

## Course Information Document: Undergraduate

### For Academic Year 2025/26

#### 1. Course Summary

<b>Names of programme and award title(s)</b>	BSc (Hons) Pharmaceutical Science BSc (Hons) Pharmaceutical Science with International Year BSc (Hons) Pharmaceutical Science with Work Placement Year
<b>Award type</b>	Single Honours
<b>Mode of study</b>	Full-time
<b>Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award</b>	Level 6
<b>Normal length of the programme</b>	3 years
<b>Maximum period of registration</b>	The normal length as specified above plus 3 years
<b>Location of study</b>	Keele Campus
<b>Accreditation (if applicable)</b>	Accreditation is currently being sought from appropriate professional bodies; this process is on-going.
<b>Regulator</b>	Office for Students (OfS)
<b>Tuition Fees</b>	<p><b>UK students:</b></p> <p>Fee for 2025/26 is £9,535*</p> <p><b>International students:</b></p> <p>Fee for 2025/26 is £20,200**</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/>

\*\* These fees are for new students. 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 a Single Honours programme?

The Single Honours programme described in this document allows you to focus more or less exclusively on this subject. In keeping with Keele's commitment to breadth in the curriculum, the programme also gives you the opportunity to take some modules in other disciplines and in modern foreign languages as part of a 360-credit Honours degree. Thus it enables you to gain, and be able to demonstrate, a distinctive range of graduate attributes.

The BSc in Pharmaceutical Science currently has one optional module: at Year 1 of study (FHEQ Level 4) students can take a 15-credit language module offered by the Keele Language Centre. This emphasises the international nature of the programme and also offers the opportunity for support, as appropriate, in English language.

### **3. Overview of the Programme**

The global pharmaceutical industry has experienced substantial change in recent years. Industry leaders must now understand how discoveries in science and technology translate to business opportunities within the pharmaceutical industry, whether in discovery, manufacturing, marketing and medicines supply and control. The employment market is becoming more challenging and this programme meets the need of the industry by producing graduates who are well-qualified in all aspects of the relevant applied sciences, who have well-developed key employability skills, and who also have significant knowledge and understanding of and insight into business and management - so you get more than just training in the core pharmaceutical sciences.

This course covers the main aspects of pharmaceutical discovery and development, product formulation, manufacture and quality assurance assessment, and explains how such pure and applied sciences fit into global business, legal and regulatory frameworks. This includes elements of clinical development and the role of the pharmaceutical scientist within the industry team that take a drug from research to the clinic.

As part of the preparation to enter the global pharmaceutical industry, there will be an opportunity to pursue a language pathway throughout the programme. In the first year you will take a language module in English (depending on fluency levels) or a modern foreign language for those fluent in English. This will ensure you have both a language and cultural understanding of nations outside your home country. For modern languages (not English language modules) you may wish to pursue a pathway through the programme that will provide you with recognition of this on your degree certificate. There will be opportunities at years two and three of the programme, depending on entry level to your chosen language and availability, to take up to 60 credits of language learning on this programme. If you achieve 60 credits of language learning as part of your programme you will have added to your degree certificate the additional recognition of having achieved "with competency in [Chosen Language]" or "with advanced competency in [Chosen Language]", depending on the level which you achieve. You can also take language modules as non-credit extracurricular study throughout your programme - further details can be obtained from the Language Centre.

The principal aim of the programme is to develop knowledge and skills in a wide variety of disciplines by demonstrating the linkages between seemingly disparate topics in science and technology that underpin all subsequent learning, and which are central to the successful delivery of new medicines to global markets.

