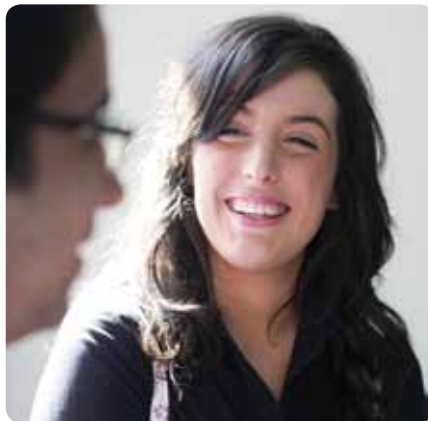


PG Certificate / PG Diploma / MSc in Community Pharmacy



Thank you for your interest in our postgraduate continuing education programme for pharmacists. The School of Pharmacy at Queen's University was the first among the Schools of Pharmacy in the UK to introduce postgraduate Master's awards by distance learning. We have been at the forefront of developing and delivering postgraduate pharmacy courses by distance learning for approximately 30 years and our programmes have proved to be popular with students and employers world-wide.

Whether you are a recent pharmacy graduate, keen to progress along your career path, or an experienced pharmacist who is interested in updating their knowledge and skills, you will find our community pharmacy programme should satisfy your learning needs. Our distance learning format will provide you with the flexibility to undertake your studies when and where it suits you. As a distance learning student, you are not required to attend the university at any stage and we arrange examination centres around the UK and in our international students' home countries.

Our MSc graduates are welcome to attend the graduation ceremony in Belfast and this is often the first opportunity that the course personnel have to meet with the students. We regularly have students attending from overseas and the annual graduation lunch in the School often develops into a multicultural celebration. Perhaps we will meet there one day.

Please take some time to read through this brochure and feel free to contact me at the School of Pharmacy if you need any further information.

Brian McCaw

b.mccaw@qub.ac.uk

Distance Learning Manager and MSc course co-ordinator
School of Pharmacy, Queen's University, Belfast



Distance learning at the School of Pharmacy

The School of Pharmacy's Distance Learning Centre has been providing high quality postgraduate programmes for pharmacists since 1989. Currently, the Centre provides MSc programmes in both clinical and community pharmacy in a part-time, distance learning format. The distance learning format allows students to remain in employment throughout their studies and involves a blend of home study and work-based learning activities. This format has proven to be popular with students as it allows them to arrange their studies to suit their lifestyle and they can incorporate many of the learning activities into their normal work routine. In addition, the format is popular with employers as members of staff are not required to leave the workplace to attend lectures or study days at any stage.

Why should you choose Queen's ?

Queen's University is a Russell Group university: one of the UK's 20 leading research-intensive universities. Teaching and research at the university is in the front rank of UK universities(The Guardian University Guide). Queen's offers a first-class student experience in world-class facilities.

The Queen's University, Belfast School of Pharmacy was named as the top overall Pharmacy School in the UK by the 2010 'Times Good University Guide', and is consistently rated among the top Schools of Pharmacy in the UK. We have been providing distance learning courses for pharmacists for 20 years and during this time we have developed expertise in authoring and delivering distance learning materials. This is a never-ending process - we review our courses annually and have embraced opportunities provided by the world wide web for course delivery and student support. In addition, the School of Pharmacy was awarded the maximum score of 24 points by a visiting panel of Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Subject Review experts who assessed the quality of teaching provided by the School. The review included both the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

The Community Pharmacy programme

The MSc in Community Pharmacy is a three year programme. Students have the option of exiting with a Postgraduate Certificate at the end of the first year or with a Postgraduate Diploma at the end of the second year. The first and second years are nine months in duration and students study four modules in each year. In each module, students are provided with a comprehensive set of learning materials, which have been authored by expert pharmacists, and they follow a timetable for studying the materials and submitting assignments to the Centre for marking. The third year consists of a 12 month research module. During this module, students undertake a work-based practice research or audit project. Each student is allocated to a member of staff within the School of Pharmacy, who supervises their research project.

Who is the programme for?

This programme has been developed specifically for pharmacists who are employed in the community pharmacy sector. It is suitable for full-time, part-time or locum pharmacists working in either independent pharmacies or in pharmacy multiples.



The School of Pharmacy was named as the top overall Pharmacy School in the UK by the 2010 'Times Good University Guide'



Student support

With distance learning, we feel that it is important that students do not feel isolated whilst completing the course. For that reason, student support is an issue that we take very seriously. Each student receives a comprehensive handbook at the beginning of the course. The handbook provides detailed guidance on the structure and requirements of the course and the course timetable ensures that students know exactly what they should be doing and when they should be doing it. In addition, the Distance Learning Centre is staffed by three full-time members of staff who can be contacted by telephone or e-mail during normal office hours. The Centre's manager worked for several years as the Clinical Pharmacy Co-ordinator in one of the UK's largest hospitals. In addition, the Centre is staffed by two full-time administrative staff.

