

Pharmacy

What degree is needed?

The first step to becoming a pharmacist is to take a Master's degree which is called MPharm, which is credited by the General Pharmaceutical Council. You can search for these on the on the course finders section of their website. You apply for these courses on UCAS.

Entry requirements

Each university requires different grades, but you are likely to need three A-levels or equivalent qualifications, with supporting GCSE grades. You need to aim very high with your grades, as the course is extremely competitive. You'll need grades in chemistry, maybe biology and another science subject like math's. However, this once again will differ, so make sure to check the university website.

Interview

You will need to show that you understand the role of a pharmacist and what the work involves. You will gain this insight through work experience, and research. Make sure you know the most recent discoveries to do with pharmacy, which can be found on the NHS News website.

What if I don't get in first time around?

Reapply! Just because you didn't get in first time doesn't mean it is the end. Alternatively, take an accredited foundation degree and process to the second year an MPharm degree. Make sure you apply to universities that offer this process though.



LINCOLNSHIRE TRAINING HUB

Supporting Education and Workforce Recruitment in Primary Care in Lincolnshire.

Applying to Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy Degrees



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Table of Contents

Applying to Healthcare Related Degrees.....	1-3
Medicine	4
Nursing	5
Pharmacy.....	6

What is the Lincolnshire Training Hub?

About Us -

As the Lincolnshire Training Hub our role is to support doctors, nurses and pharmacists into general practice. We facilitate placements for students as well as supporting people into general practice roles. This booklet is designed to offer support for everyone who has an interest in primary care, and help assist them into understand the application process into the degrees that lead into these healthcare roles.

Contact us –

Website –

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Nursing

Nursing Schools

Entry requirements vary as each university sets its own entrance criteria. Usually at least 2 A levels, mostly 3 or equivalent at level 3, plus supporting GCSE's including English, Math's and a Science. Some universities offer a foundation year for those without the necessary entrance qualifications.

Many universities offer degrees in nursing- adult nursing, mental health nursing, children's nursing and learning disabilities nursing. Its best to research what each different specialty includes to make sure you decide one is the correct one for you.

University isn't for everyone, and nursing has other routes enabling people into this profession:

- Nursing degree apprenticeships- They will learn at Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) approved education providers and will be expected to achieve the same standards as other student nurses. These are advertised on the government apprentice page.
- Nursing associate- Nursing associate is a new role within the nursing team. Nursing associates work with healthcare support workers and registered nurses to deliver care for patients and the public.

There are many career choices once you have qualified, including secondary care, primary care, community. You can go into general practice as a newly qualified nurse, career pathways are in place with post registration education.



Medicine

Medical Schools

There are 33 medical schools in the United Kingdom, each with different requirements and application processes. Make sure you apply to your strengths whether this is your UCAT/BMAT score, GCSEs or personal statement. Examples of where to apply if you have a good... is:

- UCAT – apply to Newcastle, Sheffield, Southampton, Manchester.
- GCSEs – Lancaster, Liverpool, Cardiff, Edinburgh.
- PERSONAL STATEMENT: Bristol, Birmingham, Keele.

Different medical schools use different teaching styles: PBL (independent), traditional (lecture based) and then integrated (a mix of both). Learn about which universities use which as you may want to apply to a certain teaching style that may appeal to you more. A-Level requirements range from AAA-A*A*A. Sheffield now offer AAB with an EPQ at A*/A and other medical schools can offer this for people they like at interview. Check websites for GCSE requirements, the base line is C in math's, English and science but these change with university with most being higher than this.

UCAT and BMAT

UCAT is a tricky exam made of 4 sections marked between 300-900, with the average being around 600. There are decision making (puzzle solving), quantitative reasoning (math's questions), verbal reasoning (reading and information retention) and abstract reasoning (pattern recognition). The another section is called Situational Judgement where you are graded between Band 1-4 (one is the best) where your ethics and morals are tested with how you'd react to different scenarios. Best advice for this exam:

- Practice ONLINE – medify being top end (costs money) and medical portal/UCAT websites being free. Practice with the online calculator.
- Practice TIMING – this exam is hard due to the quick and pressured timing with 30-45 seconds a question.
- Practice QUESTION STYLE – questions come from a bank, so they are reused with different numbers. The same formula/patterns/styles are used, and therefore the more practice you get, the better chance you have with doing well.

BMAT is an exam based on Biology/Chemistry/Maths/Physics. There are some good books on Amazon to help, this issue with this is you won't know your results before you apply.



Applying to Healthcare Related Degrees

We understand that applying for Healthcare degrees are quite a daunting and scary processes, and may feel like there is so much to complete. This booklet aims to explain each step, as well as the standard process, as an overview with the supporting videos going in more depth about each specific profession.