### **4. Aims of the programme**

The broad aims of the programme are to enable you to:

- Develop the key scientific skill that, in an integrated context, underpin the clinically relevant development of pharmaceutical products
- Understand the structures and frameworks in which the pharmaceutical industry operates, both nationally and globally

### **5. What you will learn**

The intended learning outcomes of the programme (what students should know, understand and be able to do at the end of the programme), can be described under the following headings:

- Subject knowledge and understanding
- Subject specific skills
- Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

#### **Subject knowledge and understanding**

Successful students will be able to:

- Understand the core principles of the pharmaceutical sciences as they are applied to the development, licencing and marketing of pharmaceutical products

#### **Subject specific skills**

Successful students will be able to:

- Understand the nature of pharmaceutical development, both in the laboratory and in the business

environments, and to use this knowledge in the development of new strategies to develop clinically relevant approaches to disease management and treatment

## Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful students will be able to:

- Appreciate and understand how the core chemical and biological sciences integrate to underpin the successful development of pharmaceutical products, a core skills base which is directly applicable to a number of other industries (e.g. cosmetics, foods)

## The Keele Graduate Attributes

The Keele Graduate Attributes are the qualities (skills, values and mindsets) which you will have the opportunity to develop during your time at Keele through both the formal curriculum and also through co- and extra-curricular activities (e.g., work experience, and engagement with the wider University community such as acting as ambassadors, volunteering, peer mentoring, student representation, membership and leadership of clubs and societies). Our Graduate Attributes consist of four themes: **academic expertise, professional skills, personal effectiveness, and social and ethical responsibility**. You will have opportunities to engage actively with the range of attributes throughout your time at Keele: through your academic studies, through self-assessing your own strengths, weaknesses, and development needs, and by setting personal development goals. You will have opportunities to discuss your progress in developing graduate attributes with, for example, Academic Mentors, to prepare for your future career and lives beyond Keele.

## 6. How is the programme taught?

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

- Lectures, tutorials, workshops, problem-solving sessions, interactive and immersive 3D teaching in the Health Cinema, laboratory work (individual and group exercises) and integrated 'synoptic' assessments which integrate the differing science subjects with the business aspects of the programme to develop clinically relevant products for patients.

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 Academic Mentors or module lecturers on a one-to-one basis.

These learning and teaching methods enable students to achieve the learning outcomes of the programme in a variety of ways. For example:

- The use of a wide range of assessment skills allow us to focus on different aspects of the challenges faced in pharmaceutical development; for example, this might include the use of individual or group-based activities, oral presentation sessions or student-led workshops where decision making is both collective and led by students; research projects may also give students the ability to work on a major piece of novel research not only by themselves but in collaboration with students taking similar projects and within the setting of research groups with the School for Allied Health Professions and Pharmacy.

## 7. Teaching Staff

The staff who deliver this course are based predominately within the School for Allied Health Professions and Pharmacy and have expertise in the core aspects of the pharmaceutical sciences: pharmacology, physiology, medicinal and organic chemistry and formulation and drug delivery. In addition, several members of the School's academic staff have previously worked in the pharmaceutical (and related) industry and who can frame their academic work within the context of their previous roles.

The BSc programme also makes significant use of expert external speakers who are, or have worked, in the pharmaceutical industry or related industries. This includes a range of business-focused roles and addresses with real world examples subjects as diverse as clinical development, marketing and branding of pharmaceutical products, the role of healthcare systems in the context of pharmaceutical sales and regulatory affairs.

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 programme to programme, 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.

There are two types of module delivered as part of your programme. They are:

- Compulsory modules - a module that you are required to study on this course;
- Optional modules - these allow you some limited choice of what to study from a list of modules.

### Global Challenge Pathways

This programme includes the option for you to take a Global Challenge Pathway. These modules offer you an exciting opportunity to work with students and staff from different disciplines to explore topical global issues such as power and conflict, health inequalities, climate change, generative AI, social justice, global citizenship, and enterprise from different perspectives.

Global Challenge Pathways can either be taken as one 15-credit module at Levels 4, 5 and 6, or one 15-credit module at Levels 5 and 6. For more information about our Global Challenge Pathways please visit:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/globalchallengepathways/>

### Modern Languages or Certificate in TESOL

Alternatively, you could choose to study modules with the University Language Centre. The Language Centre offers three pathways; The Language Specialist, The Language Taster, and The Trinity Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Language (TESOL). Language Centre modules are available separately for students at Level 4. At Levels 5 and 6 they are included within the Global Challenge Pathways.

If you choose the Language Specialist pathway, you will automatically be enrolled on a Semester 2 Modern Language module as a continuation of your language of choice (NB: in year 1, this is a faculty funded 'additional' module). Undertaking a Modern Languages module in Semester 2 is compulsory if you wish to continue to the Language Specialist Global Challenge Pathway the following academic year.

