



Keele University

Dear Prospective Student

22 November 2013

I would like to inform you about the opportunity to study pharmacy at a prestigious University in the UK. Keele University was founded in 1962 and is currently ranked among the top 350 Universities globally (in the top 1.75%). The MPharm program was launched in 2006 in the newly established School of Pharmacy within the Faculty of Health which has been fully accredited by the General Pharmaceutical Council.

Each year we receive around 1,000 applications and admit approximately 110 students for our 4-year Masters in Pharmacy program, some of whom are from other EU countries. The entry requirements are AAB at A-level including either Chemistry or Biology. This is an equivalent of three mark '5' (including either Chemistry or Biology) and two mark '4' at an official **Érettségi Vizsga** in Hungary. Furthermore an International English Language Test (IELTS) 7.0 (with no less than 6.5 in each subtest) is required as evidence of competency in English. Please note that we do not accept any other English Language Test.

In this document, you will find information about '**Studying Pharmacy at Keele**' and a list of **Frequently Asked Questions**. If you are interested in an international career in pharmacy or you would like to find out more about studying at Keele, do not hesitate to contact the School of Pharmacy (pharmacy@keele.ac.uk) or me directly (g.varbiro@keele.ac.uk), we are more than happy to help in your queries.

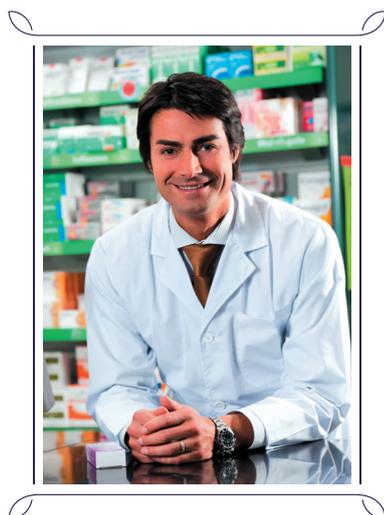
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr Gabor Varbiro', written over a horizontal line.

Dr Gabor Varbiro

Lecturer

School of Pharmacy, Keele University



Studying Pharmacy at Keele

Course Overview

There is currently full employment in the pharmacy profession, and expanding opportunities in new areas. The Keele MPharm course aims to provide highly skilled health care professionals and scientists, well prepared for these new roles. In particular, we will draw on our existing strengths in medicines management, considered by many to be the future of the profession.

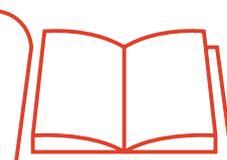
The course focuses on the profession and practice of Pharmacy and draws on key aspects of the clinical, physical, life and social sciences, as well as law and ethics. Our aim is to produce the forward thinking, modern pharmacists of the future. The Keele curriculum is designed such that core aspects of pharmacy practice and the underpinning science are integrated at every level of the course.

In Stage 1, instead of packaging studies into smaller, discrete modules, the principal aim is to allow students to see more clearly the connections between all strands of the programme. Within the three cycles material has been framed into broad themes: those of individual patients, of patients as members of families and of wider populations. This is strengthened by focusing on particular patient groups and on specific diseases that affect these groups. Topics covered will include the anatomy and physiology of different patient groups, the underpinning organic and synthetic chemistry for drug design, the development and use of drugs, dispensing and all aspects of communication with patients.

The structure of Stage 2 is very similar to that of Stage 1 with frequent, regular periods of learning, assessment and feedback. Students will study the more complex aspects of pharmaceutical science, including toxicology, pharmacology, microbiology, formulation science and pharmaceuticals. Students will further expand their professional skills with the study of law, ethics and more complex dispensing as the pharmacy practice elements of their learning continue to be developed.

The emphasis in Stage 3 is the integration of science and practice in the development of skills in patient care, diagnosis, prescribing, monitoring of disease and appropriate drug interventions. This will encompass aspects of clinical practice, systems pharmacology and therapeutics, advanced drug delivery systems and clinical governance. A project will be undertaken that may encompass any aspect of the science and practice of Pharmacy.

The final year examines current topics and key developments in professional practice providing currency to the programme and preparing students for employment. The wider role of the pharmacist in patient care will also be covered, including prescribing skills.



Accreditation

In common with all other UK Schools of Pharmacy, Keele requires external accreditation of its course by the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC). The MPharm programme at Keele was granted full accreditation for the maximum possible period, which is five years, in May 2010.

Pharmacists are the experts in drug discovery, development, preparation and usage of medicines. They are both professional scientists and qualified health care practitioners. Pharmacists work predominantly in hospitals, in the community and in the pharmaceutical industry although a variety of other roles are also available. They promote safe and effective use of medicines and ensure quality patient care. Often, pharmacists are the first point of information on medicines for the public and other healthcare professionals and must be effective communicators.

