

## Programme Specification

MPharm Pharmacy

For students entering Part 1 in September 2020

UCAS Code: B230

UFPHARM

**This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.**

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	4 years
Accreditation	General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC)

### Programme information and content

The programme aims to provide you with a modern, innovative and integrated Masters degree-level education in Pharmacy that meets the standards of the University and the requirements of the General Pharmaceutical Council. The MPharm will teach you to be responsible for the safe manufacture, distribution and use of medicinal products, and will encompass detailed studies of all aspects of drug action, design, formulation and use. Thus you will be trained in aspects of chemistry, biology, therapeutics, statistics, social and clinical pharmacy, and law, that impact on pharmacy. The programme is focussed on the patient and provides you with professional experiences in terms of placement opportunities, inter-professional learning and patient interaction. The programme forms the first stage of professional training towards becoming a pharmacist. It will support you in your development as an independent learner with strong therapeutic and clinical skills and knowledge. Reading MPharm graduates will be well placed to complete a further 12 months pre-registration training and pass the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) Registration Assessment.

Part 1:	<p>Introduces you to key concepts and is taught in broad discipline themes, where concepts are described, developed and explicitly linked and integrated to the pharmacy profession. During Part 1, we focus on developing your learning skills; our assessment is largely diagnostic and formative as we encourage you to reflect and take responsibility for your own learning. The year is made up of three interlinked modules that will provide you with the core biological, chemical and professional knowledge and skills that form the foundation of the degree programme. The year includes a number of laboratory, workshop and tutorial classes that allow you to develop your pharmaceutical science and practice skills, each providing you with appropriate feedback and opportunities for reflection. You will also be required to undertake two introductory placement visits to gain an insight into the pharmacy workplace, and interprofessional learning activities, through which you will start to learn about how pharmacists work as part of a multidisciplinary team. You will begin to put together a Personal &amp; Academic Development (PAD) Portfolio, which you will build upon throughout your four years of study to demonstrate your engagement with the programme and your growth as a reflective practitioner.</p>
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Part 2:	<p>Provides you with an integrated approach to teaching and assessment, whilst also developing core scientific skills needed to be able to appreciate how science impacts on professional practice. You will gain a full understanding of how to use your science and practice knowledge to support patients and the public, within an industrial and professional practice context.</p> <p>In Part 2 there is a focus on the therapeutic areas of infections and infection control, and renal, gastrointestinal, cardiovascular and respiratory disease; the normal structure of these systems, pathology of diseases affecting them and how they are managed therapeutically. You will learn about drug discovery, and how the chemical structure of a drug affects its stability and activity. You will be taught about the safe handling of materials, manufacturing methods (including aseptic preparations) and quality assurance. You will further your knowledge of drug delivery and formulation, with a focus on how drugs are formulated for delivery through the gastrointestinal tract, and the core concepts of pharmacology, toxicology and health-related statistics. You will build upon your knowledge and skills relating to pharmacy practice concepts, for example, interpreting and assessing prescriptions for safety, medicines related legislation and community and hospital pharmacy services.</p> <p>During Part 2, you will be required to undertake placement learning in community pharmacy and attend hospital pharmacy visits, in addition to engaging with interprofessional and patient-focussed learning activities. These will feed into your PAD portfolio, which you will continue to develop throughout the year, in preparation for the assessment in part 3.</p>
Placement/Study abroad year:	
Part 3:	<p>Gives you the opportunity to further develop your knowledge and skills relating to scientific and practice aspects of therapeutics and clinical pharmacy. Assessments within this year address topics from across modules and include key professional skills including dispensing, legal and clinical validation of prescriptions, and communication and consultation skills. Therapeutic areas covered in this year include: immunology and infections, dermatology, men's &amp; women's health, endocrinology, musculoskeletal disorders, the central and peripheral nervous systems and cancer. Each topic includes aspects of physiology, pathology, disease management and prevention, patient management and promoting public health. You will build upon your knowledge of medicines design and delivery, considering a range of different routes of administration.</p> <p>During your third year you will be required to attend hospital pharmacy visits and undertake placement learning in either a community or hospital pharmacy setting, in addition to engaging with interprofessional and patient-focussed learning activities. Your PAD portfolio will be assessed</p>