For more information about Language Centre option modules available to you please visit the following webpages.

For new (Level 4) students please visit: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/languagecentre/>

For current (Level 5 and Level 6) students please visit: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/students/academiclife/global-challenge-pathways/>

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For further information on the content of modules currently offered, please visit:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/recordsandexams/modulecatalogue/>

A summary of the credit requirements per year is as follows.

Year	Compulsory	Optional	
		Min	Max
Level 4	105	15	15
Level 5	90	30	30
Level 6	60	60	60

This list includes the work placement year, PHA-30065, which is normally taken between Levels 5 and 6.

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## Module Lists

### Level 4

Students will take 105 credits of compulsory modules PHA-10028, PHA-10030, PHA-10032 and PHA-10036.

Students will therefore take 15 credits of optional modules. Students will have three pathways to select from:

1. Global Challenge Pathway
2. A module from those available from the Business School
3. A module from those available from the Language Centre

All optional module selections are subject to availability and compatibility with the School for Allied Health Professions and Pharmacy timetable for compulsory modules.

<b>Compulsory modules</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Period</b>
Human Anatomy and Physiology	PHA-10028	30	Semester 1-2
Biochemistry & Cell Biology	PHA-10030	30	Semester 1-2
Introduction to Pharmaceutical Science	PHA-10032	30	Semester 1-2
Introduction to Formulation Science	PHA-10036	15	Semester 2

<b>Optional modules</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Period</b>
Marketing Principles	MAN-10019	15	Semester 1
Global Business Environment	MAN-10022	15	Semester 1
Introduction to Cosmetic Science	PHA-10038	15	Semester 1
Introduction to International Business	MAN-10023	15	Semester 2
Multinational Enterprise Business Perspectives	MAN-10026	15	Semester 2

## **Level 4 Module Rules**

GCP language modules have to be taken according to the wider requirements of the GCP programme. However, language modules can also be taken outside the GCP framework by enrolling in relevant modules offered by the Language Centre.

To obtain the additional degree notations of either "...with competency" or "...with advanced competency" outside the GCP framework students should take four modules across the optional space provided. In the case of language modules offered by the Language Centre, this involves taking four modules across the three years of the programme. Whilst it is more common to take these modules at Levels 5 and 6 (one module in each semester at each year) it is also possible, but more associated with the Study Abroad scheme, for students to take a language module in Semester 1 at Level 4 and then to continue this in Semester 2 at Level 5, completing the four modules at Level 6.

Language modules offered by the Language Centre are numbers LLU-xxx[n], with n normally being 1 to 10 which reflects the level of the module content.

For students to receive the "...with competence" notation they must take four language modules across their programme of study, up to Level 6, e.g. for "competence" in Spanish they should take SPN-9003/4/5/6 across the three years of their programme. For students to receive the "...with advanced competence" notation they must take four language modules across their programme of study, up to Level 10, e.g. for "competence" in Spanish they should take SPN-9007/8/9/10 across the three years of their programme.

Students can, of course, take language modules without seeking or achieving the additional degree notations.

## **Level 5**

Students will take 90 credits of compulsory modules, PHA-20016, PHA-20014 and PHA-20018.

Students will therefore take 30 credits of optional modules. Students will have three pathways to select from:

1. Available modules from the Global Challenge Pathway

2. A module from those available from the Business School (one, 15-credit module) OR a language module from the Language Centre not aligned with the GCP pathway.

3. A module available from those offered by the Language Centre.

All optional module selections are subject to availability and compatibility with the School for Allied Health Professions and Pharmacy timetable for compulsory modules.

Students will be encouraged to take one optional module in each semester but it is appreciated that this might not always be possible. Where two or more optional modules are selected in the same academic year the availability of modules will depend on the exact choice made in order to avoid overlap.