Aims of the programme

The overall aim is to improve the knowledge base and practice skills of community pharmacists so that they can contribute more fully to the provision of community pharmacy services. The programme has been developed in collaboration with pharmacy specialists in the United Kingdom. By the end of the second year students will be able to demonstrate competence in interpersonal skills, responding to symptoms, provision of services to a variety of patient groups, such as, children, women, the elderly, the chronically ill and diabetic patients. In addition, they will have developed their knowledge of a variety of therapeutic areas. Students study three compulsory topics, respiratory disease, diabetes and cardiovascular disease, and select three further topics from a range of options. Several optional modules are available in both years one and two, for example, health promotion, complementary and alternative medicine, primary care services and research methods. MSc students carry out a practice-based research project during year three.

Assessment

A variety of assessment methods are used throughout the programme. This includes:

- practice-based workbooks
- structured case studies
- structured essays
- literature evaluation
- statistical analysis
- research dissertation (msc)

The coursework assignments are submitted to the Distance Learning Centre by post or e-mail. In addition, students sit a two hour written examination paper in September, at the end of both the first and second years. The examination covers the topics studied in the therapeutics modules. Examination centres are arranged in the UK and in our international students' countries of residence.

Student fees

Students are required to pay a registration fee for each year of enrolment on the programme. Fees information is available from the Centre's web pages. The annual registration fee increases each year in line with price inflation, approximately three per cent per annum. Students who are paying their own fees can pay by instalments.

The overall aim is to improve the knowledge base and practice skills of community pharmacists so that they can contribute more fully to the provision of community pharmacy services



Community Pharmacy programme structure

The following modules are studied:

PG Certificate (Year 1):

PMY7060: Communication in community pharmacy

PMY7061: Management of chronic illness

PMY7021: Community pharmacy in practice 1

Plus 1 from:

PMY7063: Pharmaceutical care

PMY7066: Health promotion

PMY7067: Complementary and alternative medicine

PG Diploma (Year 2):

PMY7062: Pharmacotherapy of common diseases

PMY7024: Community pharmacy in practice 2

Plus 2 from:

PMY7063: Pharmaceutical care

PMY7064: Providing services in primary care

PMY7065: Community pharmacy practice research

PMY7066: Health promotion

PMY7067: Complementary and alternative medicine

MSc (Year 3):

PMY7090: Research project

Students who hold a recognised PG Certificate or PG Diploma may apply for credit via the Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme (CATS). Please contact the Distance Learning Manager if you require further details of the CAT Scheme.

Applying for entry to our programme

Details of how to apply for entry to this programme and the application process for credit transfer can be found on the Centre's web pages. Applications must be made via the Queen's online application system for postgraduate entry.

Taught modules

Details of the content, learning outcomes and skills developed in each of the above modules are provided below.

Please note:

The format and contents of modules listed below are for guidance only and are subject to change following annual review of the course.



PMY7060: Communication in community pharmacy

Good communication with patients provides greater patient satisfaction, better patient cooperation and reduced levels of patient anxiety and distress. This module teaches the social skills that are used during the consultation process, including both responding skills (non-verbal communication, reflecting and listening) and initiating skills (questioning, explaining and opening and closing). In addition, students learn how to use a structured approach to responding to symptoms in the community pharmacy.

Learning outcomes

On completion the student will be able to:

- understand the importance of good communication skills in the effective delivery of health care
- demonstrate the core communication skills central to effective pharmacy practice
- develop a sense of critical awareness both of self and of others in consultation situations
- adopt a structured response to symptoms in the community pharmacy

Skills development

This module is designed to develop and/or enhance student's communication skills including questioning, listening, explaining and reflecting skills.

PMY7061: Management of chronic illness

Learning outcomes

This module aims to provide the student with an up to date knowledge of the disease processes and drug treatment options in relation to respiratory and cardiovascular disease and diabetes mellitus.

Skills development

This module will develop the student's clinical awareness, critical thinking and report writing skills.



Students learn how to use a structured approach to responding to symptoms in the community pharmacy



PMY7062: Pharmacotherapy of common diseases

Learning outcomes

On completion the student will possess a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights in three of the following therapeutic areas:

- infectious disease
- gastrointestinal disease
- management of skin conditions
- neurological disease
- mental health

Skills development

This module will further develop the student's clinical awareness, critical thinking and report writing skills.



PMY7021: Community pharmacy in practice 1 PMY7024: Community pharmacy in practice 2

These modules are designed to encourage the student to develop the knowledge and skills required to deliver pharmaceutical care to groups of patients who have particular pharmaceutical care needs.

