

# Pharmacist

Pharmacists make a difference to the lives of their patients through an expert knowledge of medicines and health.?

Helping people live longer and healthier lives depends on the safe use of medicines and excellent healthcare advice. Pharmacists' unique expertise and knowledge makes them essential members of the healthcare team.

You'll combine a love of science with a desire to improve lives and be rewarded with a stimulating career across a range of settings and industries.

["Life as Pharmacist YouTube video">](#)

Can't see the video? You'll need to accept all [cookies](#) <sup>[1]</sup>. Alternatively, visit our YouTube Channel to view our [videos](#) <sup>[2]</sup>

## Working life

You'll use your expert knowledge of medicines and health to make a positive difference to people's lives and wellbeing. You'll provide care in a range of settings, often at the heart of local communities. You'll also have a role in preventing people from getting sick by helping them live healthier lifestyles and making sure they get the most from their medicines.

You'll also work daily with other healthcare professionals, such as doctors, nurses, allied health professionals and healthcare scientists, using scientific evidence to deliver care in your local community.

### **Aditya Aggarwal**

#### **Pre-registration pharmacist**

Over time, you get to see the positive impact your advice and care has had on your patients and their loved ones.

[Read Aditya's story](#) <sup>[3]</sup>

---

## Pay and benefits

If you work in the NHS, for example in a hospital or a GP practice, you'll usually start on band 6 of the [Agenda for Change](#) <sup>[4]</sup> pay scale. As your NHS career progresses, you could reach band 9 as a chief pharmacist.

You'll also get at least 27 days of annual leave plus bank holidays which increases after five years of service, as well as the NHS pension scheme.

In future, all pharmacists will be qualified to prescribe once they complete their training.

If you're working in a sector such as a community pharmacy, pay and benefits may differ but are typically in line with the NHS [agenda for change](#) <sup>[5]</sup> pay rates. You may even choose to own and run your own community pharmacy.

## Where could you work?

- community pharmacy
- hospitals
- mental health services
- [primary care](#) <sup>[6]</sup> including in general practice
- academia
- the pharmaceutical industry

Whatever setting you work in, you'll develop a broad range of skills. You'll spend time using your clinical knowledge, leading teams, undertaking research, education and training, along with developing business acumen and managing finances.

## How to become a pharmacist

- You need to complete a five-year programme of academic and practice-based teaching
- In your first four years, you will study for a Master's degree in pharmacy (MPharm) at university
- This is followed by a one year paid work placement called a [foundation training](#) <sup>[7]</sup> year
- After your foundation year, you can register with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) and legally practise as a pharmacist

# Entry requirements

There are no set university entry requirements but generally you'll need:?

- three A-levels or equivalent in chemistry and a second science or maths, typically offers range from AAB to BBB
- pharmacy degrees with a foundation year may have lower grade requirements
- GCSEs are considered alongside A-levels, with most schools of pharmacy expecting a minimum of five GCSEs including maths, English language and one science
- some universities accept vocational qualifications such as BTEC Level 3, National Extended Diploma in Applied Sciences or the Access to HE Diploma

You can find all UK courses running pharmacy courses at the bottom of this page.

To find out more about studying pharmacy go to Pharmacy Schools Council [website](#) <sup>[8]</sup> and for advice about the application process visit [Studying Healthcare website.](#) <sup>[9]</sup>

## Must-have skills

- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Be able to work as part of a team with other professionals
- Attention to detail

## Training and development

You'll need to undertake regular continual professional development (CPD) to keep up to date with the latest developments in drug research and develop their skills. This will mean you being able to stay registered as a pharmacist.

Once qualified, you can undertake a range of training, which will support you in your chosen career path. Training opportunities may include in-house training provided by your employer, or regionally or nationally organised courses.

## Where can pharmacy take you

Being a pharmacist can open many doors:

- work in hospitals, GP surgeries, prisons and community pharmacy
- working in the pharmaceutical industry
- working in management or academia

- advise the government on how best to make the most out of medicines and pharmacy services.
- teaching the future pharmacy workforce using the latest technology such as virtual reality

## • Find your course to become a pharmacist

Region	Type of qualification	Full or part time
- Any -	- Any -	Search

Displaying 36 - 40 of 45 matches

### Pharmacy MPharm with a preparatory year

Swansea University

[View course](#) <sup>[10]</sup> Opens in a new window

- Qualification
  - Master of Pharmacy (with Honours) - MPharm (H)
- Study mode
  - Full-time
- Duration of the course
  - 5 Years
- Leading to a career in
  - Pharmacy
- Contact details
  - [study@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:study@swansea.ac.uk) <sup>[11]</sup>
  - 01792 295111
- Region
  - Wales
- Admissions address
  - Singleton Park
  - Swansea
  - SA2 8PP
  - United Kingdom