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Pharmaceutical Analysis And Quality Control	PHA-20014	30	Semester 1-2
Applied Pharmaceutical Science I	PHA-20016	30	Semester 1-2
Applied Pharmaceutical Science II	PHA-20018	30	Semester 1-2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Organisational Behaviour	MAN-20055	15	Semester 1
Operations and Quality Management	MAN-20053	15	Semester 2

## Level 5 Module Rules

GCP language modules have to be taken according to the wider requirements of the GCP programme. However, language modules can also be taken outside the GCP framework by enrolling in relevant modules offered by the Language Centre.

To obtain the additional degree notations of either "...with competency" or "...with advanced competency" outside the GCP framework students should take four modules across the optional space provided. In the case of language modules offered by the Language Centre, this involves taking four modules across the three years of the programme. Whilst it is more common to take these modules at Levels 5 and 6 (one module in each semester at each year) it is also possible, but more associated with the Study Abroad scheme, for students to take a language module in Semester 1 at Level 4 and then to continue this in Semester 2 at Level 5, completing the four modules at Level 6.

Language modules offered by the Language Centre are numbers LLU-xxx[n], with n normally being 1 to 10 which reflects the level of the module content.

For students to receive the "...with competence" notation they must take four language modules across their programme of study, up to Level 6, e.g. for "competence" in Spanish they should take SPN-9003/4/5/6 across the three years of their programme. For students to receive the "...with advanced competence" notation they must take four language modules across their programme of study, up to Level 10, e.g. for "competence" in Spanish they should take SPN-9007/8/9/10 across the three years of their programme.

Students can, of course, take language modules without seeking or achieving the additional degree notations.

## Level 6

Students will take 60 credits of compulsory modules and 60 credits of optional modules.

Students will have three pathways to select from:

1. Available modules from the Global Challenge Pathway.
2. Appropriate modules available from the Language Centre.
3. A module from those available from the School for Allied Health Professions and Pharmacy.

This section also includes PHA-30065, which is the placement module. This module is normally taken between Levels 5 and 6

<b>Compulsory modules</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Period</b>
The Pharmaceutical Industry at the Cutting Edge	PHA-30021	30	Semester 1-2
Pharmaceutical Science Research Project	PHA-30025	30	Semester 1-2

<b>Optional modules</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Period</b>
Oncology I	PHA-30055	15	Semester 1
Oncology II	PHA-30059	15	Semester 1
Current Developments in Pharmaceutical Science II	PHA-30017	15	Semester 1-2
Current Developments in Pharmaceutical Science	PHA-30019	30	Semester 1-2
Advanced Topics in Pharmaceutical Science (Pharmacology)	PHA-30041	15	Semester 1-2
Advanced Topics in Pharmaceutical Science (Pharmaceutics & Drug Delivery)	PHA-30043	15	Semester 1-2
Modern Biotherapeutics	PHA-30057	15	Semester 1-2
Advanced Pharmaceutics & Drug Delivery	PHA-30067	15	Semester 1-2
Advanced Topics in Pharmaceutical Science (Medicinal Chemistry)	PHA-30069	15	Semester 1-2
Work Placement for Pharmaceutical & Cosmetic Science Programmes	PHA-30065	0	Semester 1-3

## Level 6 Module Rules

GCP language modules have to be taken according to the wider requirements of the GCP programme. However, language modules can also be taken outside the GCP framework by enrolling in relevant modules offered by the Language Centre.

To obtain the additional degree notations of either "...with competency" or "...with advanced competency" outside the GCP framework students should take four modules across the optional space provided. In the case of language modules offered by the Language Centre, this involves taking four modules across the three years of the programme. Whilst it is more common to take these modules at Levels 5 and 6 (one module in each semester at each year) it is also possible, but more associated with the Study Abroad scheme, for students to take a language module in Semester 1 at Level 4 and then to continue this in Semester 2 at Level 5, completing the four modules at Level 6.

Language modules offered by the Language Centre are numbers LLU-xxx[n], with n normally being 1 to 10 which reflects the level of the module content.

For students to receive the "...with competence" notation they must take four language modules across their programme of study, up to Level 6, e.g. for "competence" in Spanish they should take SPN-9003/4/5/6 across the three years of their programme. For students to receive the "...with advanced competence" notation they must take four language modules across their programme of study, up to Level 10, e.g. for "competence" in Spanish they should take SPN-9007/8/9/10 across the three years of their programme.

