



CARDIFF
UNIVERSITY

PRIFYSGOL
CAERDYDD

School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Undergraduate
degree programmes

cardiff.ac.uk/pharmacy



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Welcome to a place where we explore the science of medicine to improve lives

Whether you choose to study Pharmacy or Medical Pharmacology with us - your career options will be plentiful and we will help you on your way.

So, if you love science and have a passion for helping people, come and join our close-knit school. We can't wait to show you around.



**Find out
more**

Pharmacy (MPharm)

Consistently ranked one of the
top schools of Pharmacy
offering the MPharm across the UK.

Source: Complete University Guide (UK)

100 + years
of excellence in teaching
and research.

100%
of our graduates are
successful when applying
for a pharmacy foundation
training place.

You'll be taught by
world-leading academics
and expert healthcare
practitioners.

We house a clinical
simulation suite and
consultation rooms for you
to safely learn and practice
your clinical skills.

Our first time pass rate for
the General Pharmaceutical
Council's pharmacist
registration assessment is
consistently higher than the
national average.

Source: GPhC

97%
of our MPharm graduates
were in highly skilled jobs
and/or graduate-level further
study 15 months after their
course ended.

Source: Graduate Outcomes 2022/23

We shape the future of
pharmacy in Wales with
strong links to Health
Education and Improvement
Wales and Welsh
Government.

Accredited by the
General Pharmaceutical
Council (GPhC).



Where your pharmacy journey begins

Whilst a lot's changed since we first began training pharmacists over 100 years ago, it's still our mission to equip students, like you, with the scientific knowledge, clinical skills, and professional experience you'll need for a future in pharmacy.

There's never been a more exciting time to become a pharmacist. From holding medical consultations and prescribing medicines to administering vaccinations and running clinics, you'll be able to directly treat and support patients once you qualify.



Imagine yourself as a confident pharmacy practitioner, equipped with the expert knowledge, clinical skills and practical experience you need to make a meaningful difference to people's lives.



Where nothing matters more than making a difference





Our Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) Programme

UCAS code: B230

If you're looking to become a qualified pharmacist, our high-ranking Master of Pharmacy programme has been specifically designed with your career in mind.

Following on from successfully completing the MPharm programme, you'll need to complete a foundation training year. You'll then be able to sit the General Pharmaceutical Council's (GPhC) registration assessment to register as a qualified pharmacist and you'll be able to independently prescribe drugs at this point.

It's worth knowing that our graduates' first time pass rate for the GPhC registration assessment is consistently higher than the national average, so you're in good hands here.

Over the four years you're with us for your MPharm degree, you'll be taught by our team of globally-renowned academics who'll shape your learning and support you to succeed. Not only will you explore the science of medicines, you'll also hone your clinical skills and build your professional confidence to prepare you for your foundation training year.



To fully explore our MPharm programme, the entry criteria, what topics you'll study and how you'll be assessed, please visit our website.



I would definitely recommend Cardiff University's MPharm to anyone interested in studying Pharmacy.

The staff here are super helpful, friendly, and approachable and it's clear how our learning will be useful in the future when we enter pharmacy practice.

Sue, MPharm student



Where you'll learn in new and exciting ways

Through our fully accredited Master of Pharmacy undergraduate programme, you'll delve into pharmaceutical science, which spans the disciplines of chemistry and biology, and develop your clinical skills in preparation for your future as a pharmacist. Here's how:



From the lab bench to the patient's bedside

There's lots to learn and explore while you're with us. From the fundamentals of medicinal chemistry and the basics of cell biology, all the way through to complex drug delivery mechanisms and more, we'll help you to develop your scientific knowledge and understanding at a steady, but manageable, pace.

Crucially, you'll also translate your learning in the lab to real-life clinical situations, making it relevant to pharmacy practice.

Our team of highly experienced academics and researchers will guide your learning alongside expert practitioners who are based in community, hospital settings and GP surgeries.

By imparting their daily experience as practicing pharmacists and healthcare professionals, they'll give you an invaluable insight into the profession.

Embracing new ways to learn

To ensure we cover our extensive curriculum in a stimulating, relevant and meaningful way, your learning will take place through a bespoke blend of:

- in-person lectures and classes
- hands-on workshops
- lab practicals
- directed self-study
- experience in simulated and real-world clinical settings.

It's through these various types of learning styles and environments that you'll gain the scientific knowledge, practical skills and professional experience you need for a career in pharmacy.

We'll allow you to take responsibility for your own learning and we'll give you every opportunity to succeed.

