

Course Information Document: Undergraduate

For students starting in Academic Year 2022/23

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	Master of Pharmacy (MPharm)
Award type	Single Honours
Mode of study	Full-time
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award	Level 7
Normal length of the programme	4 years
Maximum period of registration	The normal length as specified above plus 3 years
Location of study	Keele Campus
Accreditation (if applicable)	This subject/programme is accredited by the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC). For further details see the section on Accreditation
Regulator	Office for Students (OfS)
Tuition Fees	<p>UK students:</p> <p>Fee for 2022/23 is £9,250*</p> <p>International students:</p> <p>Fee for 2022/23 is £24,200**</p>

How this information might change: Please read the important information at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>. This explains how and why we may need to make changes to the information provided in this document and to help you understand how we will communicate with you if this happens.

* These fees are regulated by Government. We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study in response to changes in government policy and/or changes to the law. If permitted by such change in policy or law, we may increase your fees by an inflationary amount or such other measure as required by government policy or the law. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions. Further information on fees can be found at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/>

** We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study by an inflationary amount. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions for full details. Further information on fees can be found at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/>

2. What is an Integrated Master's programme?

Integrated master's awards are delivered through a programme that combines study at the level of a bachelor's degree with honours with study at master's level. As such, a student graduates with a master's degree completing the programme of study. The Integrated Masters programme described in this document builds upon undergraduate-level study by adding a fourth year in which students study modules in Pharmacy at an advanced level.

3. Overview of the Programme

The aim of the MPharm programme is to produce graduates prepared to undertake the pre-registration programme (the post-graduate training year required to register as a pharmacist) with the values and attitudes that will enable them to undertake the roles and duties of a pharmacist in a highly professional manner.

4. Aims of the programme

The broad aims of the programme are to:

- enable our students to apply an evidence-based and patient-centred approach to practice;
- provide students with the breadth and depth of appropriate subject knowledge in keeping with an MPharm programme;
- provide high quality teaching in Pharmacy in a dynamic environment that reflects external developments in employers' needs;
- enable students to become reflective learners, and to encourage and develop self-discipline and enthusiasm for continual professional development that continues throughout their careers;
- provide students with the opportunity to gain direct and indirect experience of the work of a pharmacist, enabling an understanding of the profession of Pharmacy as a patient-centred discipline, and the role of the pharmacist in primary and secondary care settings and in the pharmaceutical industry;
- allow students to deepen both their Pharmacy-specific knowledge but also their skills base, by maintaining both a programme of appropriate skills training throughout the course but also by introducing increasing challenges as the programme progresses

Following the government White Paper, Pharmacy in England: Building on Strengths - Delivering the Future (Department of Health, 2008), and the formation of the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) in 2010, the structure of MPharm programmes nationally is under review. Foremost amongst potential developments is the introduction of greater clinical content and experience into MPharm curricula, and this may encompass the inclusion of the pre-registration year in a five-year integrated programme leading directly to registration.

Anticipating these changes, the Keele MPharm programme has been designed to provide:

- a fully integrated and contextualised course that better prepares students for the future roles of the pharmacist; and
- increased opportunities for students to have contact with patients and to practise their clinical skills.

While designing the course, care has been taken to build in flexibility for whatever model of placements is decided upon by the profession. A programme structure comprising four 120-credit integrated modules will allow for the smooth inclusion of enhanced placement opportunities.

5. What you will learn

See Section 8 for information about the intended learning outcomes of the programme (what students should know, understand and be able to do at the end of the programme), by level/year. These intended learning outcomes are based on the outcomes in the General Pharmaceutical Council's (GPhC) document '*Future pharmacists: Standards for the initial education and training of pharmacists*'.

Link: https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/sites/default/files/document/gphc_future_pharmacists_may_2011.pdf

Keele Graduate attributes

Engagement with this programme will enable you to develop your intellectual, personal and professional capabilities. At Keele, we call these our ten Graduate Attributes and they include independent thinking, synthesizing information, creative problem solving, communicating clearly, and appreciating the social, environmental and global implications of your studies and activities. Our educational programme and learning environment is designed to help you to become a well-rounded graduate who is capable of making a positive and valued contribution in a complex and rapidly changing world, whichever spheres of life you engage in after your studies are completed.

Further information about the Keele Graduate Attributes can be found here: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/journey/>

6. How is the programme taught?

A wide variety of teaching methods are used within the MPharm programme. These include traditional large group teaching sessions, workshops, seminars and tutorials (both face-to-face and on-line) and a variety of practical classes that support the development of scientific and professional skills. However, a feature of the Keele MPharm programme is the use of innovative teaching methods; these include: computer-generated virtual environments where the student can "float" complex molecules to view receptor sites, and a virtual

body which can show anatomy and physiology in detail in three-dimensions.