Students can, of course, take language modules without seeking or achieving the additional degree notations.

## 9. Final and intermediate awards

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

<b>Honours Degree</b>	360 credits	<p>You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5 and 6</p> <p>You must accumulate at least 270 credits in your main subject (out of 360 credits overall), with at least 90 credits in each of the three years of study, to graduate with a named single honours degree in this subject.</p> <p>In addition, students whose credits include 60 credits for modules provided by the language centre can, depending on the CEFR-level of those modules, be additionally awarded the notation on their degree certificate of "with competency" or "with advanced competency" in their chosen language.</p> <p>In addition, students who have taken and completed the placement year will have an additional notation on their degree to state that they have completed this module / element of study.</p>
<b>Diploma in Higher Education</b>	240 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher and at least 120 credits at level 5 or higher
<b>Certificate in Higher Education</b>	120 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher

## 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. The following list is representative of the variety of assessment methods used on your programme:

- The assessments used in this programme reflect a wide range of academic practice and are also designed to be relevant to the needs of the industry. For example, the synoptic assessment collates and integrates learning across science and business at Level Five of the programme, whilst the use of batch record sheets in laboratory sessions reflect practice in industry (pharmaceutical and otherwise). The main modes of assessment are examinations (essay-based, short-answer questions and multiple choice questions), laboratory practical exercises (with associated report-writing and documentation completion, as well as physical sample preparation and analysis), workshops (including pharmaceutical calculations), group and individual presentations and synoptic exercises.

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.

At all levels (4-6), Low Stakes Assessments (LSAs) have been introduced to aid student engagement on the course. These contribute to a range of assessments at all levels.

## 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
<b>Year 1 (Level 4)</b>	25.7%	71.7%	2.6%
<b>Year 2 (Level 5)</b>	29%	71%	0%
<b>Year 3 (Level 6)</b>	29%	71%	0%

## 12. Accreditation

This programme is not currently accredited by an external body. However, discussions have begun with the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences and The Royal Society of Chemistry to begin the process of accreditation by both those bodies. Students will be updated as appropriate to any changes in the status of these processes.

## 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/>

## 14. Other Learning Opportunities

### Study abroad (semester)

Students on the programme have the potential opportunity to spend a semester abroad in their second year studying at one of Keele's international partner universities. Please note that students cannot take both a Global Challenge Pathway (GCP) and the semester abroad option.

Exactly which countries are available depends on the student's choice of degree subjects. An indicative list of countries is on the website (<http://www.keele.ac.uk/studyabroad/partneruniversities/>); however this does not guarantee the availability of study in a specific country as this is subject to the University's application process for studying abroad.

No additional tuition fees are payable for a single semester studying abroad but students do have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their destination university, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the destination they are studying at additional costs may include visas, study permits, residence permits, and compulsory health checks. Students should expect the total costs of studying abroad to be greater than if they study in the UK, information is made available from the Global Education Team throughout the process, as costs will vary depending on destination.

Whilst students are studying abroad any Student Finance eligibility will continue, where applicable students may be eligible for specific travel or disability grants. Students who meet external eligibility criteria may be eligible for grants as part of this programme. Students studying outside of this programme may be eligible for income dependent bursaries at Keele. Students travel on a comprehensive Keele University insurance plan, for which there are currently no additional charges. Some governments and/or universities require additional compulsory health coverage plans; costs for this will be advised during the application process.

## 15. Additional Costs

As to be expected there will be additional costs for inter-library loans and potential overdue library fines, print costs and graduation.

Additional costs may be incurred for students participating in the placement opportunities. This may include, but not be limited to, travel to and from a place of work associated with the placement (including travel abroad for the international placements), costs of accommodation and subsistence. Such costs will not be remunerated by

the university.

We do not anticipate any further costs for this undergraduate programme.

