

Information on Pharmacy

What attracts you to Pharmacy?

How much thought have you given to this question?
How long have you been thinking about it?

Where do Pharmacists work?

They can work in hospitals, in retail outlets (perhaps their own business) and supermarkets, or in GP surgeries or in community centres.

Do you have the right personal qualities?

Consider these questions-

Do you have good communication skills?

Would you be good at interacting with the public?

Do you like working with people; could you show evidence of this?

Have you done any work shadowing, or relevant voluntary work?

Are you patient and tolerant, particularly when dealing with "difficult customers!"

Are you careful, methodical and meticulous? (Important qualities for work as a pharmacist.)

Do you have the right qualifications?

Entry to a Pharmacy degree requires 3 A levels. Chemistry is the most important. You should also have two other A levels from Biology, Physics or Maths. Biology is often preferred. Grades required are A*AA –BBB.

Most successful applicants have a combination of As and Bs.

Only Pharmacy degree courses accredited by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain lead to a qualification as a pharmacist. Check prospectuses and websites.

Other Factors To Consider

Work experience and work shadowing with a retail and/or hospital pharmacist is important and essential for Pharmacy applicants. Read pharmaceutical journals, extend your knowledge of well known drugs and antibiotics. Read up on the history of drugs.

Useful Websites

General Pharmaceutical Council www.pharmacyregulation.org

Royal Pharmaceutical Society www.rpharms.com

NHS Careers www.nhscareers.nhs.uk

www.stepintothenhs.nhs.uk

Other Degrees For Consideration

Biochemistry, Biological Sciences, Biotechnology, iology, Cemistry, Life Sciences, Medicinal Chemistry, Microbiology, Natural Sciences, Pharmacology, Physiology.