Working alongside students from other healthcare disciplines

As a pharmacist, you'll be working as part of a multidisciplinary team so having the opportunity to learn alongside students from other health-related subjects is hugely beneficial. That's why, for part of your studies, you'll be in the same classroom, lecture hall, or workshop as your peers from the schools of Medicine, Optometry, Dentistry and Healthcare.

We're very fortunate to offer this kind of interprofessional education as we have the full range of healthcare professions represented at Cardiff University. We know this will set you in good stead for your future.

Developing career-ready skills

You'll have the chance to develop a range of essential transferable skills, including being able to:

- manage your time and workload
- pay close attention to detail
- communicate effectively and compassionately
- think critically and holistically
- work collaboratively
- act professionally and appropriately, particularly in clinical settings.

Don't worry, we'll provide many opportunities to hone these skills.

We'll encourage you to ask questions, reflect on your experiences, and offer guidance as you progress through your MPharm degree.



Where your learning comes to life

Feeling confident when meeting and treating patients takes practice. That's why we'll give you plenty of opportunities to gain clinical experience beyond the classroom as part of your Pharmacy degree.

Honing your skills in our clinical simulation environments

We've invested in a well-equipped clinical skills simulation area, including a four-bed replica hospital ward and numerous consultation rooms that mimic real-world clinical settings. These areas are fully kitted out with the tools you'll be working with as a pharmacist and even include state-of-the-art patient simulation mannequins that function and interact like people.

Giving you access to these facilities means you can practice your newly acquired skills in a safe, supportive environment and build your confidence before you work directly with patients.





Heading out on placements

Aside from your learning within our university itself, there's no substitute for gaining professional experience in practice so you'll participate in inspiring work-based placements throughout your degree.

These placements are very popular for good reason – they give you the opportunity to interact with patients and carers, the public and other healthcare professionals in a variety of settings. Not only will you get to observe the role of the pharmacist and understand how pharmaceutical care is best delivered, you'll also get to actively participate in these placements, helping to build your skills and confidence as you progress through the course.

Some of these placements will be short, local, half or full day sessions, others will be longer and may require travel and staying a bit further afield, such as in beautiful North Wales.

Placements are a crucial part of our MPharm programme so we've got a dedicated Placements Team to help you plan and prepare for these trips.

Your broad range of placements will extend your knowledge, enhance your clinical and reflective skills, and prepare you for the world of work.



My best placement opportunity was in my second year, when visiting an elderly care assessment unit.

Appreciating the perspective of the patient and the value of a multi-disciplinary team so early on in the course was invaluable and something I will always keep in mind. Applying knowledge from lectures and workshops in a placement environment is always exciting and getting to share this information with patients and other healthcare professionals always makes the hard work worthwhile.

Ella Jenkins, MPharm graduate



Where your pharmacy degree could take you

As a pharmacist, you'll have a wide choice of career options that can make a big difference to people's lives. Below is a snapshot of some of the most common careers for Pharmacy graduates:

Hospital pharmacist

Hospital pharmacists play a key part of the healthcare team, working in either the NHS or private hospitals, with a clear focus on patient needs.

Primary care pharmacist

Based in a local healthcare centre or doctor's surgery, primary care pharmacists optimise patient's medicines to maximise the benefits and minimise the risks associated with different drugs. They also help to develop services to support the local population with their health needs.

Community pharmacist

From within their own pharmacy or a branch of a pharmacy chain, community pharmacists are at the frontline of healthcare in the UK or overseas.

Industrial pharmacist

Industrial pharmacists are involved in the research, design, development and testing of new medicines and treatments, ensuring they are safe and of a good quality for patients.

Academic pharmacist

Academic pharmacists are based in universities, research institutions or other organisations throughout the world. They enjoy a combination of teaching, research and practising pharmacy.

And there's more...

Our graduates have also gone on to enjoy careers as veterinary pharmacists, military pharmacists and in regulatory affairs. The career options for pharmacists are plentiful and varied, making this an exciting degree for you to consider.