## 16. Annex - International Year

### BSc (Hons) Pharmaceutical Science title with International Year

<b>International Year Programme</b>
<p>Students registered for this Single Honours programme may either be admitted for or apply to transfer during their period of study at Level 5 to the International Year option. Students accepted onto this option will have an extra year of study (the International Year) at an international partner institution after they have completed Year 2 (Level 5) at Keele.</p> <p>Students who successfully complete both the second year (Level 5) and the International Year will be permitted to progress to Level 6. Students who fail to satisfy the examiners in respect of the International Year will normally revert to the standard programme and progress to Level 6 on that basis. The failure will be recorded on the student's final transcript.</p> <p>Study at Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6 will be as per the main body of this document. The additional detail contained in this annex will pertain solely to students registered for the International Year option.</p>
<b>International Year Programme Aims</b>
<p>In addition to the programme aims specified in the main body of this document, the international year programme of study aims to provide students with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Personal development as a student and a researcher with an appreciation of the international dimension of their subject</li><li>2. Experience of a different culture, academically, professionally and socially</li></ol>
<b>Entry Requirements for the International Year</b>
<p>Students may apply to the 4-year programme during Level 5. Admission to the International Year is subject to successful application, interview and references from appropriate staff.</p> <p>The criteria to be applied are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Academic Performance (an average of 55% across all modules in Semester 1 at Level 5 is normally required. Places on the International Year are then conditional on achieving an average mark of 55% across all Level 5 modules. Students with up to 15 credits of re-assessment who meet the 55% requirement may progress to the International Year. Where no Semester 1 marks have been awarded performance in 1st year marks and ongoing 2nd year assessments are taken into account)</li><li>• General Aptitude (to be demonstrated by application for study abroad, interview during the 2nd semester of year 2 (Level 5), and by recommendation of the student's Academic Mentor, 1st and 2nd year tutors and programme director)</li></ul> <p>Students may not register for both an International Year and a Placement Year.</p>
<b>Student Support</b>
<p>Students will be supported whilst on the International Year via the following methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Phone or Skype conversations with Study Abroad tutor, in line with recommended Academic Mentoring meeting points.</li><li>• Support from the University's Global Education Team</li></ul>
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>

In addition to the learning outcomes specified in the main text of the Programme Specification, students who complete a Keele undergraduate programme with International Year will be able to:

1. Describe, discuss and reflect upon the cultural and international differences and similarities of different learning environments
2. Discuss the benefits and challenges of global citizenship and internationalisation
3. Explain how their perspective on their academic discipline has been influenced by locating it within an international setting.

These learning outcomes will all be assessed by the submission of a satisfactory individual learning agreement, the successful completion of assessments at the partner institution and the submission of the reflective portfolio element of the international year module.

## **Regulations**

Students registered for the International Year are subject to the programme-specific regulations (if any) and the University regulations. In addition, during the International Year, the following regulations will apply:

Students undertaking the International Year must complete 120 credits, which must comprise *at least 40%* in the student's discipline area.

This may impact on your choice of modules to study, for example you will have to choose certain modules to ensure you have the discipline specific credits required.

Students are barred from studying any module with significant overlap to the Level 6 modules they will study on their return. Significant overlap with Level 5 modules previously studied should also be avoided.

## **Additional costs for the International Year**

Tuition fees for students on the International Year will be charged at 15% of the annual tuition fees for that year of study, as set out in Section 1. The International Year can be included in your Student Finance allocation, to find out more about your personal eligibility see: [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

Students will have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their destination university, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the destination they are studying at additional costs may include visas, study permits, residence permits, and compulsory health checks. Students should expect the total costs of studying abroad be greater than if they study in the UK, information is made available from the Global Education Team throughout the process, as costs will vary depending on destination.

Students who meet external eligibility criteria may be eligible for grants as part of this programme. Students studying outside of this programme may be eligible income dependent bursaries at Keele.

Students travel on a comprehensive Keele University insurance plan, for which there are currently no additional charges. Some Governments and/or universities require additional compulsory health coverage plans; costs for this will be advised during the application process.

## **17. Annex - Work Placement Year**

### **BSc (Hons) Pharmaceutical Science with Work Placement Year**

#### **Work Placement Year summary**

Students registered for this programme may either be admitted for or apply to transfer during their studies to the 'with Work Placement Year' option (NB: for Combined Honours students the rules relating to the work placement year in the subject where the placement is organised are to be followed). Students accepted onto this programme will have an extra year of study (the Work Placement Year) with a relevant placement provider after they have completed Year 2 (Level 5) at Keele.

