots of patient contact, as well as close working relationships with GPs, practice nurses and other healthcare professionals.

In recent years there has been a big shift in focus within the NHS towards primary care — preventing people from becoming ill and encouraging healthier lifestyles so as to keep them out of hospital. Prevention is better than cure and pharmacists are ideally placed to play their part.

## ALPANA MAIR PRIMARY CARE PHARMACIST, NHS LOTHIAN

As a prescribing advisor, my role is to analyse the work of prescribers, including GPs, nurses, pharmacists and Allied Healthcare professionals. I work with prescribers to use evidence based and cost effective prescribing when treating their patients.

I run clinics for patients with respiratory conditions such as asthma and cardiovascular conditions such as angina, stroke or heart failure and patients with diabetes. I will manage the long-term treatment of these patients and can write my own prescriptions, initiating and changing drug treatments as agreed with the GP mentor. It's quite satisfying when you can change or initiate medication which completely changes the quality of a patient's life. Additionally, I now work in a multi-disciplinary team supporting drug misusers to stabilise their treatment, reduce and stop their prescriptions.

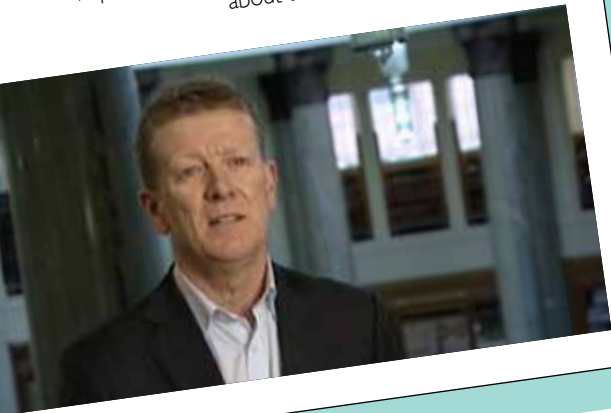


In a primary care trust (or local health board in Wales and Scotland) primary care pharmacists can play a significant role for all issues related to prescribing and medicines management. They may work together with GPs to develop services that can be delivered by community pharmacists and play an active role in the clinical design of local services and patient pathways.

**DR THEO RAYNOR**  
**PROFESSOR OF PHARMACY PRACTICE**  
**UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS**

People don't often think about the academic pharmacy work that goes on behind the scenes, helping to produce and better manage the medicines that pharmacists use everyday. We are always developing new ways of working with medicines to help patients so that the medicines are safe and effective.

One of the most important pieces of research that we've done has been looking at how best to express how likely a side effect is to occur. Nothing is more important than having good information for patients about the medicines they are taking.



## ACADEMIC PHARMACY

**WHETHER IT'S TEACHING,  
RESEARCHING, PRACTISING OR  
A MIX OF ALL THREE, ACADEMIC  
PHARMACISTS ENJOY EXCITING  
CAREERS IN UNIVERSITIES,  
RESEARCH INSTITUTES AND  
OTHER ORGANISATIONS AND  
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.**

Teacher practitioners spend on average around 60% of their time working in hospital, community or industrial pharmacy and the other 40% of the time as a pharmacy teacher or lecturer.

Alternatively, you might like the idea of working in research, from drug design through to the provision of pharmacy services. As a research pharmacist, you will enjoy a rewarding and satisfying career, knowing your work is helping improve lives.

Put simply, academic pharmacists are involved in a variety of exciting roles, often working on their own initiative and with a great deal of control over their own day-to-day lives.

[rpharms.com/careers](http://rpharms.com/careers)



# UK SCHOOLS OF PHARMACY

VISIT THESE WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE COURSES AND UNIVERSITIES WHERE YOU CAN STUDY PHARMACY:

## ABERDEEN

The Robert Gordon University Aberdeen,  
School of Pharmacy.  
[www.rgu.ac.uk/pharmacy](http://www.rgu.ac.uk/pharmacy)

## ASTON (BIRMINGHAM)

Department of Pharmaceutical and Biological  
Sciences, University of Aston, Birmingham.  
[www.aston.ac.uk/pharmacy](http://www.aston.ac.uk/pharmacy)

## BATH

Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology,  
University of Bath.  
[www.bath.ac.uk/pharmacy](http://www.bath.ac.uk/pharmacy)

## BELFAST

Queen's University, Belfast.  
[www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SchoolofPharmacy](http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SchoolofPharmacy)

## BRADFORD

School of Pharmacy, University of Bradford.  
<http://www.brad.ac.uk/pharmacy/>

## BRIGHTON

School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular  
Sciences, University of Brighton.  
[www.brighton.ac.uk/pharmacy](http://www.brighton.ac.uk/pharmacy)

## CARDIFF

Welsh School of Pharmacy, Cardiff University.  
[www.cf.ac.uk/phrmy](http://www.cf.ac.uk/phrmy)

## GLASGOW

University of Strathclyde, School of Pharmacy.  
[www.strath.ac.uk/sipbs](http://www.strath.ac.uk/sipbs)