	<p>within this year. In order to progress to Part 4, you will be required to demonstrate competence in the Prescription Assessment and Medicines Supply assessment, which forms part of module PM3C.</p>
Part 4:	<p>Part 4 is separated into two distinct modules. Within module PM4A you will develop your knowledge of generic and discipline-specific research methods, in addition to undertaking novel research, working alongside experienced academics and practitioners. The MPharm programme culminates in an advanced clinical pharmacy module, in which you will apply your learning to more complex therapeutic and practice based topics. The topics covered include medicines use in pregnancy and breastfeeding, neonatology and paediatrics, emergency and critical care, caring for the elderly, complex cancer and palliative care.</p> <p>Within Part 4 you will be required to participate in student-led health checks provided to members of the public and engage in our interprofessional education symposium, in which you will learn alongside a range of other healthcare trainees and work as part of a multidisciplinary team.</p> <p>In order to successfully complete Part 4, you will be required to demonstrate satisfactory knowledge and understanding of legal and ethical issues relating to pharmacy, and show competence in clinical and communication skills, ensuring patient safety. You must also have satisfactorily completed experiential learning activities as specified in the module descriptions for Parts 1 to 4.</p> <p>As you come to the end of your undergraduate studies, you will have developed the knowledge and skills required in order to work as an effective and patient-focussed member of the healthcare team, as you prepare to move into your pre-registration training year.</p>

### Module information

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

#### Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits
PM1A	Fundamentals of Physiology	50
PM1B	Medicines Discovery, Design, Development and Delivery	50
PM1C	Introduction to Professionalism and Practice	20

All modules at Part 1 of the programme are compulsory.

#### Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits
PM2A2	Therapeutics and medicines optimisation A2: Molecules and Medicines	30

PM2B	Therapeutics and Medicines Optimisation B: A Journey Through the GI Tract	35
PM2C2	Therapeutics and medicines optimisation C2: Therapeutics and Patient care	35
PM2D	Delivering Pharmacy Services	20

All modules at Part 2 of the programme are compulsory.

**Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):**

Not applicable

**Part 3 Modules:**

Module	Name	Credits
PM3A	Therapeutics and Medicines Optimisation D	40
PM3B	Therapeutics and Medicines Optimisation E	40
PM3C	Delivering Pharmacy Services 2	40

All modules at Part 3 of the programme are compulsory.

**Part 4 modules:**

Module	Name	Credits
PM4A	Pharmaceutical Research and Enquiry	60
PM4B	Advanced Clinical Pharmacy & Pharmacy Practice	60

All modules at Part 4 of the programme are compulsory.

**Optional modules:**

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your Programme is set out in the Further Programme Information. Details of optional modules for each part, including any Additional Costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

**Additional costs of the programme**

During your programme of study you will incur some additional costs.

The core textbooks, which most students normally purchase, cost approximately £30 each when bought new, and there may be other books/resources which you would find convenient to buy. Some books may be available second-hand, and this will reduce costs incurred. A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks and

electronic resources, are available through the University library. Reading lists and module specific costs are listed on the individual module descriptions.

Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus at a cost of £0.05 per page. Costs will be, on average, £150 per year.

You will also be required to have a lab coat for certain practical classes. These can be purchased for a cost of £10.

As part of ensuring the safety of students, patients and the public, you will be required to undergo police (Disclosure & Barring Service) and health checks. The initial DBS check costs approximately £51.20. The health check is carried out free of charge, but you will be required to pay for any vaccinations that you may need.