The above scheduled teaching sessions are supported by an extensive programme of one-to-one mentoring by healthcare professionals, a series of clinical placements and regular opportunities to interact with both simulated (actor) and real patients.

Learning and teaching methods used on the programme vary according to the subject matter and level of the module.

Apart from these formal activities, students are also provided with regular opportunities to talk through particular areas of difficulty, and any special learning needs they may have, with their Personal Tutors or module lecturers on a one-to-one basis.

7. Teaching Staff

The staffing within the School of Pharmacy and Bioengineering includes professors and a complement of readers, senior lecturers, lecturers and academic-related and technical support staff, all of which contribute to a supportive environment for study. A number of staff have dual roles, in that they have contracts with the University but also hold contracts with other relevant stakeholders, including the NHS. Several of the current staff also have extensive experience of working within the pharmaceutical industry and are able to provide context and perspective to all aspects of the programme.

All current permanent academic staff are members of, or are working towards, membership of the Higher Education Academy. All current permanent academic staff hold academic qualifications up to at least Post-graduate diploma level or significant equivalent experience within practice and the majority hold a PhD qualification in a discipline firmly rooted in pharmacy. The staff group has extensive experience of teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate level and includes individuals with expertise in learning and teaching, and research. The work of all research-active staff has been published widely and shared via conference presentations, for example.

The University will attempt to minimise changes to our core teaching teams, however, delivery of the programme depends on having a sufficient number of staff with the relevant expertise to ensure that the programme is taught to the appropriate academic standard.

Staff turnover, for example where key members of staff leave, fall ill or go on research leave, may result in changes to the programme's content. The University will endeavour to ensure that any impact on students is limited if such changes occur.

8. What is the structure of the programme?

The academic year runs from September to June and is divided into two semesters. The number of weeks of teaching will vary from course to course, but you can generally expect to attend scheduled teaching sessions between the end of September and mid-December, and from mid-January to the end of April.

Our degree courses are organised into modules. Each module is usually a self-contained unit of study and each is usually assessed separately with the award of credits on the basis of 1 credit = 10 hours of student effort. An outline of the structure of the programme is provided in the tables below.

The programme is planned as four 120-credit modules - one for each year of study. During each year teaching material is delivered within themes that are designed to integrate the physical and social sciences within the context of patient care and public health.

During Level 7 students have the opportunity to choose topics to study within an electives strand that is designed to complement their chosen career path within Pharmacy. Students will choose from a range of specialist topics taught in small seminar groups and an extended project. The number of specialist options chosen and the length / nature of the project may be varied to suit each student's interests and aspirations.

Shown on the following pages are the learning outcomes for each level of study. Further details of the mapping of learning outcomes to themes are provided in the module guides for each level of study.

For further information on the content of modules currently offered please visit:
<https://www.keele.ac.uk/recordsandexams/modulecatalogue/>

Year	Compulsory	Optional		Electives	
		Min	Max	Min	Max
Level 4	120	0	0	0	0
Level 5	120	0	0	0	0
Level 6	120	0	0	0	0
Level 7	120	0	0	0	0

Module Lists

Level 4

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
MPharm Programme Year 1	PHA-10034	120	Semester 1-2

Level 5

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
MPharm Programme Stage 2	PHA-20009	120	Semester 1-2

Level 6

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
MPharm Programme Stage 3	PHA-30010	120	Semester 1-2

Level 7

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
MPharm Programme Stage 4	PHA-40120	120	Semester 1-2

9. Final and intermediate awards

Credits required for each level of academic award are as follows:

Master's Degree	480 credits	<p>You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5, 6 and 7</p> <p>For the purpose of the Integrated Master's degree with honours classification modules shall contribute to the mean average calculation as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 5 module: 20% • Level 6 module: 30% • Level 7 module: 50%
Honours Degree	360 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5 and 6
Diploma in Higher Education	240 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher and at least 120 credits at level 5 or higher
Certificate in Higher Education	120 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher

NB: *Students are only eligible for entry to the pre-registration training year (and hence to the Register of Pharmacists) when they graduate with the full MPharm degree*

10. How is the Programme Assessed?

The wide variety of assessment methods used on this programme at Keele reflects the broad range of knowledge and skills that are developed as you progress through the degree programme. Teaching staff pay particular attention to specifying clear assessment criteria and providing timely, regular and constructive feedback that helps to clarify things you did not understand and helps you to improve your performance.