## HERTFORDSHIRE (HATFIELD)

School of Pharmacy,  
University of Hertfordshire.  
[www.herts.ac.uk/courses/pharmacy.cfm](http://www.herts.ac.uk/courses/pharmacy.cfm)

## HUDDERSFIELD

School of Applied Sciences,  
University of Huddersfield  
[www2.hud.ac.uk/sas/pharmacy](http://www2.hud.ac.uk/sas/pharmacy)

## KEELE (STAFFORDSHIRE)

Keele School of Pharmacy,  
Keele University.  
[www.keele.ac.uk/schools/pharm](http://www.keele.ac.uk/schools/pharm)

## KINGSTON

Department of Pharmacy,  
University of Kingston, London.  
[www.kingston.ac.uk/pharmacy](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/pharmacy)

## LANCASHIRE

School of Pharmacy,  
University of Central Lancashire.  
<http://www.uclan.ac.uk/pharmacy>

## LEICESTER

Leicester School of Pharmacy,  
De Montfort University, Leicester.  
[www.dmu.ac.uk/pharmacy](http://www.dmu.ac.uk/pharmacy)

## LIVERPOOL

School of Pharmacy and Chemistry,  
Liverpool John Moores University.  
[www.ljmu.ac.uk/PBS/index.htm](http://www.ljmu.ac.uk/PBS/index.htm)

## LONDON (KING'S COLLEGE)

Department of Pharmacy,  
King's College London.  
[www.kcl.ac.uk/pharmacy](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/pharmacy)

## LONDON (UNIVERSITY OF LONDON)

The School of Pharmacy,  
University of London.  
[www.pharmacy.ac.uk](http://www.pharmacy.ac.uk)

## MANCHESTER

School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical  
Sciences, University of Manchester.  
[www.pharmacy.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.pharmacy.manchester.ac.uk)

## MEDWAY

Medway School of Pharmacy, University of  
Kent and Greenwich.  
[www.gre.ac.uk/schools/pharmacy](http://www.gre.ac.uk/schools/pharmacy)

## NORWICH

School of Chemical Sciences and Pharmacy,  
University of East Anglia (UEA), Norwich.  
<http://www.uea.ac.uk/pha>

## NOTTINGHAM

School of Pharmacy, University of  
Nottingham.  
[www.nottingham.ac.uk/pharmacy](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/pharmacy)

## PORTSMOUTH

School of Pharmacy and Biomedical  
Sciences, University of Portsmouth.  
[www.port.ac.uk/pharmacy](http://www.port.ac.uk/pharmacy)

## READING

School of Pharmacy, Reading University.  
[www.pharmacy.rdg.ac.uk](http://www.pharmacy.rdg.ac.uk)

## SUNDERLAND

Sunderland Pharmacy School, University of  
Sunderland.  
[www.sunderland.ac.uk/pharmacy](http://www.sunderland.ac.uk/pharmacy)

## WOLVERHAMPTON

School of Applied Sciences, University of  
Wolverhampton.  
[www.wlv.ac.uk/pharmacy](http://www.wlv.ac.uk/pharmacy)



## WHAT NEXT?

### HERE IS A CHECKLIST OF THINGS TO DO TO HELP YOU BECOME A PHARMACIST

**1. Choose the right subjects.** Although you should check precise entry requirements you will normally need to have studied sciences (especially chemistry and biology) and mathematics.

**2. Speak to the careers advisor or careers teacher at your school or college.** They will be able to discuss your interest in pharmacy and will be able to tell you more about the application process.

**3. Look at the websites of the schools of pharmacy** (listed in this leaflet) as they will give

you a flavour of what entry requirements you will need to join a Master of Pharmacy course and what it's like to study at each of the different universities.

**4. Work experience.** Contact your local pharmacy, primary care organisation or hospital pharmacy to see if they will let you experience pharmacy in action. This could take the form of work shadowing, for example.

**5. Get more advice.** You could also try writing to the pharmaceutical companies for help and advice - get a list from the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry ([www.abpi.org.uk](http://www.abpi.org.uk)).

**6. See what student life is like.** Take a look at the website of the British Pharmaceutical Students' Association ([www.bpsa.com](http://www.bpsa.com)) as well as some of the university websites. Will student life suit you?

**7. Visit the NHS Careers website** ([www.nhscareers.nhs.uk](http://www.nhscareers.nhs.uk)) contains many useful fact sheets about what it's like to be a pharmacist. You can also call them on 0845 60 60 655 for pharmacy careers advice. In Scotland, the NHS Scotland careers website ([www.jobs.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.jobs.scot.nhs.uk)).

## WHAT WE DO

- We are proud to be the professional body for pharmacists and pharmacy.
- We promote pharmacy to ensure pharmacists are recognised within the NHS and wider society, as the experts in medicine.
- We make sure the voice of the pharmacy profession is heard in the development of healthcare policy.
- We promote the advancement of science, practice and education in pharmacy.
- We provide our members with the support and development they need to fulfil their professional potential.

## HOW WE WORK

We put our members at the heart of everything we do, working collaboratively with stakeholders across the profession to enhance the reputation and develop the role of pharmacy and through this meet the needs of our members.



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Published in July 2011

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