You will be required to complete a series of placements during your programme, for which you will incur travel costs. Any students needing to resit an assessment during their studies will be required to pay a resit fee. The cost of this will depend on the number of credits associated with the relevant module. Further information can be found on the examinations office website.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations.

The estimates were calculated in 2019.

## **Placement opportunities**

You will be provided with the opportunity to undertake credit-bearing placements as part of your Programme. You will also be encouraged to gain work experience beyond that provided by the university. The university will provide advice and support in achieving this.

### **Teaching and learning delivery:**

You will be taught through lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops and practical classes. You will also undertake directed and self-directed study to supplement and enhance your learning from the taught sessions. There will be an expectation that you will attend all taught sessions and attendance will be monitored. You will undertake a series of placements and visits to community and hospital healthcare organisations and will also take part in interprofessional learning activities, which will develop your understanding of the workplace, and the role of the pharmacist as part of the multidisciplinary team.

Total study hours for each Part of your programme will be 1200 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is Part 1 - 408 hours, Part 2 - 444 hours, Part 3 - 384 hours, Part 4 - 600. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the

amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

## **Accreditation details**

To ensure the safety of students, patients and the public, students undertaking the MPharm programme will be required to have satisfactory police (Disclosure and Barring Service) and health clearance. This will be completed as part of the admissions process and will be maintained throughout the programme as an annual update and declaration. Students are required to inform the School of Pharmacy of any change in circumstances that may affect their ability, or suitability, to continue their studies. Students are also expected to maintain behaviours associated with a healthcare professional and must abide by University regulations, the School of Pharmacy Fitness to Practice policy and the General Pharmaceutical Council's Standards for Pharmacy Professionals. Deviation from these standards may lead to the instigation of University Academic Misconduct and/or Fitness to Practice processes.

## **Assessment**

The programme will be assessed through a combination of written examinations, coursework, oral examinations, practical examinations.

## **Progression**

University Threshold Performance Requirements

The University-wide rules relating to 'threshold performance' are as follows:

### ***Part 1***

- (i) obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (ii) obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 100 credits taken in Part 1.

### **MPharm specific progression requirements**

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance and:

- (iii) an overall weighted average of 40% over 120 credits; and
- (iv) a mark of at least 40% in individual modules and at least 40% in each individual module written examination; and
- (v) successful completion of specified coursework and /or examination components of relevant modules, as described in the module descriptions.

Students who have failed or are not qualified to progress to Part 2 are permitted one re-sit examination in each module (or failed required coursework element of a module) in which they fail to meet the progression requirements. The mark used for the purposes of

progression will be the higher of the mark obtained in the original examination and the mark obtained in the re-examination.

For the compulsory coursework element of Part 1 (the pharmaceutical calculations assessment), students will be permitted 3 attempts (named attempt 1A, 1B and 2) to demonstrate competence, as described in the module description.

Students who do not meet the above requirement but gain a University threshold performance at Part 1 may be eligible to transfer to another programme or to leave with a CertHE.

## **Part 2**

### University Threshold Performance Requirements

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2; and
- (ii) obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits; and
- (iii) obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

### **MPharm specific progression requirements**

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance and:

- (iv) an overall weighted average of at least 40% over 120 credits; and
- (v) a mark of at least 40% in individual modules and at least 40% in each individual module written examination; and
- (vi) successful completion of specified coursework and / or examination components of relevant modules, as described in the module descriptions.

Students who have failed or are not qualified to progress to Part 3 are permitted one re-sit examination in each module (or failed required coursework element of a module) in which they fail to meet the progression requirements. The mark used for the purpose of progression will be the higher of the mark obtained in the original examination and the mark obtained in the re-examination.

Students who re-sit examinations at Part 2 and meet the MPharm progression criteria will have their marks in those modules capped at 40% for degree classification purposes in accordance with the University regulations.

Students who do not meet the above requirements for progression to Part 3 but gain a threshold performance may be eligible to transfer to another programme or leave with a DipHE.