### Pharmacy

University of Reading

[View course](#) <sup>[12]</sup> Opens in a new window

- Qualification
  - Master of Pharmacy (with Honours) - MPharm (H)
- Study mode
  - Full-time
- Duration of the course

4 Years

Leading to a career in  
Pharmacy

- Contact details
  - [ugadmissions@reading.ac.uk](mailto:ugadmissions@reading.ac.uk) <sup>[13]</sup>
  - 0118 378 8372
- Region
  - South East
- Admissions address
  - Room 208
  - Pepper Lane
  - Reading
  - RG6 6AH
  - United Kingdom

## Pharmacy

Ulster University

[View course](#) <sup>[14]</sup> Opens in a new window

- Qualification
  - Master of Pharmacy (with Honours) - MPharm (H)
- Study mode
  - Full-time
- Duration of the course
  - 4 Years
- Leading to a career in
  - Pharmacy
- Contact details
  - [admissionsce@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:admissionsce@ulster.ac.uk) <sup>[15]</sup>
  - 028 70123210
- Region
  - Northern Ireland
- Admissions address
  - University House
  - Cromore Road
  - Coleraine
  - BT52 1SA
  - United Kingdom

## Pharmacy

University of Lincoln

[View course](#) <sup>[16]</sup> Opens in a new window

- Qualification
  - Master of Pharmacy (with Honours) - MPharm (H)
- Study mode
  - Full-time

- Duration of the course
  - 4 Years
- Leading to a career in Pharmacy
- Contact details
  - [enquiries@lincoln.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@lincoln.ac.uk) <sup>[17]</sup>
  - 01522 886644
- Region
  - East Midlands
- Admissions address
  - Brayford Pool
  - Lincoln
  - LN6 7TS
  - England

## Pharmacy with Science Foundation Year

University of Lincoln

[View course](#) <sup>[18]</sup> Opens in a new window

- Qualification
  - Master of Pharmacy (with Honours) - MPharm (H)
- Study mode
  - Full-time
- Duration of the course
  - 5 Years
- Leading to a career in Pharmacy
- Contact details
  - [enquiries@lincoln.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@lincoln.ac.uk) <sup>[17]</sup>
  - 01522 886644
- Region
  - East Midlands
- Admissions address
  - Brayford Pool
  - Lincoln
  - LN6 7TS
  - England
- [Load more Load more results](#) <sup>[19]</sup>

### • **Live vacancies**

**Find a vacancy**

Enter your location or postcode

Show results within

Search

advice

## Discover what training to be a pharmacist is really like

Get advice on training to be a pharmacist, and what you can expect during and after your training.

[Find out more](#) [20]

## Other roles that may interest you

- [Pharmaceutical medicine](#) [21]
- [Pharmacy technician](#) [22]
- [Clinical biochemistry](#) [23]
- [Pharmacy assistant](#) [24]

---

**Source URL:** <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/pharmacy/roles-pharmacy/pharmacist?page=7>

### Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/privacy-and-cookies/#CookieDeclarationChangeConsentChange> [2] <https://www.youtube.com/NHSCareers> [3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/pharmacy/roles-pharmacy/pharmacist/real-life-story-aditya-aggarwal> [4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/working-health/working-nhs/nhs-pay-and-benefits/agenda-change-pay-rates/agenda-change-pay-rates> [5] [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Agenda\\_for\\_Change](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Agenda_for_Change) [6] [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Primary\\_care](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Primary_care) [7] <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/pharmacy/trainee-pharmacist-foundation-year-programme> [8] <https://www.pharmacyschoolscouncil.ac.uk/study/> [9] <https://studyinghealthcare.ac.uk/applications/pharmacy/the-ucas-application-pharmacy/> [10] <https://www.swansea.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/medicine/pharmacy-with-foundation-year-mpharm-hons/> [11] [mailto: study@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:study@swansea.ac.uk) [12] <https://www.reading.ac.uk/ready-to-study/study/subject-area/pharmacy-ug/mpharm-pharmacy.aspx> [13] [mailto: ugadmissions@reading.ac.uk](mailto:ugadmissions@reading.ac.uk) [14] <http://www.ulster.ac.uk/course/mpharm-pharmacy-ft-ce> [15] [mailto: admissionsce@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:admissionsce@ulster.ac.uk) [16] <https://www.lincoln.ac.uk/home/course/phrphrum/> [17] [mailto: enquiries@lincoln.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@lincoln.ac.uk) [18] <https://www.lincoln.ac.uk/home/course/sfysfyub/pharmacy/> [19] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/printpdf/307?page=8> [20] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/pharmacy/studying-pharmacy> [21] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/medicine/pharmaceutical-medicine> [22] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/pharmacy/roles-pharmacy/pharmacy-technician> [23] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/Explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/life-sciences/clinical-biochemistry> [24] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/pharmacy/roles-pharmacy/pharmacy-assistant>