

Programme Specification
BSc Pharmaceutical Science

For students entering Part 1 in September 2027

UFPHARMB

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	3 years
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	
Accreditation	Not applicable
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Not applicable

Programme information and content

The programme aims to provide you with a modern, innovative and integrated Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree-level education in Pharmaceutical Science. The BSc Pharmaceutical Science will teach you about 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, psychology and law, that impact on pharmaceutical science. The programme supports your development as an independent learner with strong knowledge of medicinal product design, manufacture, delivery, distribution and clinical use. Reading graduates will be well placed to pursue careers in a range of sectors, including the pharmaceutical industry.

Part 1:	Introduces you to key concepts and is taught in broad discipline themes, where concepts are described, developed and explicitly linked and integrated to the development and use of medicines. 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 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 associated skills, each providing you with appropriate feedback and opportunities for reflection. During Part 1, you will have the opportunity to undertake placements and interprofessional learning activities, through which you will start to learn about working as part of a multidisciplinary team.
Part 2:	In Part 2, you will develop your knowledge and skills about how pharmaceutical sciences integrate to support healthcare and the treatment of diseases. You will learn a combination of scientific disciplines related to healthcare along with an understand of how medicines can impact the human body. You will also start to develop your critical analysis and research skills in preparation for undertaking a research project in part 3

Part 3:	In Part 3 you will perform an extended laboratory-based or data analysis project which will develop practical skills sought by pharmaceutical, and life sciences-related, industries. You will also have access to optional modules on cutting edge areas built around areas of staff research expertise. You will learn about societal aspects of pharmacology and develop core attributes and attitudes that will support a research-focused career.
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Programme Learning Outcomes - BSc Pharmaceutical Science

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

	Learning outcomes
1	Describe, discuss and apply key principles of pharmaceutical science, drug discovery and drug development.
2	Demonstrate core knowledge in, and explain, the societal relevance and impact of pharmaceutical science in improving human/animal health and its relationship with other subject areas, and discuss ethical concerns relevant to the field.
3	Apply the principles of pharmacokinetics and demonstrate numeracy skills in calculations relevant to the pharmaceutical and pharmacological industries.
4	Demonstrate core knowledge about, and apply methodological principles relevant to pharmaceutical science.
5	Demonstrate core knowledge and skills in the scientific method (hypothesis formulation, hypothesis testing, experimental design, experimental analysis).
6	Demonstrate appropriate practical techniques to solve problems relevant to pharmaceutical science, following safe laboratory practices and with consideration of the theoretical basis and limitations of these techniques.
7	Collect, organize, interpret and analyse scientific information and data from the literature or the laboratory to produce written work such as lab reports, essays and dissertations for varied purposes and audiences.
8	Communicate effectively to scientific and non-scientific audiences, in a range of formats
9	Apply knowledge and skills in pharmaceutical sciences to solve problems in a real-world setting.
10	Plan, design, conduct and report on an individual research project.
11	Work effectively independently and within a team.

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

In addition to the learning outcomes stated above if you are on a placement or study abroad programme you will have the opportunity to develop the following learning outcome:

Additional Learning outcomes	
N/A	

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	Level
PM1PY1	Professional Practice 1	40	4
PM1PY2	Fundamentals of Cell Biology	20	4
PM1PY3	Fundamentals of Pharmaceutical Science	20	4
PM1PY4	Introduction to Medicines Design	20	4
PM1PY5	Introduction to Microbiology, Immunology and Physiology	20	4
All Part 1 modules are compulsory.			
Part 2 Modules:			
Module	Name	Credits	Level
PM2DDD	Drug Design and Delivery	20	5
PM2IAP	Integrated Anatomy and Physiology	20	5
PM2MDT	Molecular Drug Targets	20	5
PM2MHC	Medicines in Healthcare	20	5
PM2SPA	Selected Pathologies	20	5
The remaining credits will be taken from a list of optional modules from the School of Chemistry, Food and Pharmacy, or from an approved list of modules.			
Students transferring to this programme at the end of Part 2 must have taken the following:			
Module	Name	Credit	Level
PM2PY1	Professional Practice 2	40	5
PM2PY2	Clinical Therapeutics 1	40	5
PM2PY3	Clinical Therapeutics 2	40	5
If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.			
Part 3 Modules:			
Module	Name	Credits	Level
PM3CSIP	Clinical and Societal Impact of Pharmacology	40	6
PM3RP	Research Project	60	6
The remaining credits will be taken from a list of optional modules from the School of Chemistry, Food and Pharmacy, or from an approved list of modules.			

Placement opportunities

Placements:

There are no placement requirements within this programme, but you will have the opportunity to undertake placement learning in Part 1.

Study Abroad:

There are no study abroad opportunities within this programme.

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. 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.

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, and digitally-enabled learning activities 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.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination.

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 – 600 hours, Part 2 - 400 hours, Part 3 - 650. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including 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

The programme is not accredited.

Assessment

Assessment methods used will be according to those stated in the module descriptors to align to the learning outcomes. This means the programme is assessed through a combination of written examinations, coursework, oral examinations, and practical examinations.

Progression

Part 1

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, a student will normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain an overall weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in modules amounting to 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

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

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Students considering transferring to another programme should seek guidance from their designated Support Centre in the first instance

Part 2

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

- (i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

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

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Transfer from the MPharm programme or MPharm with Preparatory Year

Students who have failed to meet the requirements for progression from Part 2 to Part 3 of the MPharm or MPharm with Preparatory Year programmes, but who have met University Threshold Standard, may transfer to Part 3 of this programme.

Classification

Bachelors' 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
35% - 39%	Below Honours Standard
0% - 34%	Fail

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

Three year Clinical science exit degree:

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two-thirds

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the [Assessment Handbook](#) under:

- Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's), or
- Section 18: Awards (Integrated Master's programmes). Students who do not progress to Part 4 of the Integrated Master's will normally be subject to the method detailed under Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's)

Please note that there may be a specific version of the above for your year of entry.

Additional costs of the programme

1. Required text books: A wide variety of text books is available from the library, many as e-books. Students are advised to purchase own copies of some core texts at varying costs.
2. Specialist equipment or materials: A lab coat will cost approximately £10.
3. Printing facilities are available on campus at approximately £0.05 per page
4. Travel, accommodation and subsistence: Students may need to travel if they visit venues geographically further away from University (when significantly further away, the programme currently supports travel costs by reimbursements).

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2026.

Students may consider purchasing a laptop to help support their learning. Information on recommended device specifications can be found on the [DTS Student Hub](#).

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.

BSc Pharmaceutical Science for students entering Part 1 in session 2027/28

13 July 2026

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