### ***Part 3***

To gain a threshold performance at Part 3 a student shall normally be required to achieve:

- (i) an overall weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 3; and
- (ii) a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits.

#### **MPharm specific progression requirements**

In order to progress from Part 3 to Part 4, a student shall normally be required to achieve the following in Part 3:

- (i) an overall weighted average of at least 40% over 120 credits; and
- (ii) a mark of at least 40% in individual modules; and
- (iii) successful completion of specified coursework and examinations of relevant modules, as described in the module descriptions.

Students who have failed or are not qualified to progress to Part 4 are permitted one re-sit examination in each module (or failed required coursework element of a module) in which they fail to meet the progression requirements. The mark used for the purposes of progression will be the higher of the mark obtained in the original examination and the mark obtained in the re-examination. Students who re-sit examinations at Part 3 and meet the MPharm progression criteria will have their marks in those modules capped at 40% for degree classification purposes in accordance with the University regulations.

For the required coursework element of Part 3 (Prescription Assessment & Medicines Supply assessment), students will be permitted 3 attempts (named attempt 1A, 1B and 2) to demonstrate competence, as described in the module description. The mark used for progression purposes will be the higher of the mark obtained in attempt 1A and the mark obtained in attempt 1B and 2 (as appropriate). For classification purposes, the mark for attempt 1B will be capped at the pass mark for the assessment. Students passing at attempt 2 will have their module mark capped at 40% for degree classification purposes, in accordance with University regulations.

Students who do not meet the above requirements for progression to Part 4 but gain a threshold performance will be eligible for the award of BSc Pharmaceutical Science. The classification for this exit award will be based upon an overall weighted average ratio of 1:2 (Part 2: Part 3).

### ***Part 4***

To obtain the MPharm Degree, a student shall normally be required to have satisfied all of the above progression requirements and to achieve the following in Part 4:

- (i) an overall weighted average of at least 40% in Parts 2 and 3, and at least 50% at Part 4; and
- (ii) a mark of at least 50% in each module amounting to 120 credits in Part 4; and



(iii) successful completion of specified coursework (including experiential learning activities) and examinations of relevant modules, as described in the module descriptions.

Students who fail the degree are permitted one re-sit examination in each Part 4 module, or failed required coursework element of a passed module, in which they have achieved less than 50%. Students who re-sit examinations at Part 4 and meet the MPharm progression criteria will have their marks in those modules capped at 50% for degree classification purposes in accordance with the University regulations.

For the required coursework element of Part 4 (OSCE), students will be permitted 3 attempts (named attempt 1A, 1B and 2) to demonstrate competence, as described in the module description. For classification purposes, the mark for attempt 1B will be capped at the pass mark for the OSCE assessment element only. Students passing at attempt 2 will have their module mark capped at 50% for degree classification purposes, in accordance with University regulations.

Students who meet requirement (i) and (ii) above but fail to meet requirement (iii) will be eligible for the award of MSci Pharmaceutical Science. The classification for this exit award will be based upon the following weighting: Part 2: 20%, Part 3: 30%, Part 4: 50%.

Students who do not meet the requirements for obtaining the MPharm or MSci Pharmaceutical Science degree will be eligible for the award of BSc Pharmaceutical Science. The classification for this exit award will be based upon an overall weighted average ratio of 1:2 (Part 2: Part 3)

The GPhC does not accept Aegrotat degrees for entry to the Registration Examinations for pharmacists.

#### Classification

#### Integrated Masters' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark	Interpretation
70% - 100%	First class
60% - 69%	Upper Second class
50% - 59%	Lower Second class
40% - 49%	Third class
0% - 39%	Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Integrated Masters Programmes (e.g. MEng, MMath, MChem, MPharm, etc.)

Part 2: 20%

Part 3: 30%

Part 4: 50%

**For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at**

<http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

MPharm Pharmacy for students entering Part 1 in session 2020/21

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