

Key Skills

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

Salary

£32,305 - £45,838

Working hours

38-40 per week
evenings / weekends / bank
holidays

Pharmacist

Top Tips

You'll need to pass background checks

University

You'll need to complete:

- a 4-year Master of Pharmacy degree approved by the General Pharmaceutical Council
- a one year pre-registration training course in pharmacy

Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

- at least 1 A level, or equivalent, for a foundation degree
- 2 or 3 A levels, or equivalent, including Chemistry

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Most universities require you to have an A Level in Chemistry

It would also be a good idea to take one or more of the following subjects at A Level:

- Chemistry
- Biology
- Maths
- Any Science subject

Career path and progression

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' surgery or health centre

Day to Day tasks:

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

Working conditions

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



Labour Market Information

In the Careers section of the school website you can find the useful comparison tool the 'Labour Market Information widget'.

Use the widget to compare different job roles in any employment sector or relating specifically to the 'Job of the Week'.

Pharmacists	
Weekly Pay £870	Annual Pay £45,240
Hours/Week 30h	Hourly Pay £29
Workforce Change (projected)	
Growth 5.3%	Replacement 52.1%
<p>The workforce is projected to grow by 5.3% over the period to 2027, creating 3,700 jobs. In the same period, 52.1% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 35,600 job openings.</p>	
<p>You might find this job in Retail trade Rental & leasing Wholesale trade</p>	
More info	Clear card

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Medical practitioners	
Weekly Pay £1,440	Annual Pay £74,880
Hours/Week 34h	Hourly Pay £42
Workforce Change (projected)	
Growth 5.3%	Replacement 52.1%
<p>The workforce is projected to grow by 5.3% over the period to 2027, creating 16,700 jobs. In the same period, 52.1% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 162,500 job openings.</p>	
<p>You might find this job in Health Public admin. & defence Membership organisations Retail trade Education</p>	
More info	Clear card

Pharmacy and other dispensing assistants	
Weekly Pay £410	Annual Pay £21,320
Hours/Week 33h	Hourly Pay £12
Workforce Change (projected)	
Contraction -2.1%	Replacement 62.4%
<p>The workforce is projected to contract by -2.1% over the period to 2027, losing 1,700 jobs. In the same period, 62.4% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 52,500 job openings.</p>	
<p>You might find this job in Retail trade Health Architectural & related Public admin. & defence</p>	
More info	Clear card

Labour Market Information

Pharmacists

Pharmacists dispense drugs and medicaments in hospitals and pharmacies and advise on and participate in the development and testing of new drugs, compounds and therapies. They counsel on the proper use and adverse effects of drugs and medicines.

Common tasks in this job:

- prepares or directs the preparation of prescribed medicaments in liquid, powder, tablet, ointment or other form following prescriptions issued by medical doctors and other health professionals;
- advises health professionals on the selection and appropriate use of medicines;
- highlights a drug's potential side effects, identifies harmful interactions with other drugs and assesses the suitability of treatments for patients with particular health conditions;
- checks that recommended doses are not being exceeded and that instructions are understood by patients;

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Pharmacy and other dispensing assistants

Pharmacy and other dispensing assistants work under the supervision of pharmacists or other relevant health professionals to dispense drugs and medicines, issue pre-packaged prescriptions, sell over-the-counter medication, dispense spectacles and contact lenses and other related products.

Common tasks in this job:

- checks received prescriptions for legality and accuracy and confirms patients' or customers' details;
- maintains records of prescriptions received and drugs issued;
- checks stock levels, rotates stock, orders new stock from supplying companies and ensures that products are stored appropriately;
- arranges displays of merchandise;

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Medical practitioners

Medical practitioners diagnose mental and physical injuries, disorders and diseases, prescribe and give treatment, recommend preventative action, and conduct medical education and research activities. They may specialise in particular areas of modern medicine or work in general practice and, where necessary, refer the patient to a specialist.

Common tasks in this job:

- examines patient, arranges for any necessary x-rays or other tests and interprets results;
- diagnoses condition and prescribes and/or administers appropriate treatment/surgery;
- administers medical tests and inoculations against communicable diseases;
- supervises patient's progress and advises on diet, exercise and other preventative action;

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Keep looking...

Use these links to learn more about our Job of The Week, consider the various pathways leading to the career, what you can be doing now to help yourself and other roles in the industry...

Take a look at these short videos for inspiration...

Working in the NHS



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zg2IJKWBv6Q>

A day in the life



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wjkr-YbytmM>

Steps to becoming a Pharmacist



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=796Sgsrog-Q>

Train with Boots UK



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nvAjy-F_js4



Useful Websites

- [Registration | General Pharmaceutical Council \(pharmacyregulation.org\)](https://www.pharmacyregulation.org)
- [Careers information | RPS \(rpharms.com\)](https://www.rpharms.com)
- [Pharmacist foundation training scheme | General Pharmaceutical Council \(pharmacyregulation.org\)](https://www.pharmacyregulation.org)
- [Pharmacist | Health Careers](https://www.healthcareers.co.uk)
- [Pharmacology, toxicology, and pharmacy \(ucas.com\)](https://www.ucas.com)