Learning outcomes

On completion of both modules, the student will be able to assess the needs and develop pharmaceutical care services for four of the following groups of patients:

- children
- elderly people
- diabetic patients
- chronically ill patients
- women

Skills development

These modules are designed to develop and/or enhance student's ability to apply pharmaceutical care theory in practice in addition to developing their data collection and analysis skills and oral and written communication skills.



PMY7063: Pharmaceutical care

This module has been designed to provide the student with an understanding of the application of pharmaceutical care to patients in the community. Topics covered include: pharmaceutical care, medicines management, evidence-based practice and medicines review. In addition, the module prepares students in the UK for accreditation for provision of a Medicines Use Review service under the new contracts for pharmacy services in the UK.

Learning outcomes

On completion the student should be able to:

- provide medicines management services to patients in the community
- undertake a medicines use review
- apply the principles of evidence-based practice in their community pharmacy practice

Skills development

This module will develop the student's pharmaceutical care skills, including the ability to: identify and minimise risks associated with drug treatment; provide effective, economic and high quality medicines management services and provide a Medicines Use Review service.

PMY7064: Providing services in primary care (UK students only)

This module provides the student with the knowledge and skills required to provide services to General Practitioners and primary care organisations in the UK.

Learning outcomes

On completion the student will be able to:

- contribute to the cost-effective delivery of primary care services
- develop a primary care formulary for common disease states
- analyse, report and make recommendations based on general practice prescribing data
- carry out an audit of practice

Skills development

This module will develop the student's literature searching, economic evaluation, report writing, data analysis, data presentation and audit skills.



The module prepares students in the UK for accreditation for provision of a Medicines Use Review



PMY7065: Community pharmacy practice research

This module has been designed to provide the student with the knowledge and skills required to carry out research in community pharmacy practice. Students study research methodologies and statistical methods that are relevant to community pharmacy research so that they might incorporate independent research into their future practice. The module also helps to prepare students who intend to complete an MSc research project in year three.

Learning outcomes

On completion the student will have demonstrated the ability to critically evaluate the research of others and will be able to plan and implement a research project using appropriate research methodology and statistical analysis.

Skills development

This module will develop the student's critical evaluation, statistical analysis, research design and report writing skills.

PMY7066: Health promotion

This module demonstrates the need for effective health promotion within the wider context of public health and provides the student with the underpinning knowledge required to deliver effective health promotion activities, including smoking cessation services.

Learning outcomes

On completion the student should be able to:

- explain the need for effective health promotion in the community
- plan and undertake effective practical health promotion activities

Skills development

This module will develop the student's ability to plan and implement health promotion activities, and their project management and report writing skills.

Students study research methodologies and statistical methods that are relevant to community pharmacy research



PMY7067: Complementary and alternative medicine

This module has been designed to equip the community pharmacist with the knowledge required to recommend and sell natural products safely and effectively.

Learning outcomes

On completion the student should be able to:

- describe the main principles of medical herbalism and the formulation of common herbal remedies
- describe the main principles of homeopathy and explain how its remedies are prepared
- describe the main principles of the practice of aromatherapy and how its remedies are presented
- describe the main principles of the practice of flower therapy and how its remedies are presented
- select appropriate cam disciplines to treat common self-limiting conditions in an otc environment
- counter prescribe simple remedies in each of the four disciplines

Skills development

This module will develop the student's ability to prescribe Complementary and Alternative Medicines appropriately.

PMY7090 Research project

Students undertake a research or audit project within their workplace. Students are allocated to a Queen's supervisor for the duration of this module. Assessment is by submission of a dissertation at the end of the 12 month period. The duration of this module can be extended if required.

Learning outcomes

This aim of this module is to give students an opportunity to plan and implement a research project.

On completion, the student will have demonstrated the following abilities:

- to develop a research protocol
- to develop and undertake suitable data collection methods
- to select and undertake suitable statistical analysis
- to monitor the progress of a research project to ensure delivery on time
- to report their research in a scientific manner

Skills development

This module will provide the student with the skills required to design and undertake a pharmacy practice research project, including:

- project planning
- project monitoring
- statistical analysis
- scientific report writing

This module will provide the student with the skills required to design and undertake a pharmacy practice research project





Whether you are a recent pharmacy graduate, keen to progress along your career path, or an experienced pharmacist who is interested in updating their knowledge and skills, you will find our clinical and community pharmacy programmes should satisfy your learning needs



School of Pharmacy
Medical Biology Centre
97 Lisburn Road
Belfast BT9 7BL
Northern Ireland

+44 (0)28 9097 2086
www.qub.ac.uk/pha



RUSSELL
INTERNATIONAL
EXCELLENCE
GROUP

2009
THE AWARDS
ENTREPRENEURIAL
UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR