

# Course Information Document: Undergraduate

## For Academic Year 2025/26

### 1. Course Summary

<b>Names of programme and award title(s)</b>	Master of Pharmacy (MPharm)
<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 7
<b>Normal length of the programme</b>	4 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>	This subject/programme is accredited by the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC). For further details see the section on Accreditation
<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 £24,900**</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 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 foundation training year 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.

In your programme you will sometimes be expected to role play and engage in simulated clinical scenarios with other students, such as the practice and observation of practical skills in physical contact with other students. For some specific practices, this may necessitate modification of dress - e.g., to shorts and t-shirt. These activities will be conducted in a professional, safe, respectful and culturally sensitive way, under the supervision of academic staff, according to a defined protocol.

### 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

In 2021, the General Pharmaceutical Council introduced the Standards for the initial education and training of pharmacists; these introduced a new set of learning outcomes covering the full five years of education and training (including foundation training year).

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 allows 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 'Standards for the initial education and training of pharmacists.'

Link: <https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/sites/default/files/document/standards-for-the-initial-education-and-training-of-pharmacists-january-2021.pdf>

### 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?

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

## **7. Teaching Staff**

The staffing within the School of Allied Health Professions and Pharmacy 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. Placements are designed to enhance students' learning experience and provide learning in the 'real-world' environment.

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.

Modern Language modules: You are able to take up to 60 credits across your degree programme as Faculty Funded additional Modern Language modules in order to graduate with the Enhanced Degree Title. [Please see [link](#) for more information on Enhanced degree titles.]

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

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

## Module Lists

### ***Level 4***

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
MPharm Programme Stage 1	PHA-10014	120	Semester 1-2

### ***Level 5***

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

### **Level 5 Module Rules**

Students must achieve a threshold mark of 50% averaged across all Level 5 assessments in order to progress to level 6.

### ***Level 6***

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

### **Level 6 Module Rules**

Students must achieve a threshold mark of 50% averaged across all Level 6 assessments in order to progress to level 7.

### ***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:

<b>Master's Degree</b>	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"> <li>• Level 5 module: 20%</li> <li>• Level 6 module: 30%</li> <li>• Level 7 module: 50%</li> </ul>
<b>Honours Degree</b>	360 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5 and 6
<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

NB: *Students are only eligible for entry to the foundation training year (and hence to the Register of Pharmacists - if they meet the requirements of the regulatory body) 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)

The two semesters of learning are assessed using a balanced mix of unseen 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 two semesters 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 all SCIMS components including:

- the end-of-semester 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 semesters of learning and assessment in Level 5. Each semester of learning is assessed using a balanced mix of 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 all SCIMS components including:

- 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) and the final synoptic assessment.

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

For new students starting, or those students repeating Level 4 in full, from September 2023 onwards, the following will apply: students must achieve a threshold mark of 50% averaged across all Level 5 assessments in order to progress.

### **Level 6 (Stage 3)**

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

In addition, at Level 6 Therapeutic Framework assessments are introduced. They are a well-rounded synoptic-type assessment covering all pharmaceutical and patient aspects of various disease states.

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)**

Coursework assessments introduced at Level 7 include the project report and presentation, Shared Decision Making; in addition more complex versions of the Therapeutic Framework assessment are implemented.

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

**\*\*Low Stakes Assessments (LSAs)** have been introduced at some stages on the course to aid student engagement.

#### *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; some of these opportunities are 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**

	<b>Scheduled learning and teaching activities</b>	<b>Guided independent Study</b>	<b>Placements</b>
<b>Year 1 (Level 4)</b>	46.7%	43.3%	10%
<b>Year 2 (Level 5)</b>	33.3%	46.7%	20%
<b>Year 3 (Level 6)</b>	16.7%	53.3%	30%
<b>Year 4 (Level 7)</b>	20.8%	39.2%	40%

## 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: Learning through Practice (LtP) placements and internal simulations. All MPharm students are indemnified by the university to undertake activities within pharmacy working environments meaning that these placements are participatory rather than observational. As with all healthcare programmes, there are requirements for Occupational Health (OH) and fitness to practice (DBS) checks that apply before students can undertake placements in healthcare settings.

