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| ***GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES******& THE MASTER OF PHARMACY (MPharm) PROGRAMME*** | *www.cardiff.ac.uk/carsv* |

**OVERVIEW**

The role of the pharmacist in the UK has altered drastically in the past 40 years, with a shift from a more traditional dispensing role to that of a patient-focussed provider of clinical services. The MPharm programme provides you with the opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills required to become a pharmacist or for other career avenues in health, science, or education. The programme meets the requirements for accreditation by the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) and draws on the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) subject benchmark for pharmacy; so, by the time you graduate, you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and competencies relevant to your subject.

However, studying Pharmacy also means that you are studying a health and life sciences qualification. By completing the programme, you will have developed the necessary **graduate attributes** that can be used in many graduate jobs, regardless of the degree you have studied.

It is recognised that pharmacy is a very hard programme academically, with a full timetable and continuous assessment and exams. As a graduate, you will leave university not only with specialist knowledge, but also with an ability to be a **reflective and critical thinker**, communicate complex ideas and creatively adapt to dealing with problems. At the same time, you will have worked with your colleagues both in practical sessions and research projects thus developing your **collaborative skills** – a skill vital for you to take with you into any workplace.

**CLINICAL/PRACTICAL SESSIONS**

The programme mainly comprises lectures, practical classes, and workshops which at times are shared with medical and optometry students. The inter-professional education (IPE) workshops contribute to peer development and multidisciplinary **collaboration** across healthcare professions, essential when working in most pharmacy settings. You will not only continue to train in the technical aspects of your course, but placements in health and social care practices and settings will also give you exposure to a lot of work with customers and patients. You will be assessed on your ability to communicate with patients and healthcare professionals, as well as on your ability to take and maintain concise, well-written records on your clinical activities. It will be vital to articulate this **ability to communicate effectively** when applying for pre-registration positions, or indeed any graduate type employment both inside and outside of the pharmacy field. In clinics, you will learn to become a **reflective learner** – learning from your mistakes, taking constructive criticism on board and consistently improving performance.

**CLINICIAL RESEARCH**

The 40-credit research or development project that you undertake in your fourth year is a piece of independent experimental work in a laboratory and/or clinical setting. The science research or practice of pharmacy project is intended to give you an appreciation of drug development, good clinical practice, and the techniques in conducting clinical research in compliance with the latest ethical and regulatory requirements. It will reinforce many of the employability skills essential in today’s graduate market, whilst also enhancing your personal and inter-personal capabilities within pharmacy practice. The nature of a research project means that you will develop your **ability to think independently and critically** during this module. You will need to be **innovative and investigative** in your approach to undertaking this project, generating ideas, and taking initiative throughout the process. **Resilience** will also be vital throughout this research project; you will be provided with supervision, but it will be up to you to manage your time, your workload and organise yourself effectively in a very busy and pressurised fourth year. This will stand you in very good stead for your pre-registration year and will need to be articulated well in any application form.

**ETHICAL, SOCIAL AND COMMERCIAL AWARENESS**

The *Professional Development* module and the *Role of The Pharmacist in Professional Practice* module will give you many opportunities to develop your social and **commercial awareness**. You will be given an overview of the law, ethics, morals, and professional responsibility relating to pharmacy practice. Understand how evidence-based practice underpins the delivery of healthcare and use appropriate evidence sources relating to pharmacy and medicine. You will also be given insight how to provide effective professional patient-centred care whilst optimising efficiency in various pharmaceutical settings.

**ARE YOU MISSING ANY ATTRIBUTES?**

Your degree provides you with varied opportunities to develop the graduate attributes that employers say are necessary to be effective in the workplace. Presenting these attributes in a convincing way on paper or at interview can feel like a challenge, however, should you want help with this, please look at all the sessions run by Careers & Employability to help you throughout your time at Cardiff University.

If you want to develop and experience more throughout your time at university, there are so many opportunities available for you to do so. Careers and Employability and the rest of Student Support and Wellbeing can help you with this and the Cardiff Award provides you with a structure to help you focus your efforts.

**For more information on graduate attributes and on how employable you are, search Career Central on the Intranet.**