Where world-leading research takes place

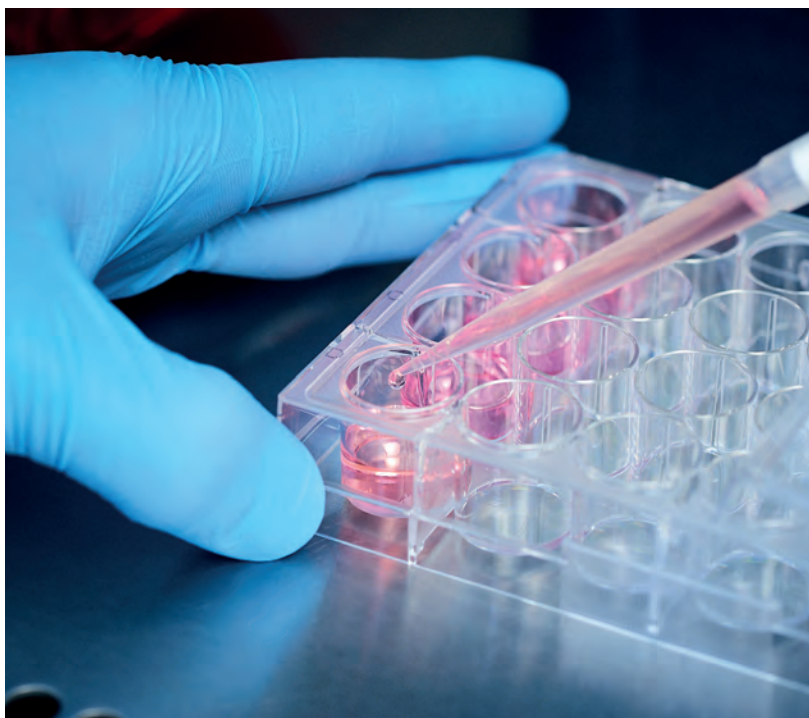
Right now, we're working hard to help tackle some of the planet's most debilitating and life-threatening diseases.

Through our internationally recognised research, we're driving improvements in drug discovery, drug development, and drug delivery to improve patient health.

As an undergraduate student within our School, you'll benefit from our passion for science and research because our team of world-leading researchers both shape and teach the MPharm programme.

From molecular biology to medicinal chemistry, the science of medicine is at the core of what we teach and, by studying here, you'll be exposed to the latest advancements in pharmaceutical research.

You'll also get the chance to actively participate in our research when you conduct your fourth-year research project. This is a great opportunity to explore an area that most interests you in a truly meaningful way.



I've been able to explore one of the causes of an irregular heartbeat, something that affects millions of people and, if left untreated, can even be fatal.

My findings may be small, but I feel proud to have contributed to research that could help to treat patients in the future.

Daniel, MPharm student







Where you'll feel right at home

When you walk through our doors, you'll be welcomed by our supportive community where staff and students work in partnership.

As a student, you'll get guidance from your Personal Tutor who'll be with you throughout your four-year degree. They'll check in with you, be on hand to answer any questions and sign-post you to further support if you need it.

As well as having a Personal Tutor, our Senior Tutor Advisory Team is dedicated to supporting you if you have any worries or concerns during your time with us.

You'll also have a student mentor when you first join our School. This is a fellow Pharmacy student in one of the years above who has been in your shoes just a short time ago. They'll be happy to help you settle in to university life.



I'm gaining the skills and experience I need to prepare for a career in Pharmacy which is really important as the profession is changing so quickly.

The staff here are very helpful and approachable whether you need academic or pastoral support.

Brijesh, MPharm student



Medical Pharmacology

Optional Professional Placement Year (PPY)
between second and final year, developing your
career prospects and employability skills.

1st

in the Russell Group for
developing the knowledge
and skills that you think
you'll need for your future.

Source: NSS 2025

1st

in the UK for overall
satisfaction with the quality
of the course.

Source: NSS 2025

Official feeder stream
programme for Graduate
Entry Medicine at
Cardiff University.

Source: A101

100%

of students think teaching
staff are good at explaining
things.

Source: NSS 2025

5th

in the UK for Pharmacy
and Pharmacology.

Source: Complete University Guide 2026

1st

in the UK for teaching
on the course.

Source: NSS 2025

Where tomorrow's medicines begin

From cancer therapies to life-saving vaccines, pharmacology is at the centre of modern healthcare.

Pharmacology is the science of how medicines work, and how new treatments are developed to improve lives. If you're curious about how the human body works, enjoy problem-solving and want to be part of shaping the future of medicine, this could be a great match for you. With a wide range of potential careers, our Medical Pharmacology BSc is the first step to a bright future.



Our Medical Pharmacology BSc Programme

UCAS code: B210

How are medicines discovered and developed? Why do we need them, and how do they work? .

Drugs and medicines underpin healthcare - as a Medical Pharmacology student we'll build on your natural curiosity to get to the heart of how and why drugs and medicines can help improve patient lives. You'll learn from expert pharmacologists, gaining the transferable skills that future employers will be looking for in areas such as data analysis, problem solving and research techniques. You have the choice to complete the course in three years, or four years with an optional placement year after year two of the degree.

