Pharmacy Career Pathways

Pharmacy has a wide range of careers on offer in a variety of environments and levels. Take a look at the job roles below to discover more about what it means to have a career in pharmacy.

Pharmacists

Pharmacists have general responsibilities to pharmacy services. In order to qualify as a Pharmacist, you are required to complete a four year degree (MPharm) and a one year Pre-Registration year based either in a hospital, industry or community pharmacy. You are normally expected to have at least three A-levels, usually in Maths and Chemistry and another Science-based subject.

Pharmacy Technicians

Technicians work alongside Pharmacists, increasingly taking on new and advanced roles as the pharmacy service continues to develop services for patients. Pharmacy Technicians must have a minimum of five GCSEs at grade C or above, including Maths, English and 2 Sciences (or the equivalent). They must complete a 2 year work based training qualification which comprises a level 3 NVQ Diploma in Pharmacy Service Skills and a level 3 Diploma in Pharmaceutical Science to qualify.

Pharmacy Students

Pharmacist students complete their required one year pre-registration training after studying for four years at university.

Student pharmacy technicians studying for their qualifications in a work based environment and attending college one day a week. Many will be studying through a regional apprenticeship scheme.

Pharmacy Assistants and Assistant Technical Officers (ATOs)

Pharmacy assistants have varied roles and work as part of the pharmacy team delivering varied and specialised services. They require a good level of literacy and numeracy and will train on the job and work towards a level 2 NVQ Certificate in Pharmacy Service Skills QCF. Pharmacy Counter Assistants work in hospital pharmacies and community pharmacies. In community pharmacy, assistants will have a number of different roles and will undertake dispensary duties and medicines counter assistant roles and follow various training programmes.