Reading School of Pharmacy (RSOP) - Essential Information

Dear RSOP undergraduate,

Your Pharmacy course at RSOP will involve working closely with both patients and members of the public with a range of medical conditions. In order to ensure that neither you, nor any of the people that you interact with, are put at risk, you are required to meet specified occupational health requirements, and have an Enhanced Level Disclosure and Barring Service check (DBS check) as part of the process of joining the MPharm programme.

Occupational Health Check
For your occupational health check, you must complete the Student Health Declaration Form and bring it with you during welcome week. This will ask you some questions about your health that will help us to identify whether you need to be given additional advice from our Occupational Health Service provider.

As part of the check we need to ensure that you have evidence of immunity to Mumps, Measles and Rubella (MMR) and Varicella (chicken pox):

- For **MMR** you should have had two MMR immunisations OR have blood test results which show your immunity. You will be required to show evidence of the dates of the TWO MMR vaccinations you have received or blood tests that have been taken. If you have not had this vaccination, **you should contact your GP now to arrange for this to be done before your arrival**. MMR vaccination through your GP should be free of charge.

- For **Varicella** you must either be certain that you have had chicken pox (no evidence is required but you must specified the time you had the chicken pox in the declaration form) OR show evidence of the dates of two Varicella vaccinations or blood test results which show your immunity. If you have not had chicken pox previously, we can arrange for you to carry out blood test to check your immunity and you will be charged for this.

We will also ask about Tuberculosis (TB):

- We will check that you are clear of symptoms associated with TB
- We will ask if you have TB immunity (e.g either a BCG vaccination scar to show that you have had the vaccination OR test results to show that you are immune). Please note, BCG vaccination is not a mandatory requirement of the course.

It is in your best interests to make sure that your routine childhood immunisations are up to date before you arrive at RSOP. You will be required to show evidence of the dates of any vaccinations you have received or blood tests that have been taken as mentioned above. You can obtain an up to date copy of your immunisation history from your GP or your parents may also have a record detailing all the immunisations you have had, along with the relevant dates.
Hepatitis B Vaccination
Hepatitis B vaccination is not a mandatory requirement of the course. However, should you choose to complete this vaccination course, we can arrange this for you, at your own cost.

Enhanced Level Disclosure & Barring Service Check
For your DBS check, you must provide us with THREE original documents (not copies) to prove your identity and at least one of the documents must show your permanent address for the delivery of your DBS certificate. These documents will be required during welcome week.

Full details of what documents you must provide can be found on this link: https://www.gov.uk/disclosure-barring-service-check/documents-the-applicant-must-provide-

Some examples of the three documents are: 1) passport, driving license (full or provisional), birth certificate; 2) passport, driving license, bank statement issued in the last 3 months through the post. If you do not have three necessary documents, we strongly recommended that you apply for them now so you will have them ready when you arrive, e.g. apply for a provisional driving license or set up a bank account.

RSOP will cover the cost for your Health and DBS checks. However, if you are unable to complete the DBS application during one of our open days, during welcome week or you have lost or damaged certificates during the course of the degree, you may be required to do the DBS check on another date at your own cost. Any blood test and vaccinations required will also be at your own cost.

It is important that you are able to provide us the above documents during welcome week so that you can be involved in all patient-facing experience and placements in our MPharm programme. If you have any questions regarding these checks and the documents required, please contact the Placement Coordinator, Erma Akulli (mpharm.placements@reading.ac.uk).

Yours faithfully,

Dr Wing Man Lau
Lecturer in Pharmacy Practice
MPharm Placements Lead