

Career Opportunities

There are many and diverse career prospects for pharmacists, both in Ireland and abroad. Career opportunities include the healthcare sector, such as community and hospital pharmacy; the pharmaceutical industry; medicines research and development, and regulation and quality control. Other broad areas such as pharmacy law, animal health, academia and research are also open to graduates of pharmacy.



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PHARMACY

MPharm CK703



School of Pharmacy



During your five years of pharmacy study in UCC, you will receive training in all aspects of the subject in preparation for your pharmacy career. The School has a great mix of people who study pharmacy, from school leavers, to mature and international students. The pharmacy degree is designed to integrate the subjects you will study so that you can readily understand and apply your knowledge of science and healthcare to the drug treatment of patients. The degree also provides you with the many general skills needed after you qualify as a pharmacist, such as communication, professionalism and life-long learning.



PLACEMENTS

An integral part of the MPharm degree is the various clinical and non-clinical placements that you undertake throughout every year of your studies. You get the chance to gain hands-on experience in community and hospital pharmacies, and in the pharmaceutical industry. Within these settings, you can experience and see at first hand your studies put into practice. Placements also help to guide you as to the pharmacy career path you may wish to take upon completion of your studies.

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

To date students have gained employment in community and hospital pharmacies and within regulatory agencies. Other students have obtained employment within the pharmaceutical industry. Some graduates have returned to further their studies through PhDs and Masters programmes here at UCC.

Further Information:

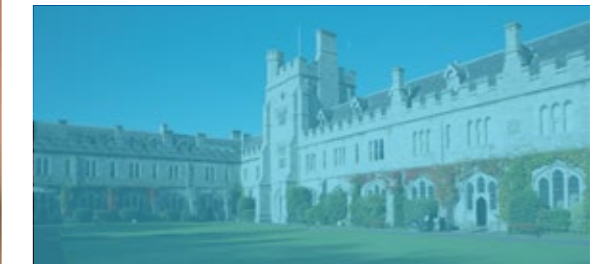
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ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The entry requirements to the MPharm programme have not changed. You still need a minimum HC3 in two subjects and passes in four subjects at H or O level in the Leaving Certificate, from Irish, English, Mathematics, Chemistry, one other Science subject (Biology, Physics) and one other subject recognised for entry purposes. Applicants must have a minimum of a HC3 in Chemistry. In addition students must have the requisite points for entry to a particular course.

FEES IN THE FIFTH YEAR

It should be noted that in addition to the requisite fee for the first four years, a postgraduate fee will have to be paid for the fifth year of the programme.



Exciting new changes to Pharmacy Education MPharm

From September 2015 students who enter the UCC Pharmacy programme will graduate with a Level 9 MPharm degree. Once you have successfully completed your first four years (BPharm) you will then progress to the fifth year (MPharm). This new and exciting change in Pharmacy education in Ireland has come about because the Irish professional Pharmacy body (the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, PSI) now requires graduates to have completed a Masters degree, before entering the PSI Register and practising as a Pharmacist.

SO WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU?

It means that the degree programme will become a more integrated programme with placements undertaken throughout the 5 years. Placements will be one day in first year, two weeks in second year, two months at the end of third year (summer period), four months in fourth year and eight months in the final year. Placements can be carried out in community, hospital or industry as well as within a regulatory organisation but the final eight month placement in your fifth year must be carried out in a patient facing setting.



Course Code
CK703

Duration
5 years

WHY STUDY PHARMACY?

If you have an interest in science and healthcare, then you need to consider Pharmacy as a career option. Pharmacy is the study of the many features of drugs; including their design, manufacture, formulation into a medicine and how they work in the body. The pharmacy degree course also provides training to ensure that medicines are used safely and rationally to improve the lives of patients.

As drugs and medicines experts, pharmacists are vital members of the healthcare team in both community and hospital settings. Qualified pharmacists are also invaluable in the pharmaceutical industry and in drug regulatory settings, such as the Health Products Regulatory Authority, to ensure that the drugs and medicines available on the market are safe for both humans and animals.

What will you be studying?

