

## ***MPharm Accreditation Criteria***

### ***Prerequisites***

1. The student undertakes at least 3,000 hours of directed study of pharmaceutically-relevant subjects within a full-time degree course of four years' duration.
2. The greater part of the curriculum and not less than 50% of the final year of the degree course is core content, i.e. common to all students.
3. Those components of the degree course which collectively deal with the actions and uses of drugs and medicines occupy no less than 35% of the curriculum, irrespective of the extent of specialisation in the final year.
4. At least 35% of those parts of the degree course common to all students involve the student in preparing for, undertaking and analysing the outcomes of experiments, exercises or observations wherein s/he reaches his/her own findings or conclusions.
5. The degree course includes a significant research project of three to six months duration, but not necessarily with all curriculum time during this period being devoted to this activity alone. The student must undertake the project alone or as his/her individual contribution to a team endeavour. The project must address a research question or problem, must involve a critique of research methodology employed, and must include an analysis of results generated directly by the student or indirectly by others as primary researchers.
6. All pharmacy degree course entrants must have achieved GCSE at Grades A to C, or equivalent qualifications, in English Language and Mathematics.

### ***Outcomes: the graduate...***

7. takes personal responsibility for his/her learning, developing a foundation for subsequent continuing professional development,
8. can communicate effectively, orally and in writing, with his/her teachers and peers, as a sound basis for future interaction with patients, carers and other healthcare professionals,
9. can undertake structured problem-solving,
10. is able to recognise ethical dilemmas in healthcare and science, and understands ways in which these might be managed by healthcare professionals, whilst taking account of relevant law,
11. appreciates and has an understanding of main sources of drugs; ways in which drugs are purified, characterised and analysed; their physico-chemical properties; and properties drugs display as biologically active molecules in living systems,
12. has an understanding of the design, manufacture and performance of drug dosage forms and is able critically to appreciate the inter-relationship between formulation, drug delivery and therapeutic effectiveness,
13. understands how medicines are developed, manufactured and brought to the market place,
14. has proved him/herself capable of performing pharmaceutical calculations accurately,
15. has the capability to prepare extemporaneously any medicine for which this would be regarded as the normal means of provision, including by aseptic technique,
16. is able to interpret and evaluate, for safety, quality, efficacy and economy, prescriptions and other orders for medicines, and to advise patients and other healthcare professionals about medicines and their usage,
17. is aware of and understands systems for the quality assurance of products and pharmaceutical services. This includes the management of risk,
18. is able to design, improve, and operate within standard operating procedures, including Patient Group Directions,
19. is able to supply medicines in accordance with legal and professional requirements,

20. can undertake critical appraisal of information or conjecture in all forms of presentation,
21. can apply appropriate research approaches and methods to manage scientific and practice problems,
22. has a foundation of knowledge, understanding and skills for promoting good health; diagnosing disease; and prescribing medicines,
23. understands and can explain concepts of medicines management and pharmaceutical care.

***Processes: the student...***

24. is inculcated with a concern for the patient, normally above other considerations,
25. gains first-hand structured experience of practice, including contact with patients and practitioners of other healthcare professions,
26. is required to communicate with individuals and audiences,
27. is instructed in the use of, and required to apply, library and other information resources,
28. is required to apply routinely, word-processing, spreadsheet, database, e-mail and information retrieval computer applications,
29. has brought to his/her attention the continuing professional development opportunities open to practising pharmacists,
30. is made aware of the advantages of, and encouraged to undertake, employment or attachment for vacation experience in pharmacy practice,
31. is encouraged both to be a participating member of the British Pharmaceutical Students' Association and to attend local RPSGB branch or regional meetings, or equivalent meetings in Northern Ireland.

***Processes: the degree course...***

32. is planned with reference to the indicative syllabus at Appendix 2 and as an integrated programme. This means that the inter-relationships of its component parts are considered and made explicit,
33. seeks to develop students' skills of self-management, teamworking and peer assessment,
34. has the features of positioning knowledge, understanding and skills in a pharmaceutical context and with reference to pharmacy practice,
35. in the processes of curriculum review and development, benefits from the academic staff properly taking account of major advances and developments potentially impacting on pharmacy,
36. features a variety of approaches to achieving and assessing learning appropriate to its stated objectives, including lectures, practical classes, seminars, workshops, tutorials, computer-based/aided learning, clinical visits, problem-solving exercises, essays, projects, dissertations and other assignments, and examinations,
37. includes significant staff-led or supervised time devoted to the topics of pharmacy law and professional requirements, and their applications in practice, this being in addition to the assimilation of legal and professional requirements into a substantial proportion of a dispensing practical course,
38. where appropriate and possible, has the student taught and learning alongside and together with students of other healthcare professions,
39. has pharmacy undergraduate teaching taking place alongside and with reference to research and other postgraduate activities.

***Structures***

40. For its proper ethos, quality assurance, and scientific and professional leadership, the degree course is within the control of, and predominantly delivered by, an autonomous school or department of pharmacy,
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41. accommodation, human, equipment, and other resources available to the school or department of pharmacy are sufficient for the effective delivery of the planned degree course to the numbers of students in each year of the degree course, and overall; properly taking account of the teaching, research and other commitments of the unit,
42. the school or department of pharmacy has an appropriately expert academic staff, including such in the practice of pharmacy,
43. the school or department of pharmacy has within its academic staff at least one pharmacist who is a professor or of equivalent authority in the institution,
44. teacher-practitioners and visiting lecturers from all of community, hospital and industrial pharmacy practice, and appropriate persons from other healthcare professions are involved in teaching/support for learning and assessment,
45. the student has access to a personal tutor or tutors for academic guidance and pastoral care,
46. there is an active staff-student consultative committee,
47. pharmacy law, professional requirements and practice are taught - predominantly by pharmacists - from within the identifiable organisational unit which provides the bulk of teaching and other support for learning for the degree course,
48. there is assessment of competence in dispensing by either one examination at the end of the dispensing course, taken under full examination conditions with an external examiner present; or a series of tests taken under examination conditions, with an external examiner having the right to attend any of the practical tests and attending some part of the assessment every year. The external examiner is associated with the overall assessment,
49. there is a requirement for achievement of a satisfactorily high standard in assessments of both dispensing practice, and pharmacy law and professional requirements, irrespective of the student's performance in other subjects. Compensation of marks for these subjects is not allowed and success in these subjects is either a condition for entry into the final year or, if undertaken in the final year, for the award of the degree,
50. during the final year, the student is required to pass an assessment of any important recent changes in pharmacy law and/or professional requirements.