As a graduate from a leading Russell Group research institution, your skills and experience will give you the tools you need for a rewarding and challenging career in the pharmaceutical industry, academia (for research and teaching), governmental regulatory bodies, the healthcare sector and a range of other professional career pathways.



To fully explore our Medical Pharmacology programme, the entry criteria, what topics you'll study and how you'll be assessed, please visit our website



Studying Medical Pharmacology gives you a deep understanding of how medicines work and how they can improve lives.

With incredible teaching and amazing levels of support, you gain knowledge and confidence that are transferable to any career pathway you take.

Christabel, Medical Pharmacology student



Building strong foundations

In your first year, you'll explore the science behind how the body works and how medicines affect it. You'll study biology, chemistry, genetics, physiology, and the foundations of pharmacology, learning about drug action, toxicology, therapeutics, and receptor theory.





By year two, you'll start to move into exciting specialist areas, like cancer chemotherapy, neuroscience, cardiovascular pharmacology, and immunology, with practical laboratory training that helps turn the theory into real scientific skills.

In your final year, you'll complete your own research project, giving you key transferable skills employers are looking for.

Learn through doing

Our Medical Pharmacology degree is designed for students who want more than just lectures.

Alongside seminars, tutorials, and group discussion, you'll gain hands-on experience through practical laboratory modules and research techniques training. You'll learn how to present scientific data through posters, reports, and presentations, building confidence and real-world skills.

Your final year will develop your high-level critical thinking, through scientific literature analysis and independent research.

Professional placement year

You'll also have the option of a Professional Placement Year (PPY), giving you valuable experience in a real workplace and helping you stand out to future employers.

This year long placement, between year 2 and the final year of the course, allows you to step outside of the classroom and experience real-life medical pharmacology research and development, giving you the chance to network with employers and apply what you've learned so far in a real-world setting. A placement year can also make you stand out when applying for graduate jobs or further study, giving you both experience and a clearer vision for your future career. Whether in a research lab, working in industry, healthcare, or related scientific organisations, the PPY is a unique opportunity to develop confidence, independence, and workplace experience while making important connections with employers and experts in the field.

Develop skills for any future career

Medical Pharmacology equips you with a wide range of transferable skills that are valued across science, healthcare, and many other industries. Alongside specialist scientific knowledge, you'll gain practical and professional abilities that prepare you for life after university.

- **Data analysis and statistics skills** to interpret scientific results
- **Clear communication skills** through reports, presentations, and posters
- **Teamwork and collaboration** through lab and group-based work
- **Problem-solving and critical thinking** to evaluate evidence and solve complex questions
- **Time management and organisation** to balance practicals, coursework, and independent study
- **IT and digital skills** for scientific research and data handling
- **Ethical awareness and decision-making** in medical and research contexts.

Where your Medical Pharmacology degree could take you

Our programme equips graduates with the skills to succeed in a broad range of different careers, all of which can make a huge difference to the lives of people around the world. Below is a (non-exhaustive) list of the types of careers you could go into with a degree in medical pharmacology:

Academic research

Academic researchers in pharmacology look for the answers to scientific questions through exploratory research. They'll often collaborate with other researchers around the world to expand our knowledge of how drugs, medicines and treatments work and pave the way for new developments to impact people's lives. There are many postgraduate options to choose from at Cardiff, including the MSc in Cancer Biology and Therapeutics, or studying for a PhD.

Industrial development

Working as a researcher in the biomedical industry, you could play a key role in the discovery and delivery of new drugs. As an industry pharmacologist, you'll explore new medicines and treatments and help determine what potential treatments could be taken forward for development. You could also help identify the kind of effects the drug might have before it goes into human trials.

Drug regulation and policy

Developing new medicines and treatments is a highly regulated process, because every drug must be proven to be safe, effective, and high quality before it reaches patients. Drug regulation professionals help pharmaceutical companies make sure their products meet strict legal and ethical standards, from the early stages of research through to clinical trials and final approval. Government departments and regulatory organisations are where experts review medicines, monitor side effects, and help shape national health policy.

Monitoring and licensing of medicines

Once a drug has been licensed for use, pharmacologists are needed to monitor their effects and investigate issues to keep the public safe. This side of drug development, known as pharmacovigilance, sees specialist roles in a wide range of organisations, including government regulatory agencies, pharmaceutical companies, hospitals and specialist pharmacovigilance companies

Patent law and technology transfer

Your knowledge of pharmacology could lead you to a career in patent law, which is a crucial part of intellectual property that helps protect researcher's inventions and encourage future drug and medicine development. Patent lawyers determine which inventions qualify for patents, manage the patent application process, and deal with patent infringement. This could be in government bodies, private partnerships or in large industrial companies.

