



Department of

**Health, Social Services  
and Public Safety**

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta  
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

[www.dhsspsni.gov.uk](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk)

PHARMACIST



“ I have direct contact with patients and work closely with other pharmacists and professionals such as doctors, nurses, dietitians etc. in a team which strives to provide patients with the best quality of care. On a lighter note, no two days are ever the same! ”

**THE HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TEAM NEEDS YOU**

## PHARMACIST

Pharmacists are experts in medicines and their use and practise mainly in community pharmacies and hospitals. They advise medical and nursing staff on the use of drugs, as well as advising patients on how to manage their medicines to ensure optimal treatment.

*Hospital pharmacists* are responsible for the purchase, manufacture, dispensing, quality testing, supply and use of the medicines in their hospital. They work closely with medical and nursing staff to ensure patients receive the most appropriate treatment, and provide help and advice to patients in all aspects of their medicines.

*Community pharmacists*, working from high street, local and rural pharmacies, use their detailed knowledge to ensure that medicines ordered on doctors' prescriptions or bought over the counter are correctly and safely supplied, with appropriate patient counselling on use, adverse side effects, etc. They also act as readily accessible health advisors to the general public.

### Skills Required:

As well as your scientific knowledge, you must also be able to work with great accuracy and attention to detail, even under pressure. You will also need good communication skills to be able to liaise with others in the healthcare team and also to advise and reassure patients.

### Training Programme:

#### *MPharm Hons*

Queen's University Belfast undergraduate full-time four year programme. The MPharm degree is also offered at 15 other schools of pharmacy in GB see [www.rpsgb.org.uk](http://www.rpsgb.org.uk)

### Entry Qualifications:

Either three GCE A-Levels at grades ABB plus one GCE/VCE AS Level at grade A (different subject) or three GCE A-Levels at grades AAB.

A-Levels should include Chemistry plus at least one from Biology, Mathematics or Physics. If Biology is not offered at A-Level, candidates must have either GCSE Biology or Double Award Science at grade C or above. Students are strongly advised to study A-Level Biology.

### Career Pathway:

A variety of options is available to graduates. The majority take up places in Community Pharmacies and some will eventually own businesses, others may be employed as pharmacists within the HPSS.

### Professional Recognition:

The course is recognised by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain and the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland. Following successful completion of the degree course, all graduates intending to register as pharmacists in order to practise their profession are required to complete satisfactorily a one-year period of pre-registration training under conditions approved by the professional bodies. In addition students are required to pass a registration examination.

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**How to Apply:**

For undergraduate full-time programme, application should be made through Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

**Web Links:**

Queen's University of Belfast – [www.qub.ac.uk](http://www.qub.ac.uk)

Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain – [www.rpsgb.org.uk](http://www.rpsgb.org.uk)

Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland – [www.dotpharmacy.co.uk/psni](http://www.dotpharmacy.co.uk/psni)

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