There are four main areas of study within the pharmacy degree: **Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Chemistry, Drug Delivery, Drug Action in the Body and the Clinical and Practice aspects of pharmacy.** These subjects are taught in every year of the pharmacy degree.



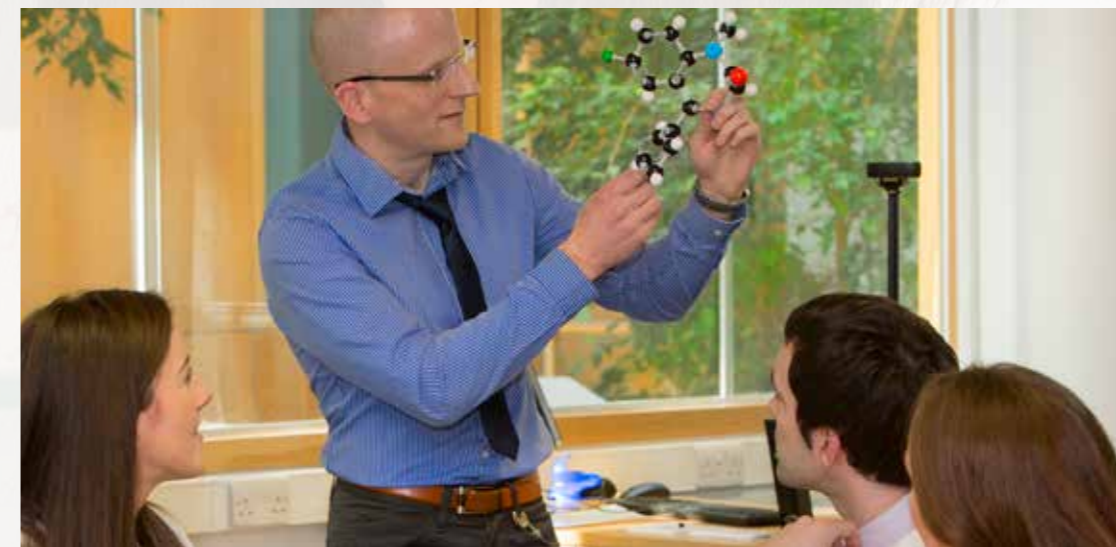
PHARMACEUTICAL AND MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY

concerns the chemical aspects of pharmaceutical science, including the initial design of a new drug, its manufacture, its analysis to ensure it is of high quality for human or veterinary use, drug stability, how the drug is metabolised in the body, and sourcing drugs from nature.

Once a drug has been designed and manufactured, it must be incorporated into a form which is convenient for the patient to take or use or for a clinician to administer.

This area of pharmacy is known as **DRUG DELIVERY** and concerns the design and manufacture of medicines for humans and animals.

In order to understand how a drug behaves in the body and how drugs act within the body, you will study Pharmacology. Through this subject, you will also understand why and how drugs produce side-effects, how one drug can interfere with the action of another drug, and the different classes of drugs available on the market.



CLINICAL PHARMACY and PHARMACY PRACTICE concerns the interaction of the pharmacist with the patient in terms of their medicines. Some of the subjects covered include the role of pharmacy in healthcare and patient education, pharmacy law and the response of the pharmacist to patient symptoms.

In addition to the four core pharmacy subjects above, several other topics of relevance to pharmacy are also taught. They include **ANATOMY, PHYSIOLOGY, MICROBIOLOGY, BIOCHEMISTRY** and **IMMUNOLOGY**. In the fourth year of your degree, you will also undertake a research project in a pharmacy subject area of your choice and in the fifth year you will complete a more detailed research dissertation.



POSTGRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES IN UCC

Opportunities for postgraduate studies are wide ranging. The UCC School of Pharmacy offers cutting edge research leading to MSc and PhD degrees in all of the main subject areas of pharmacy. The School has also established many research links with community and hospital pharmacies, the pharmaceutical industry, and with other Schools of Pharmacy and universities within Ireland and internationally.

To encourage life-long learning of practicing pharmacists, the School offers numerous short clinical and industrial pharmacy courses. In addition, the School runs a number of taught MSc courses in Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Technology and Quality Systems.