Basic UCAS Application Process



For Medicine, the application UCAS deadline is mid-October and changes each year. This is an earlier deadline compared to other degrees due to the long application process. This is also the same deadline date as Oxbridge.

Other degrees have a deadline of the 15th of January. The main things to remember for healthcare applications are:

- Start getting work experience early.
- Don't forget to carry on being you – don't stop extracurricular clubs/hobbies just to fit in more work experience or school work.
- Get experience in a team - doesn't have to be healthcare related. Sports teams or school council are good examples.
- Make sure you're certain – it can be quite a long and tiring process and therefore you need to be passionate and dedicated.

Choosing where to apply

Each course has different requirements, and different ways they will assess and weigh up your application. Apply to your strengths (e.g. if you have good GCSE grades, apply to courses that weight these heavily when comparing your application) to improve your chances of receiving offers. Check the courses content and teaching style - make sure it fits you and interests you and these can deeply vary. Check the University websites as there can be guidance related to all of this, including tips to get an offer.

Personal Statement

Personal statements can be scary – but don't worry! Healthcare personal statements all should follow a similar structure, with an emphasis on explaining experiences you've had and how you have developed or witnessed desirable characteristics e.g. empathy or persistence. The best structure to follow is:

- Introduction: explain why you want to do this degree. What made you decide to apply. Make it personal and draw the reader in with personal experiences.

- Healthcare Work Experience: what medical related work experience do you have? Seen anything interesting? What did you learn from this?

- Other work/volunteering: doesn't have to be healthcare related. Do you help with kids clubs or dance lessons? What skills have you used or learnt during this experience?

- Extracurriculars - fun and hobbies (what do you do to de-stress?)

- Summary – summary of how you understand the course has positive and negatives, yet with the skills you've developed you know its what you want to do.

PERSONAL STATEMENT DO'S	PERSONAL STATEMENT DON'T'S
Check it with different teachers and adults. Make sure your grammar and punctuation is correct, and teachers will be able to guide you via what they have seen before.	Don't just explain what you've done, this doesn't mean ANYTHING. Apply your experiences and explain skills you've learnt and developed – e.g. communication skills.
Show off – there will be a lot of people applying so what makes you special? Why should they choose you out of everyone?	Don't fall into the trap of 'I like science and like people' – make it personal and interesting. Make them REMEMBER you.
Look at university websites for what they want and include this in the document.	Do NOT lie. They will realize. They'll ask you questions about points at interview.
Read over the example given on the other file. This candidate was very successful.	Do NOT copy others. UCAS screens this and you will be caught out.

Work Experience and Extracurricular Activities:

The Talent Academy is where you can apply for NHS work experience in Lincolnshire. However, not all work experiences needs to be healthcare, as you can apply a lot of community work, working in teams or jobs to the relevant skills. Extracurricular activities show you are more than just grades, and that you can contribute to the universities societies. Don't give these up just due to your application. Talk about how you'd use them as a stress relief. To do the healthcare courses being quite stressful they'd like to know you have coping mechanisms in place.

Interviews

Interviews can seem very daunting at first, but as cliché as it sounds, the best thing is to relax, try enjoy it and be yourself. The interviewer just wants to see who you are, they aren't there to catch you out. When practicing questions, record yourself answering them, and then watch it back. You'll be able to see if you look scared, or if you fidget while answering, and you'll be able to change this. Practicing with other people enables you to be able to debate topics and have other insights into the way you can go about certain questions. Keep up to date with the news, especially regarding with healthcare. NHS news website is great for learning about upcoming research and developments that are 100% accurate and reliable. Make sure you know about at least one headline in-depth, as new medical developments or news may be a whole question in itself. Check the university website before going to the interview as sometimes they put up hints or questions that you will be asked. If they list characteristics that they are looking for, make sure you can list different situations where you have expressed these. A must for interviews is to understand the 4 ethical principles – autonomy, justice, beneficence, and non-maleficence.

There are two different types of interviews:

- MMI - MMI interviews consist of several short practical assessments, usually less than 10 minutes each. You'll be presented with a scenario before each mini interview, so you will have a bit of time to prepare an answer. Then you'll either be asked a question by an interviewer, or have to engage in a role-play scenario with an actor whilst an interviewer watches.
- Traditional – sitting opposite a panel of interviewers for long times

Results Day

Aiming for the a-level grades, or BTEC grades can be quite daunting. Ensure you start revising old content at the beginning of your final year for exams and course work. Refreshing your brain as many times as possible is better for memory retention than just going over something in-depth once.

If you don't receive the grades on the day, DO NOT WORRY. Clearing is an easy process, enabling you to still try get on your dream course. Before results day, prepare yourself by looking what courses and universities are on clearing, and make a list. Go on the university websites and register your interest. They may send exclusive texts/emails to you on results day about offers.