

# Pharmacy And Pharmaceutical

## **Overview**

To qualify as a pharmacist, you will need to complete a four-year General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC)-accredited Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) course, followed by a year of pre-registration experience in the community or a hospital. Application deadlines for MPharm courses vary from year to year, so use some of the links below when planning your applications.

Opportunities for community pharmacy are more competitive in the South East, but less so in the East of England. Gaining work experience is always important to maximise your chances.

## **Roles**

Each job title links through to a broad job description, salary and conditions, entry requirements, typical recruiters, and links to further useful information.

* [Clinical trials research associate](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/clinical-research-associate)
* [Medical science liaison](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/medical-science-liaison)
* [Community pharmacist](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/community-pharmacist)
* [Pharmacologist](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/pharmacologist)
* [Medical sales representative](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/medical-sales-representative)
* [Research scientist (medical)](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/research-scientist-medical)

You could work in a scientific setting but undertake jobs drawing on other skills, such as supply chain management and logistics, sales and marketing, HR and finance. These broader business roles may be open to graduates of non-STEM disciplines.

You can view additional job roles by using the [Prospects](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/business-consulting-and-management) and [Indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/what-can-you-do-with-a-degree-in-business) websites.

## **Building Experience**

Many employers will look for a graduate with a science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) background. Some roles, especially research and development, will demand a particular qualification e.g. those working in drug development will need a degree in biochemistry, chemistry or pharmacology. Postgraduate qualifications such as an MSc or PhD are highly regarded in the sector and may be a prerequisite for certain roles, especially in research and development.

Whichever role you are drawn to, employers in the sector value a broad range of skills in addition to your technical academic background. The main ones include commercial awareness, communication and interpersonal skills, creativity, teamwork, presentation skills and an open-minded approach to new ideas and concepts, plus strong IT and numeracy skills. You will need to provide evidence that you have started to gain these skills on your application forms and in an interview.

Think broadly about any extracurricular activities, clubs and societies, part-time jobs, placements and internships you have undertaken, especially where you’ve gained experience of budgeting, marketing, how a business runs or society fundraising. All these activities will help you provide evidence that you have gained some commercial awareness.

## **Finding Opportunities**

The large employers such as [AstraZeneca](https://careers.astrazeneca.com/), [GSK](https://www.gsk.com/en-gb/careers/), [Reckitt Benckiser (RB)](https://www.rb.com/careers/), [Novartis](https://www.novartis.co.uk/careers), [Pfizer](https://www.pfizer.co.uk/careers), the [NHS](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/study-and-training/graduate-training-opportunities) and the [STFC](http://www.stfccareers.co.uk/careers/graduates/) offer graduate schemes and sometimes internships and work placements. You can also search for graduate science and pharmaceutical jobs in the specialist press or through sector-specific recruitment agencies.

Check My Jobs Online for vacancies and visit campus career fairs and employer presentations to find out more about which employers are advertising vacancies and coming onto campus.

Becoming a student member of one of the professional bodies, such as the [British Pharmaceutical Students’ Society](https://www.bpsa.co.uk/) or the [Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry](https://www.abpi.org.uk/), can offer member benefits, talks, events and volunteering and campus ambassador opportunities, with the chance to meet industry professionals.

### Industry Jobs

[Boots](https://www.boots.jobs/pharmacy/) | [Day Lewis Pharmacy](https://www.daylewis.co.uk/our-careers/) | [Well](https://well.co.uk/jobs/working-in-pharmacy/) | [New Scientist Jobs](https://jobs.newscientist.com/) | [Nature Careers](https://www.nature.com/naturecareers/)

### Further Study/Research

[University of Reading](https://www.reading.ac.uk/ready-to-study/study/postgraduate-study.aspx) | [Find a Masters](https://www.findamasters.com/) | [Find a PhD](https://www.findaphd.com/)

### Graduate Jobs

[prospects](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/).ac.uk | [targetjobs](https://targetjobs.co.uk/).co.uk | [milkround](https://www.milkround.com/).com | [ratemyplacement](https://www.ratemyplacement.co.uk/).co.uk | [gradcracker](https://www.gradcracker.com/search/civil-building/environment-and-sustainability-jobs).com

## **Exploring Further**

### Pharmacy

* [General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC)](https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/) – training and registration for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians
* [Royal Pharmaceutical Society](https://www.rpharms.com/development) – career, education and professional development for pharmacists and allied roles

### Pharmaceutical Industry

* [Rssl.com](https://www.rssl.com/why-choose-rssl/careers) – Reading Scientific Services Ltd is on the Whiteknights campus

The skills and knowledge you’ve developed in your degree will be valuable in a wide range of roles and sectors. If you’re thinking of looking further afield but aren’t sure where to start, why not [book an appointment](https://www.reading.ac.uk/essentials/Careers/Advice-and-development/MyJobsOnline) with one of our Careers Consultants? Remember, graduates can use the Careers Centre for up to two years after they graduate.

Explore our [Careers Blog](https://blogs.reading.ac.uk/careers/) for more industry guidance and useful careers advice!