Students who successfully complete both the second year (Level 5) and the Work Placement Year will be permitted to progress to Level 6. Students who fail to satisfactorily complete the Work Placement Year will normally revert to the 3-year programme and progress to Level 6 on that basis. The failure will be recorded on the student's final transcript.

Study at Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6 will be as per the main body of this document. The additional detail contained in this annex will pertain solely to students registered for the Work Placement Year option.

### **Work Placement Year Programme Aims**

In addition to the programme aims specified in the main body of this document, the Work Placement Year aims to provide students with:

1. The Work Placement Module enhances employability for students on the Pharmaceutical and / or Cosmetic Science programmes by providing valuable industry exposure. Available to students who have completed their second year, this module integrates academic learning with practical experience through a work placement.
2. During the second year of study, students actively secure their own placements, taking ownership of their career path. They improve job-hunting skills by finding placements and tailoring applications and CVs to each employer's specific needs. While the Programme Director (or their nominee) provides support throughout the recruitment process, individual effort and engagement from students are crucial. This emphasis on personal responsibility and proactivity prepares students for the professional world of work. The placement lasts 9-12 months, with a minimum commitment of 21 hours per week over 24 weeks.
3. Successful completion leads to a degree qualification in Pharmaceutical Science with Placement Experience or Cosmetic Science with Placement Experience. The placement year is not credit-bearing; students return to complete their third-year curriculum and project.

### **Entry Requirements for the Work Placement Year**

Admission to the Work Placement Year is subject to successful application, interview and references from appropriate staff. Students have the opportunity to apply directly for the 4-year 'with work placement year' degree programme, or to transfer onto the 4-year programme at the end of Year-1 and in Year-2 at the end of Semester 1. Students who are initially registered for the 4-year degree programme may transfer onto the 3-year degree programme at any point in time, prior to undertaking the year-long work placement. Students who fail to pass the work placement year, and those who fail to meet the minimum requirements of the work placement year module (minimum 30 weeks full time (1,050 hours), or equivalent, work placement), will be automatically transferred onto the 3-year degree programme.

The criteria to be applied are:

- A good University attendance record and be in 'good academic standing'.
- Passed all Year-1 and Year-2 Semester 1 modules
- Students undertaking work placements will be expected to complete a Health and Safety checklist prior to commencing their work experience and will be required to satisfy the Health and Safety regulations of the company or organisation at which they are based.
- (*International students only*) Due to visa requirements, it is not possible for international students who require a Tier 4 Visa to apply for direct entry onto the 4-year with Work Placement Year degree programme. Students wishing to transfer onto this programme should discuss this with student support, the academic tutor for the work placement year, and the Programme Lead. Students should be aware that there are visa implications for this transfer, and it is the student's responsibility to complete any and all necessary processes to be eligible for this programme. There may be additional costs, including applying for a new Visa from outside of the UK for international students associated with a transfer to the work placement programme.

Students may not register for both an International Year and a Work Placement Year.

The aim of the placement year for undergraduate students enrolled on the Pharmaceutical and / or Cosmetic Science programmes is to provide them with graduate-level work experience lasting approximately 9-12 months. During this time, students will develop skills relevant to their program of study and gain sector knowledge while cultivating the professional attitude needed in the work environment.

The module-specific aims (PHA-30065) are:

1. Demonstrate the application of academic knowledge from pharmaceutical or cosmetic sciences to "real world" scenarios in research, industrial, or professional environments through practical projects and activities.
2. Apply their knowledge and practical skills in pharmaceutical science to evidence competence in a workplace setting, with a focus on accurately recording and documenting their work and training.
3. Provide evidence of accurate and compliant documentation practices within their workplace environment, adhering to the requirements of their employer's quality systems.
4. Students will demonstrate the ability to listen attentively and respond appropriately, present information effectively to groups, produce clear and structured written content and give and receive constructive feedback within a professional setting.
5. Appreciate the importance of working effectively, reliably, honestly, diplomatically as an individual or as part of a team.
6. Comprehend the concepts of occupational health, safety requirements and procedures and employee welfare.