In the first year (level 4) of the course, it is anticipated that students will have an experiential three-week placement in Primary Care (Community Pharmacy). These visits are designed to allow the student to contextualise the theoretical learning they have undertaken within the University and develop their professional skills.

In the second year (level 5), it is anticipated that students will undertake six-weeks of placement activity or simulation. Students are also actively encouraged to seek further work experience. A further, proposed, two-week placement in Primary Care (Community Pharmacy) allows students to further build upon and contextualise the material taught within the second year of the MPharm course, including pharmaceuticals and pharmacology. Students undertake a three-week in-house simulation placement, that allows the students to build upon key skills (Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs)). It is intended that students will also have a four-hour GP Orientation placement, so that they gain an understanding of how GP practices operate and link in with Community Pharmacy organisations. Finally, it is planned that all second-year students will have a one-week placement in the voluntary sector, so students gain an appreciation of how these organisations support the NHS.

In the third and fourth years of the MPharm course the emphasis of the placement activity is on applying the theory into practice (LtP). It is anticipated that students will undertake 8 weeks of placement activity in Stage 3 (level 6) and 12 weeks in Stage 4 (level 7). The placements planned are patient facing and independent with remote supervision from providers and lecturers (students will have fortnightly tutorials to discuss placement led activities). In both years placements are throughout semester one and two. Third year students within secondary care will be allocated to a ward, allowing them to integrate into the wider pharmacy and multi-disciplinary team. Students are provided with a placement workbook which links placement learning objectives with activities, which map to GPhC Learning outcomes & EPA's. Thus, developing student professional competence and experience over the four-year MPharm degree programme.

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 require Occupational Health (OH) clearance for commencement of the course. Once you have commenced the course additional OH clearance for attending clinical placements will be required. These processes are completed by the University's Occupational Health Service (OHS).

As part of your offer letter and accompanying information you will receive a confidential OH questionnaire for you to complete and return confidentially to the OHS. The processing of this questionnaire is explained within the questionnaires covering letter. All OH records are held in line with guidance on confidentiality.

For OH clearance to attend clinical placements, you will require the following vaccinations / immunity checks. Please obtain a copy of your vaccination history with your name and date of birth documented from your GP for proof of vaccination.

- A course of hepatitis B plus a blood test to confirm immunity (a course is 3 or 4 vaccinations)
- MMR Vaccinations - proof of 2 MMR vaccines or blood test confirming immunity to measles and rubella. (Your GP should be able to offer MMR vaccination free of charge if you have not previously had them)
- BCG - documented proof of vaccination or a visible BCG Scar
- TB screening - a Quantum Interferon test for TB (IGRA) may be required.
- 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.

Vaccinations and blood tests can be arranged through your GP, however, you may incur charges, local community pharmacists and travel vaccine centres also offer and charge for vaccinations.

Appointments in OH will be available once you have commenced the course for outstanding vaccines and immunity checks.

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

### Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

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.

Clearance for an enhanced DBS check is mandatory. Students will be provided with instructions on how to apply for a DBS check, including a link to apply via a company called UCheck. There is also an online DBS update service to sign up for once the DBS certificate has been received, which allows employers to check DBS status and lets students keep their DBS certificates up to date online.

### Travel for placements

You will be required to attend placements in Primary, Secondary, Tertiary Care and Voluntary sectors across your four-year MPharm programme. 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. However, for additional travel incurred on placements, some costs can be reclaimed from the University and as per the NHS Learning Support Fund guidelines (Available at <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-learning-support-fund-lsf>). Students will also be able to reclaim costs for additional accommodation required whilst on placement through the university, and according to the NHS Learning Support Fund guidelines.