In each Level of the programme a combination of examination (in various formats) and coursework is employed. An outline of the assessment types is provided below.

At all levels, reassessment opportunities for individual components of coursework will be provided during the academic year. Students who have failed to complete any of the assessments above will be given the opportunity to redeem the failure during the August reassessment period, where possible.

Level 4 (Stage 1)

Each eight-week cycle of learning is assessed using a balanced mix of unseen multiple-choice examinations and laboratory, coursework and skills-based assignments. Students also complete a professional development portfolio, given the title of Professional Skills Element, throughout the year.

After completing the three cycles of learning and assessment students undertake a problem-based learning strand culminating in a group-based competency assessment. The aim of this synoptic assessment is to ensure that students demonstrate understanding of the links and interdependencies between the topics that they have covered during the year.

In order to be awarded credits at Level 4, students are required to pass:

- the end-of-cycle examinations;
- the laboratory skills component;
- the practical skills component

Students must also achieve a satisfactory standard in the Professional Skills Element (which includes competency based assessments) and the final synoptic assessment.

Progression to Level 5 is not permitted until all units of assessment are completed satisfactorily.

Level 5 (Stage 2)

There are two cycles of learning and assessment in Level 5. Each cycle is assessed using a balanced mix of unseen examinations, and laboratory, coursework and skills-based assignments, alongside the Professional

Skills Element that runs throughout the year. As in Level 4, a synoptic assessment allows students to demonstrate understanding of the links and interdependencies between the topics that they have covered; this assessment takes the form of a group-based assignment as at Level 4.

In order to be awarded credits at Level 5, students are required to pass:

- the end-of-cycle examinations;
- the laboratory skills assessments;
- the practical skills assessments

Students must also achieve a satisfactory standard in the Professional Skills Element (which includes competency based assessments such as that for dispensing practice) and the final synoptic assessment.

Progression to Level 6 is not permitted until all units of assessment are completed satisfactorily.

Level 6 (Stage 3)

Level 6 is assessed by a balanced mix of seen and unseen examinations, coursework and skills-based assignments alongside the Professional Skills Element and synoptic assessment throughout the year.

In addition, at Level 6 TRIPSE assessments are introduced. TRIPSEs are designed to mirror closely the clinical challenges that pharmacists face in day-to-day practice. Peer and self-assessment are also introduced at this level.

Progression to Level 7 is not permitted until all units of assessment are completed satisfactorily; it should be noted that students must achieve a threshold mark of 50% averaged across all Level 6 assessments in order to progress.

Level 7 (Stage 4)

New coursework assessments introduced at Level 7 include the project report and presentation, and a public health campaign along with a variety of assessments associated with the option topics.

As in previous years, students must also achieve a satisfactory standard in the Professional Skills Element (including competency based assessments) and the final synoptic assessment.

**At all levels (4-7), Low Stakes Assessments (LSAs) have been introduced to aid student engagement on the course. These contribute to assessments at levels 4 and 5, and coursework elements at levels 6 and 7.

Formative assessments and feedback

Marks are awarded for summative assessments designed to assess your achievement of learning outcomes. You will also be assessed formatively to enable you to monitor your own progress and to assist staff in identifying and addressing any specific learning needs. Feedback, including guidance on how you can improve the quality of your work, is also provided on all summative assessments within three working weeks of submission, unless there are compelling circumstances that make this impossible, and more informally in the course of tutorial and seminar discussions.

Interprofessional Education (IPE)

At all levels of the programme there will be opportunities to participate in IPE sessions within the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences.

11. Contact Time and Expected Workload

This contact time measure is intended to provide you with an indication of the type of activity you are likely to undertake during this programme. The data is compiled based on module choices and learning patterns of students on similar programmes in previous years. Every effort is made to ensure this data is a realistic representation of what you are likely to experience, but changes to programmes, teaching methods and assessment methods mean this data is representative and not specific.

Undergraduate courses at Keele contain an element of module choice; therefore, individual students will experience a different mix of contact time and assessment types dependent upon their own individual choice of modules. The figures below are an example of activities that a student may expect on your chosen course by year stage of study. Contact time includes scheduled activities such as: lecture, seminar, tutorial, project supervision, demonstration, practical classes and labs, supervised time in labs/workshop, fieldwork and external visits. The figures are based on 1,200 hours of student effort each year for full-time students.

Activity

	Scheduled learning and teaching activities	Guided independent Study	Placements
Year 1 (Level 4)	37%	62%	1%
Year 2 (Level 5)	33%	66%	1%
Year 3 (Level 6)	28%	70%	2%
Year 4 (Level 7)	23%	74%	3%

12. Accreditation

This programme is accredited by the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC). Please note the specific regulations below. Study abroad is not currently permitted on the MPharm programme.