## **Student Support**

Students will be supported whilst on the Work Placement Year via the following methods:

- Regular contact between the student and a named member of staff who will be assigned to the student as their University supervisor. The University supervisor will be in regular contact with the student throughout the year, and be on hand to provide advice (pastoral or academic) and liaise with the Placement supervisor on the student's behalf if required.
- Two formal contacts with the student during the placement year: the University supervisor will visit the student in their placement organization at around 5 weeks after the placement has commenced, and then visit again (or conduct a telephone/video call tutorial) at around 15 weeks into the placement.
- Weekly supervision sessions will take place with the placement supervisor (or his/her nominee) throughout the duration of the placement.

## **Learning Outcomes**

In addition to the learning outcomes specified in the main text of the Programme Specification, students who complete the 'with Work Placement Year' option will be able to:

1. Understand how academic studies in Pharmaceutical and / or Cosmetic Science are reflected in the research, industrial, or professional environment.
2. Apply their knowledge and practical skills for an extended period of time.
3. Improve competences in documenting results and appreciate their importance in a research work environment.
4. Expand their written and oral skills.
5. Appreciate the importance of working effectively, reliably, honestly, diplomatically as an individual or as part of a team.
6. Comprehend the concepts of occupational health, safety requirements and procedures and employee welfare.

These learning outcomes will be assessed through the non-credit bearing Work Placement Year module (PHA-30065) which involves:

1. CV writing
2. Presentation
3. Report

## **Regulations**

Students registered for the 'with Work Placement Year' option are subject to programme-specific regulations (if any) and the University regulations. In addition, during the Work Placement Year, the following regulations will apply:

- Students undertaking the Work Placement Year must successfully complete the zero-credit rated 'Work Placement for Pharmaceutical & Cosmetic Science Programmes' module (PHA-30065)
- In order to ensure a high quality placement experience, each placement agency will sign up to a placement contract (analogous to a service level agreement).
- Once a student has been accepted by a placement organisation, the student will make a pre-placement visit and a member of staff identified within the placement contract will be assigned as the placement supervisor. The placement supervisor will be responsible for ensuring that the placement experience meets the agreed contract agreed with the University.
- The placement student will also sign up an agreement outlining his/her responsibilities in relation to the requirements of each organisation.

Students will be expected to behave professionally in terms of:

- (i) conforming to the work practices of the organisation; and
- (ii) remembering that they are representatives of the University and their actions will reflect on the School and have an impact on that organisation's willingness (or otherwise) to remain engaged with the placement.

## **Additional costs for the Work Placement Year**

Tuition fees for students on the Work Placement Year will be charged at 20% of the annual tuition fees for that year of study, as set out in Section 1. The Work Placement Year can be included in your Student Finance allocation; to find out more about your personal eligibility see: [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

Students will have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their placement provider, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the placement provider additional costs may include parking permits, travel and transport, suitable clothing, DBS checks, and compulsory health checks.

A small stipend may be available to students from the placement provider during the placement but this will need to be explored on a placement-by-placement basis as some organisations, such as charities, may not have any extra money available. Students should budget with the assumption that their placement will be unpaid.

Eligibility for student finance will depend on the type of placement and whether it is paid or not. If it is paid, this is likely to affect student finance eligibility, however if it is voluntary and therefore unpaid, should not affect student finance eligibility. Students are required to confirm eligibility with their student finance provider.

International students who require a Tier 4 visa should check with the Immigration Compliance team prior to commencing any type of paid placement to ensure that they are not contravening their visa requirements.

## Version History

### This document

**Date Approved:** 26 September 2025

### *What's Changed*

PHA-20016 and PHA-20018 amended to SEM1-2

### Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes
1	2025/26	GARY MOSS	07 April 2025	PHA-30055 Oncology I and PHA-30059 Oncology II added as optional modules
1	2024/25	GARY MOSS	03 June 2024	PHA-10038 added.
1.1	2023/24	GARY MOSS		N/A
1	2023/24	GARY MOSS	04 July 2023	