All placements are allocated after student involvement so special circumstances can be addressed. In addition, prior to each placement students will be given a period of time to swap their placement provider with their peers. Where possible, the School will also 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 Allied Health Professions and Pharmacy free of charge in the first instance. Students will also be provided with a set of scrubs that can be worn on placements or during Pharmacy practice workshops.

The table that follows provides an estimate of costs, accurate as of Oct 2024 and these may be subject to change.



Activity	Estimated Cost
Travel (as above)	see above.
Other additional costs - DBS check (first year only)	c.£60*

\*The current costs for a DBS check are detailed on the additional costs webpage:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/tuitionfeesandfunding/undergraduatetuitionfees/additionalcosts>

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

<b>Final Award and Award Titles</b>	Master of Pharmacy (MPharm)
<b>Intermediate Award(s)</b>	BSc Honours Degree in Pharmaceutical Studies Diploma in Higher Education Certificate in Higher Education
<b>Last modified</b>	July 2025: DBS and OH added
<b>Programme Specification</b>	<a href="https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmespecifications">https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmespecifications</a>

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.

- 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.
- University Regulation C6 (10.1) - For new students starting, or those students repeating Level 4 in full, from September 2023 onwards, the following will apply: students must achieve a threshold mark of 50% averaged across all Level 5 assessments in order to progress. (This does not apply to students currently in other years of the programme)
- Study abroad is not currently permitted on the MPharm programme. Only placements in the UK will be permitted.

University Regulation D2 (1.1.4, 1.2.4 and 1.6.4) - the repeat year options outlined in the regulation will be subject to approval by the Progression and Award Board. In making decisions, the Progression and Award Board will offer repeat options based on the prospect of the student progressing or completing the failed assessments. Students with approved exceptional circumstances will be granted repeat options, subject to the caveat noted below. For students without approved exceptional circumstances, Progression and Award Boards will take the following into account when making decisions: students must have satisfied both of the following criteria:

- Have failed not more than 2 SCIMS components
- Have at least 50% attendance, and an engagement score of "Partial" or above

to be eligible for a repeat year option.

If it is identified that additional support is required, students will be guided towards the Support to Study process.

Where a repeat option requires a clinical placement, this option may be deferred depending on placement capacity and students may be required by the Progression and Award Board to take a leave of absence until such time that the placements can be undertaken.

## **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 foundation year 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 foundation year 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.
- For programmes with compulsory work based placements information is provided in the prose below.

### **Student Additional Placement Requirement**

An additional placement requirement may be required where you

- Fail your PSRB capabilities in a planned placement and an additional placement is required to support your regulatory standard attainment
- are outstanding skills and capabilities to support your programme progression.
- are outstanding your required PSRB capabilities to support professional registration.
- are outstanding PSRB work based practice days to support your course completion and professional registration. (**N.B.** this list is not exhaustive)

The following guidance applies to any circumstances where an additional placement is required.

### **Work Based Placement Provision**

Work based placements are provided by Local Authorities, NHS Trust and Private, Voluntary and/or Independent Organisations (PVIO) for programmes in FMHS. All Local Authorities, NHS Trust/organisation providers manage and coordinate their own work based student placements for all learners. This is done through liaison with the university.

### **Work Based Placement Pathway**

Each university has a planned work based placement pathway for every student cohort group completing PSRB training and education programmes. This is to ensure that you meet all the professional practice capabilities and requirements for your programme of study. The planned work based placement pathway is agreed with the university.

### **Additional Work Based Placements**

Should you need an additional work based placement, outside of the agreed placement pathway, the university would need to liaise closely with the educational team for the relevant Local Authority, NHS Trust/PVIO organisation provider. An additional placement request would need to be made.

### **Additional Work Based Placement Considerations**

The ability to accommodate you with an additional placement outside of the normal placement pathway, is dependent upon several variables. For example, the number of mentors, practice assessors/educators, available in placement areas to support your learning and assessment and the numbers of student learners already situated in planned placements from other cohort groups and or other universities. The above factors sit mostly outside of the university's sphere of control.

