

MPharm FAQs – 2015 Entry FAQ

All applicants

1. What is an MPharm?

It is a Masters level undergraduate degree programme that all aspiring pharmacists must complete, after which a student must satisfactorily complete a 12 month pre-registration position, usually in a community or hospital pharmacy, before they sit the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) competency examinations to become a registered pharmacist. Although this takes place outside of the University after your graduation, the University will offer assistance to students as they apply for their pre-registration positions.

2. Can I put the MPharm down as my 5th choice after Medicine, Dentistry, Optometry, etc.?

It is entirely up to you if you wish to choose the MPharm as your 5th choice. We receive applications from those whose first choice of course is not Pharmacy. These applications will receive equal consideration.

3. How many places do you have available?

For 2016 entry, we are recruiting 70 students. Each application will be judged on individual merit and suitability for the programme within a competitive application process (see below).

4. Can I transfer from another programme such as Medicine or Dentistry to the MPharm?

No, we do not allow transfers between any of these programmes. The MPharm is also not a route into dentistry or medicine. You could, however, apply to study Medicine or Dentistry once you have completed your MPharm degree, as a graduate applicant.

5. Can I transfer from another School of Pharmacy?

No, it is not possible to transfer from another School of Pharmacy. This is standard amongst all Schools of Pharmacy, because although the nature of the MPharm degree is the same in each School, how the material is taught, and in which year of study, varies enormously. The only route of entry to the University of Birmingham MPharm programme is through UCAS, starting at Year 1.

6. Will there be a chance to study abroad or intercalate?

At present this is not part of the curriculum, but is under review. Subject to timetable availability, and student identification, there may be the opportunity for the final year project to be undertaken overseas.

7. Where will the programme be taught?

A bespoke suite of pharmacy accommodation, including a microbiology lab, a pharmaceuticals lab and an electronic dispensing lab, has been built specifically for the MPharm degree programme. Accommodation, along with a lecture theatre, is housed in the Robert Aitken Institute for Clinical Research (RAICR), located adjacent to the Medical School. In addition, some activities, such as small group teaching sessions, anatomy demonstrations and pharmacology practical classes, will take place in the Medical School.

8. Where will my placements take place?

There are placements in community pharmacies, hospital pharmacies, wholesale/specials pharmacies and GP surgeries timetabled at appropriate points during the 4 year programme. These placements increase in quantity and complexity as your skills and experience develop

through the course. All placements are organised by the University, and will take place within a reasonable distance from the University. Students are responsible for making their own travel arrangements to and from placements.

9. Is relevant work experience required?

Specific work experience in Pharmacy is not required, we like applicants to be able to demonstrate evidence of communication and team working skills. We need students who can not only learn the science of pharmacy, but who can use it to benefit patients.

10. What do you look for in a personal statement?

You need to demonstrate that you will be able to develop your skills towards Pharmacy; that you have good people and communication skills; that you have the potential for leadership and management; that you are a well-rounded individual. Information on extracurricular activities is welcomed, such as sports you play, hobbies you have, and so on.

11. What is the application Process?

All applications are received through UCAS. Those applicants whose interest is in Pharmacy and whose academic profile meets our requirements will be made an offer and invited to an 'Applicant Visit Day'. This will involve visiting the Medical School, meeting staff and students, viewing our facilities/Pharmacy Labs and attending interactive sessions showcasing the activities of the Pharmacy Degree programme.

12. What are my careers prospects after completing the degree?

Pharmacists are involved in many areas of direct patient care, and also in more scientific roles. The Royal Pharmaceutical Society's website [<http://www.rpharms.com/about-pharmacy/careers-in-pharmacy.asp>] sets out the career options for pharmacists. The majority of pharmacists work in the community sector, with a substantial proportion working in hospital or primary care (such as General Practice surgeries), and a smaller number working in the pharmaceutical industry, academia or research. While the majority of graduates go on to become practicing pharmacists, it should be remembered that the MPharm is a broad-based science degree that can be used to enter a variety of different careers that require critical thinking and communications.

International applicants

1. Is a separate quota for International students?

Although there is no separate international student quota, it is likely that we would look to recruit no more than 5-10% of the total cohort from international applications. However, all applications will be considered and judged on their own individual merit and suitability for the programme within a competitive application process.

2. Do I need to pass an English test?

Yes, we require all international students to provide evidence of their English language proficiency. We accept IELTS 7.0 with no less than 7.0 in any band; TOEFL 95 overall with no less than 23 in any band; Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic 67 in all four skills.

What are the academic entry requirements?

GCSE (or equivalent)

We require Maths at Grade B (or alternatively AS Maths Grade C) and English Grade C (minimum).

A Level

We require AAB at A Level to include Chemistry and one other science subject (Biology, Maths, and Physics) plus one additional subject, chosen from a wide range. We do not accept Critical Thinking or General Studies, and do not accept Maths and Further Maths as separate subjects.

Irish Leaving Certificate

We require six subjects at Higher Level at grades AAAABB, to include Chemistry and a second science subject (Biology, Maths, and Physics).

Scottish Highers

We require Chemistry and a second science subject (Biology, Maths and Physics) at Advanced Higher Grade AB plus AABBB at Advanced Higher Level.

BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma

We accept an appropriate science-based diploma with grades Distinction, Distinction, Distinction overall plus Distinctions in all modules. A Level Chemistry at Grade B (minimum) is also required.

Access to Science

We require 60 credits overall with 45 credits at Level 3. All Level 3 credits must be offered at Distinction. We also require 12 credits at Level 2 in English and Maths, if these are not offered at GCSE. A Level Chemistry at Grade B (minimum) is also required.

Foundation Year

We will consider applications from candidates studying an appropriate science-based foundation year programme on an individual basis. We require a minimum of 70% overall in the foundation year. A Level Chemistry at Grade B (minimum) is also required.

Graduates

We welcome applications from graduates in an appropriate subject with substantial chemistry content (e.g. Biochemistry, Pharmaceutical Science). We require a minimum award of 2.1 (hons). Graduates in a subject with insufficient chemistry content may be considered if they also offer A Level Chemistry (grade B minimum). We cannot consider applications from candidates who have an incomplete or partial degree unless they meet our standard A Level (or equivalent) entry requirements.

International Baccalaureate

A minimum of 32 points overall including grades 6, 6, 5 at Higher Level, including Chemistry plus one from Biology, Physics or Maths and one additional subject **plus** three further subjects at Standard Level. Maths with Further Maths will count as one higher and one subsidiary. Where relevant, Language A must be English at grade 5. Bonus points will not be taken into account.

What are the non-academic entry requirements?

In addition to meeting the academic requirements for entry, candidates must also meet a number of non-academic entry requirements:

- Complete a health declaration form
- Provide evidence of immunisation against rubella, measles, tuberculosis, varicella
- Undertake a screening blood test for Hepatitis B and start a course of immunisation
- Provide a satisfactory extended Disclosure and Baring Service (DBS, formerly CRB) check
- Agree to comply with the Code of Conduct for MPharm Students

For any questions not answered in this document please contact pharmacyenquiries@contacts.bham.ac.uk.