

MPharm PHARMACY BSc PHARMACOLOGY AND DRUG DISCOVERY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

LOVE CHEMISTRY AND BIOLOGY? WHAT NEXT?

Students who have studied and enjoy chemistry may want to consider both pharmacy and pharmacology. At the heart of both degrees is a broad science base regarding the science of medicines. Those who are particularly interested with the interaction between medicines and their users and supporting people to maximise their health, may be more suited to pharmacy.

WHAT IS PHARMACY?

Pharmacy is the study of medicines. It is a broad subject which covers theory and application of the biology, chemistry and physical aspects of medicines alongside developing the professional behaviours and clinical skills required to become a pharmacist.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A DEGREE IN PHARMACY?

Graduates typically enter their careers as a pharmacist in community, hospital, primary care or industry. There are also opportunities in veterinary, prison pharmacy or working as a pharmacist in the armed forces. Some graduates are interested in developing careers in research and/or pharmacy education. There are also opportunities for pharmacists in pharmaceutical sales and marketing, journalism and publishing.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PHARMACY AND PHARMACOLOGY AND DRUG DISCOVERY?

Pharmacology and Drug Discovery is the study of how drugs work (pharmacology), and how drugs are made and developed (medicinal chemistry) as well as different dosage forms (pharmaceutics). It also incorporates management skills and would be ideal for those interested in research within universities and research institutes or the pharmaceutical industry. It is suited to people who love chemistry and biology and want to make a big impact in healthcare, not through interaction with patients but by developing the medicines of the future.

Pharmacy is a broader subject. It covers all aspects of medicines, from how they are designed and developed right through to working with patients to effectively manage their health and optimise their use of medicines. To be a pharmacist in the UK you must study pharmacy in a course that is accredited by the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC), the regulatory body for pharmacy.

SO WHAT SORT OF CAREERS WOULD A PHARMACOLOGIST UNDERTAKE?

There are a wide range of career options, for example: going into research, which could be in a university, research institution, in industry or a start-up company; working as an analyst; training as a biomedical or clinical scientist in the NHS; science and medical publishing or sales; becoming a patent attorney. Alternatively, the degree can provide a stepping stone towards related careers in medicine (graduate entry) or teaching.

WHAT MAKES UEA SCHOOL OF PHARMACY UNIQUE?

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS are embedded throughout our degrees. For example in pharmacy, we help our students develop a portfolio to document their development, just as a working professional would do.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING is central to our course design. For example students studying pharmacy have placements throughout their course and develop excellent team working skills through problem-based and inter-professional learning.

RESEARCH is at the heart of our culture. Our students take part in a research project in their final year where they work on projects at the cutting edge of pharmaceutical science and practice. Our research is internationally recognised and we were ranked 1st in the UK for our pharmacy research output in the Times Higher Education Research Excellence Framework 2014 subject rankings.

LOCATION of the School of Pharmacy is excellent for both the professional and scientific community, through a regional network of scientific centres, hospitals and community pharmacies. We are part of the Norwich Research Park and close to the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, and Faculty of Medicine and Health. This allows us to deliver an excellent programme of Inter-professional Learning.

ENVIRONMENT We are proud to provide training at every stage of pharmacy professional development. From technicians, undergraduates, pre-registration pharmacists, through to postgraduate study and independent prescribing.

IS IT POSSIBLE TO TRANSFER FROM PHARMACY TO PHARMACOLOGY AND DRUG DISCOVERY OR VICE-VERSA?

Although they might seem similar, we develop different knowledge and skills in each degree programme so they are actually unique. If you are undecided, come and see for yourself on an Open Day or contact us so we can help you make the right decision.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Apply online at www.uea.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/apply
If you have any questions about your application:
Email: admissions@uea.ac.uk / Telephone: +44 (0)1603 591515