### **Additional Work Based Placement Requests**

If you require an additional work based placement, this will be requested and managed by the School's Placement Team (at the point at which the team are informed that additional placements for students are required and numbers are known). For social work courses, these placements are located by the placement coordinator, and in counselling by you with quality assurance checks undertaken by the relevant academic staff member

### **Additional Work Based Placements Timings**

There may be times when it is not possible to secure an additional placement at the point at which you require an additional placement, and some organisations may not be able to offer any additional placements for you outside of the university agreed plans. You may therefore need to wait until a suitable placement opportunity becomes available within a Local Authority, NHS or PVIO provider organisation and the organisation is able to accommodate your additional placement request.

### **Additional Work Based Placement Progression Delay**

Additional placement opportunities may not occur for you again until the next cohort group undertakes the equivalent placement experience in the next academic year. The need for any additional placements may lead to a delay which may affect your ability to continue to progress on programme with your cohort group.

### **Additional Work Based Placement Travel and Accommodation**

Your school will make every effort to secure you an additional placement, however, this may mean that you will be expected to make informed decisions and take responsibility about travel, accommodation, and financial subsistence when the additional placement area secured is not within the normal placement pathway. The decision you will need to make will be between continuing with your current cohort group or delaying your progression on programme.

### **Programme Progression**

Where your programme progression or course completion end date is impacted, it is important for you to seek advice and guidance from your programme specific Academic Mentor or Student Support Services, and if applicable your School International Director. Delays in your progression may have consequences for your professional registration and employment/financial/accommodation offers, visas, and or other contractual arrangements.

### **Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks**

Clearance for an enhanced DBS check is mandatory on this programme. Students will be provided with instructions on how to apply for a DBS check, including a link to apply via a company called UCheck. Students must also sign up to the online DBS update service once the DBS certificate has been received.

Any student who has not completed the DBS application and sign up process, or who has not made the Programme Team, Student Support, Admissions Team aware of any Exceptional Circumstances, by the first working day in November (for September start programmes) or the first working day in March (for January start programmes) will be in breach of regulation B8 (11.1) in relation to providing incomplete information during the application process, and will enter the formal termination of studies process.

## **Occupational Health**

An Occupational Health assessment confirming fitness to commence the programme is mandatory on this programme.

Any student who has not completed all aspects of the Occupational Health process, or who has not made the Programme Team, Student Support, Occupational Health Team aware of any Exceptional Circumstances, by the first working day in January (for September start programmes) or the first working day in May (for January start programmes) will be in breach of regulation B8 (11.1) in relation to providing incomplete information during the application process, and will enter the formal termination of studies process.

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[\[1\]](#) 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:** 16 September 2025

### ***What's Changed***

Amendment to additional costs to add standard wording relating to DBS checks

### **Previous documents**

<b>Version No</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Date Approved</b>	<b>Summary of and rationale for changes</b>
1.1	2025/26	KAREN GUNNELL	07 July 2025	Updated information relating to DBS and Occupational Health requirements added to the programme-specific regulations annex
1	2025/26	KAREN GUNNELL	18 March 2025	
1	2024/25	KAREN GUNNELL	03 June 2024	
2	2023/24	REBECCA VENABLES	13 March 2024	Variation added to the regulations section regarding repeat options
1	2023/24	REBECCA VENABLES	07 March 2023	
1.1	2022/23	REBECCA VENABLES	11 November 2022	Amendment to programme-specific regulations regarding exceptional attempts
1	2022/23	REBECCA VENABLES	14 September 2022	
1.1	2021/22	REBECCA VENABLES		Redundant version - changes rejected
1	2021/22	REBECCA VENABLES	10 February 2021	
1.1	2020/21	REBECCA VENABLES		Redundant version - changes rejected
1	2020/21	REBECCA VENABLES	20 December 2019	
1.1	2019/20	REBECCA VENABLES		
1	2019/20	EDWARD MCCAULEY	02 October 2019	