13. University Regulations

The University Regulations form the framework for learning, teaching and assessment and other aspects of the student experience. Further information about the University Regulations can be found at:

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>

If this programme has any exemptions, variations or additions to the University Regulations these will be detailed in an Annex at the end of this document titled 'Programme-specific regulations'.

14. Other Learning Opportunities

External learning opportunities on the Keele MPharm take two forms: observational visits and participatory placements.

In the first year of the course, students are given the opportunity to observe practice in primary care (community pharmacy) and secondary care (hospital pharmacy) environments. Students have 12 hours placement in community pharmacy (undertaken as 4 x 3 hour visits) with the opportunity to undertake a three hour placement in hospital pharmacy. These visits are designed to allow the student to contextualise the theoretical learning they have undertaken within the University. In the second year students are provided with support and information to organise 18 hours of placement activity within community pharmacy and are actively encouraged to seek further, voluntary, work experience. All MPharm students are indemnified by the university to undertake activities within pharmacy working environments meaning that these placements are participatory rather than observational. Also included in the Level 5 programme is a visit to a pharmaceutical company that specialises in the manufacture of liquid formulations so students will be able to experience the manufacture of pharmaceuticals on an industrial scale. These visits allow the students to further build upon and contextualise the material taught within the second year of the MPharm course, including that in pharmaceuticals and relating to pharmaceutical manufacturing.

In the third and final years of the MPharm course the emphasis of the placement activity is very much of participation. Placements within the secondary care setting start in the first semester of the third year as tutor-led teaching visits. By the end of the final year students are taken to a ward and encouraged, under supervision, to perform the functions of a hospital pharmacist by exploring and verifying the drug history of a small number of patients. Students are also encouraged, where it is possible, to talk to and ask questions of patients they encounter.

During the third year, secondary care placements are designed to reinforce the therapeutic areas being taught within the MPharm course. During the final year such specialisation is not deemed necessary as co-morbidities are being addressed within the therapeutic teaching sessions and so the students experience the variety and unpredictability of the real clinical environment.

Level 6 placements in community practice are organised in the same fashion as in Level 5 and the students are encouraged to explore non-prescription medicine supply. Within the first semester of Level 6, the students are responsible for the production of their own set of non-prescription medicine and advice guidelines. The community placements are expected to reinforce this material.

Students are responsible for reasonable costs incurred in travelling to local placements and making travel arrangements - in the same way as for travel to and from the University generally. As with all healthcare programmes, there are requirements for occupational health and fitness to practise checks that apply before

students can undertake placements in healthcare settings.

Study abroad is not currently permitted on the MPharm programme.

15. Additional Costs

Occupational Health and Vaccinations

All students registering on the MPharm programme will need to have a health fitness report prepared by the University's Occupational Health Service (OHS). As part of this report your GP will need to complete the appropriate section of the questionnaire and provide a vaccination record that has your name, d.o.b. and a practice stamp on it. It is likely that your GP will make a charge for this service which could be in the region of £25 - but this charge can vary. You will receive all of the required information about this process in your offer letter from the University.

You will be required to have the following immunisations/immunity checks if you have not already had them.

- A course of hepatitis B plus a blood test to confirm immunity (a course is 3 or 4 vaccinations)
- MMR Vaccinations -proof of 2 vaccines or blood test confirming immunity (Your GP should be able to offer MMR vaccination free of charge if you have not previously had them)
- BCG - proof of vaccination or BCG Scar
- Additional TB screening - if you were born or lived in a TB endemic country for 3 months or more you will require a Quantum Interferon test for TB (IGRA)
- Chicken pox / varicella - you must have a definite history of illness or blood test to confirm immunity, if you are non-immune on blood testing you will require evidence of receiving two varicella vaccinations. Your vaccination requirements should be discussed with your GP; you are likely to incur a charge for these.

Appointments can be arranged for you once you have commenced your course however there will be a charge for these, currently between £40 - £80 per blood test.

Cost for vaccines - current costs vary between £45 and £90 per vaccine and up to £180 for a Hepatitis B vaccination course.

Please note the above costs are indicative and you would need to contact your GP or Keele's Occupational Health team for the latest charges.

You will be unable to attend experiential learning visits without a completed University Occupational Health Service health fitness report.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check

As parts of your course will involve contact with patients who may be children or vulnerable adults, you are required to undergo an appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service check when you enrol on the MPharm course. The cost for the online check is currently £55.89.

