



# JOB of the Week



**Job name: Pharmacist**

**Job description:** Pharmacists provide expert advice on the use and supply of medicines and medical appliances.

**Tasks you will undertake in the job:** As a Pharmacist you'll:

- Your tasks will depend on which area of pharmacy you work in. In this role you could:
- dispense medicines in a pharmacy, hospital or a GP practice clinic
- give advice about prescription and over-the-counter medicines
- advise on drug dosages and risks, to the public, patients, GPs and nurses
- run screening programmes for diabetes, cholesterol or blood pressure
- visit care homes or hospitals to advise on the use and storage of medications
- order and control stock
- run a business, including supervising and training staff
- buy, quality test and distribute medicines throughout a hospital
- supervise trainees and junior pharmacists

In education or industry, you could:

- do research into new medicines
- run clinical trials

**Working environment**

You could work in an NHS or private hospital, at a GP practice, at a university, at a store or at a research facility.



**Skills required for this job (core competencies):**

Communication	Resilience	Organisation	Teamwork
Problem Solving	Initiative	Creativity	Digital literacy

**Career progression for Pharmacists:**

There's a formal career structure in the NHS, so with experience you could progress to team manager or pharmacy consultant. You could also work in GPs' surgeries or health centres. Promotion opportunities can be good if you're working for one of the larger pharmacy chains where you can apply for regional or national management positions. With experience, you could set up your own community pharmacy business. Salaries in the private sector are similar to the NHS but can be higher. There are opportunities to work in the military.

**Salary:** Pharmacists are typically paid a starting wage of £32 305, this increases with experience; experienced Pharmacists can expect to earn approximately £45 858 p.a.



**Working hours:** Working hours are usually around 37.5 - 40 hours per week (variable). It is likely that you will work during some evenings, weekends and on bank holidays (depending on the rota and other people with whom you will work)

## Qualifications to become a Pharmacist:

You can get into this job through: a university course

University: You'll need to complete: a 4-year Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) degree approved by the General Pharmaceutical Council

a one year pre-registration training course in pharmacy

If you do not have the qualifications to get onto a MPharm degree, you could do a 2-year pharmacy foundation degree. You would then take a job as a pharmacy assistant or technician and apply to enter the MPharm degree in its second year. Entry requirements: at least 1 A level, or equivalent, for a foundation degree OR 2 or 3 A levels, or equivalent, including chemistry

**Registration:** you'll need to register with the General Pharmaceutical Council

**Further information:** You'll find more on pharmacy careers and training from Health Careers and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

**Essential skills you need to show:** To succeed as a Pharmacist, the following personal skills and attributes would give you an advantage:

- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- the ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure
- sensitivity and understanding; customer service skills
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- maths knowledge; excellent verbal communication skills and the ability to read English
- to be able to use a computer and the main software packages competently

**This job in the future:** The workforce is projected to grow by 6.9% over the period to 2027, creating 4,700 jobs. In the same period, 52.8% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 35,600 job openings.

[www.icould.com](http://www.icould.com)

[www.successatschool.org](http://www.successatschool.org)

[www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk](http://www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk)

[www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors)

[www.ucas.com/careers-advice](http://www.ucas.com/careers-advice)

[www.kudos/cascaid.co.uk/#/](http://www.kudos/cascaid.co.uk/#/) (you all have a log on for this service)

[www.careersbox.co.uk](http://www.careersbox.co.uk) (careers videos)

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<http://airhead.io/public/launchpads/XqbuOMJgb0OfqvMPCykcZA>