Medical sales and marketing

A pharmacology degree is excellent preparation for a career in medical sales and marketing. Having the scientific knowledge to articulate drug mechanisms to medical professionals is a desirable skill; being able to market drugs to clinicians to drive adoption equally important. The skills you'll gain from a medical pharmacology degree, such as communication and teamwork, will help you in this role.

A first step to a fulfilling career

Our course will help you develop a wide range of transferable skills, from analytical thinking and working as a team to solving complex problems and innovative thinking. These skills are attractive to a wide range of employers outside of the biomedical and research sector – so if you are still unsure where you'd like your degree to take you, choosing Medical Pharmacology will open many doors in your future.



Graduate Entry Medicine

For a number of our students every year, a Medical Pharmacology degree is a launchpad to a career as a doctor. The Medical Pharmacology BSc at Cardiff University is one of four recognised feeder streams that pre-qualify successful graduates to apply to the A101 Graduate Entry Medicine (MBBCh) course at Cardiff. Places are awarded on a competitive basis to high-achieving students who complete the BSc.

Successful applicants to Graduate Entry Medicine will join the main MBBCh programme teaching at Cardiff in Year 2 of the five year programme, and will graduate as an F1 resident doctor after 7 years of total time at University (three years of BSc teaching and four years of medical training).



For more information about Graduate Entry Medicine (A101), please scan the QR code.





Where community goes beyond the classroom

With a small cohort size of approximately 35-40 students per year, we find that our students quickly get to know each other and form lasting friendships.

The small classroom size also means that it's easy to ask our teaching staff anything you might need, which is why 100% of our students think teaching staff are good at explaining things (National Student Survey 2025).

Along with excellent access to teaching staff, you'll be assigned a Personal Tutor for your time with us. They'll be checking in with you regularly, be on hand for any questions or issues you might need help with and can signpost you to any additional support you might need.



Where you'll make friends for life

You'll gain so much more than a degree when you join us.

Ask any of our students and they'll rush to tell you about the friends they've made – friendships which will last a lifetime.

Our students are particularly passionate about their very own student society called the Welsh Pharmaceutical Students' Association – or WPSA as it's affectionately known. The society is proud to host many fun charity, sporting and social events for all Pharmacy students here – not least the highly-anticipated annual WPSA Pharmacy Ball.

Similarly, the Pharmacology Society helps you make the most of student life while studying Medical Pharmacology. This student-run society is especially for pharmacology students, giving you the chance to meet people across all year groups and feel part of a close, supportive community. From themed socials, meals out, and annual balls to mentoring schemes that help first years settle in, there are plenty of ways to get involved. Members also stay up to date with the latest advances in pharmacology through newsletters and LinkedIn networking, helping you connect your studies to real research and future careers

So if you're looking to make friends with students who are following a similar path to you, there's a place for you here – you'll be welcomed with open arms.



You get to meet a load of new people but you're not lost in a crowd. There's such a lovely opportunity to make friends – I really feel at home here.

Natasha, MPharm student



In this short film, MPharm student Natasha reveals what it's like to study Pharmacy with us, what support she gets and why she couldn't love WPSA more!



Important Legal Information

The contents of this brochure relate to the Entry 2027 admissions cycle and are correct at the time of going to press in June 2026. However, there is a lengthy period of time between printing this brochure and applications being made to, and processed by us, so please check our website at:

www.cardiff.ac.uk before making an application in case there are any changes to the course you are interested in or to other facilities and services described here.

Where there is a difference between the contents of this brochure and our website, the contents of the website take precedence and represent the basis on which we intend to deliver our services to you.

Your degree: Students admitted to Cardiff University study for a Cardiff University degree.

This brochure is printed on paper obtained from well managed sources using vegetable-based inks. Both the paper used in the production of this prospectus and the manufacturing process are FSC® certified.

The printers are also accredited to ISO14001, the internationally recognised environmental standard.

Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.

This document is also available in Welsh.

Cardiff University is a registered charity, no. 1136855

This prospectus can be made available in alternative formats, including large print (text), Braille and on audio tape/CD.

To request an alternative format please contact Laura Roberts:
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Email: RobertsL9@cardiff.ac.uk

How to find us

Key



School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences



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