Travel for placements

You will be required to attend local hospitals and community pharmacies for half-day teaching / training sessions. Travel costs to attend your placement can cost up to a maximum of £280 per year, but the proximity of your own accommodation to your placement location and any personal travel arrangements you may wish to organise (e.g. a student bus pass) may reduce this cost significantly.

All placements are allocated at random. Where possible, the School will be mindful of previous allocations re: distance.

Protective clothing

Protective clothing such as laboratory coats and safety goggles will be provided to you by the School of Pharmacy and Bioengineering free of charge in the first instance.

Activity	Estimated Cost
Travel (as above)	£280
Other additional costs - Occupational health clearance (first year only)	Up to £300
Other additional costs - DBS check (first year only)	£55.89
Total estimated additional costs	£635.89

These costs have been forecast by the University as accurately as possible but may be subject to change as a result of factors outside of our control (for example, increase in costs for external services). Forecast costs are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure they remain representative. Where additional costs are in direct control of the University we will ensure increases do not exceed 5%.

As to be expected there will be additional costs for inter-library loans and potential overdue library fines, print and graduation. We do not anticipate any further costs for this programme.

16. Annex - Programme-specific regulations

Programme Regulations: MPharm

Final Award and Award Titles	Master of Pharmacy (MPharm)
Intermediate Award(s)	BSc Honours Degree in Pharmaceutical Studies Diploma in Higher Education Certificate in Higher Education
Last modified	June 2019
Programme Specification	https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmespecifications

The University's Academic Regulations which can be found on the Keele University website (<https://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/>)[1] apply to and regulate the programme, other than in instances where the specific programme regulations listed below over-ride them. These programme regulations list:

- *Exemptions* which are characterised by the omission of the relevant regulation.
- *Variations* which are characterised by the replacement of part of the regulation with alternative wording.
- *Additional Requirements* which set out what additional rules that apply to students in relation to this programme.

The following **exemptions, variations** and **additional requirements** to the University regulations have been checked by Academic Services and have been approved by the Faculty Education Committee.

Your programme has professional accreditation and there are specific regulations, which you have to agree to abide by, as follows:

A) EXEMPTIONS

The clause(s) listed below describe where an exemption from the University's Academic Regulations exists:

For the whole duration of their studies, students on this Programme are exempt from the following regulations:

- Regulation C6 2.2: the MPharm programme does not allow Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).
- University Regulation C6 (7.3) will not apply.

- University Regulation C6 (11.3) will not apply.
- For students entering or repeating Stage 1 (FHEQ Level 4) from September 2013 onwards the following provision applies. A student who has not satisfactorily completed all required components of assessment to accrue the 120 credits necessary for progression to the next level of study on two occasions shall be required to withdraw from the University. Normally the two assessment attempts would be completed within the same academic year.

B) VARIATIONS

The clause(s) listed below describe where a variation from the University's Academic Regulations exists:

- All four 120-credit modules in the Keele MPharm programme are core and each 120-credit module must be accrued in order to progress and to graduate. For this reason, aegrotat MPharm degrees will not be awarded.
- The award of MPharm will require the successful completion of 120 credits at Stage 4. University academic regulation C6 (12.1) regarding a Masters award on completion of 90 credits at M-level will not apply. However, a student who fails to satisfy the requirements for the award of MPharm shall revert to BSc Honours Degree candidature and be considered for awards under University Regulation C3. The title of such awards will be Pharmaceutical Studies.
- Study abroad is not currently permitted on the MPharm programme. Only placements in the UK will be permitted.

C) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

The programme requirements listed below are in addition to the University's Academic Regulations:

- Graduates from the MPharm programme must carry out a period of assessed pre-registration training in order to register with the GPhC to practise Pharmacy. Consequently, the MPharm degree is viewed as a vocational programme and is a pre-requisite for pre-registration study, and the MPharm course is subject to accreditation by the GPhC.
- Further details concerning progression through the various Stages of the programme and the degree classification scheme can be found in the MPharm Student Handbook and Study Guide.
- There are requirements for occupational health and fitness to practise checks that apply before students can undertake placements in healthcare settings.

[\[1\]](#) References to University Regulations in this document apply to the content of the University's Regulatory Framework as set out on the University website here <https://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/>.

Version History

This document

Date Approved: 28 January 2022

Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes
1	2021/22	REBECCA VENABLES	10 February 2021	
1	2020/21	REBECCA VENABLES	20 December 2019	
1.1	2019/20	REBECCA VENABLES		
1	2019/20	EDWARD MCCAULEY	02 October 2019	