Pharmacists are educated in diverse area of science and in the skills required to be effective and professional in their job. The MPharm degree provides the knowledge and skills essential for future practice and the School of Pharmacy at Keele provides the ideal setting for this. Located within the Faculty of Health, the School complements the existing Schools of Nursing and Midwifery, Medicine and Health and Rehabilitation. Students will, therefore, be taught in a dynamic and flourishing multidisciplinary, inter-professional environment.

Teaching and Assessment

All aspects of the Pharmacy programme are taught in dedicated, well-equipped facilities using a combination of large and small group teaching sessions, tutorials, laboratory work, seminars, simulations of work in pharmacy practice and computer-assisted learning. In order to reflect the variety of teaching methods used the class size will vary between a full year group through to half or one-third size groups for practical elements of the course. Smaller groups will also be utilised for workshops and presentations, for example, to develop essential communication skills.

The course will be assessed through continuous assessment and examination, with a strong emphasis on skills development and preparation for practice. The elements of continuous assessment may include the submission of laboratory reports or essays, the completion of exercises administered via the virtual learning environment, giving presentations and participation in workshops.

Placement Opportunities

The course includes a rich programme of scheduled visits and placements in hospital, community and industrial settings. We also provide support for students wishing to arrange extended work placements during vacations to maximise the benefits of these additional learning opportunities.

A placement allows students to review the course material in context and develop valuable employability and research skills. Placements will begin during the first year and will continue regularly throughout the course.

Skills and Careers

MPharm graduates need to complete a statutory one-year pre-registration period to qualify to practise. Graduates from the Keele MPharm programme will have a portfolio of skills that are attractive to employers in health authorities, hospitals, community pharmacies and the pharmaceutical industry. The School of Pharmacy has close links with all these sectors. Throughout the course, students will be able to assess which areas of pharmacy are of most interest to them and practising pharmacists will be able to provide advice.

Student Support

There is a comprehensive network for both personal and academic support including a Personal Tutor, Professional Mentors who are practising pharmacists, and a student Buddy.

Student Society

In addition to the wide variety of student societies available at Keele, the School of Pharmacy has its own student society called the Keele Association of Pharmacy Students. KAPS provides access to both social and professional events.

Health Foundation Year: B231

The Health Foundation Year is designed to provide an entry to Pharmacy for those without the conventional A-level subjects normally required for direct entry to an MPharm programme. For further information see www.keele.ac.uk/foundationcourses

Applications

All applications must be made through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) by the middle of January in order to be given full consideration. Applications received between late January and the end of June will only be considered if we wish to make additional offers. Applications received from the beginning of July will be entered into the UCAS Clearing system.

When completing the UCAS application form you should apply to Keele University (K12), course code: B230

Your personal statement should cover the following areas:

- Reasons for choosing Pharmacy.
- Work experience in caring role.
- Knowledge/experience of health care systems in particular those in the UK.
- Evidence of teamwork and communication skills.

All successful applicants will be required to satisfy the requirements of the Disclosure and Barring Service and the Occupational Health checks. Please note, Pharmacy is subject to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and hence all convictions, cautions, PNDs, warnings or reprimands must be disclosed.

Candidates who have any concerns are strongly advised to contact the School of Pharmacy for guidance. All such information will be treated in strictest confidence.



Entry Requirements GCSE or equivalent

GCSE Mathematics grade B
GCSE English Language grade B
International English Language Testing (IELTS) 7.0 with no less than 6.5 in each subtest.

A-level or equivalent

A-level AAB including Chemistry or Biology

BTEC Level 3 Diploma or Extended Diploma DD/ DDM plus A2 Chemistry or Biology at grade B

International Baccalaureate 32 including Chemistry or Biology H6

14-19 Advanced Diploma Progression Diploma and ASL at grade B ASL must include either Chemistry or Biology

Annual Intake 110

For Further Information

You are welcome to visit us on a University Open or Visit Day or you can arrange a personal visit with your family at another time. A detailed breakdown of the course and information for prospective applicants can be found on our website.

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Join us on  @KeeleMPharm

www.keele.ac.uk/ugcourses/pharmacy



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Frequently Asked Questions

- **What is the annual tuition fee?**
 - £9000
- **Can I apply for UK student loan as an EU citizen?**
 - In theory, yes. Please visit <https://www.gov.uk/browse/education/student-finance> for more information.
- **Can I get accommodation throughout the studies on campus?**
 - If Keele is chosen as first choice, then you are guaranteed accommodation on campus in your first year. There is a good chance of accommodation in later years; this should be applied for during February of each academic year.
- **What is the cost of the accommodation on campus?**
 - Between £2785 and £5600 for a 37 week let. See <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studyatkeele/accommodation/prospectivestudents/feesroomtypes/> for further information.
- **What is the typical cost of an off-campus accommodation?**
 - £55 - £65 per week, excluding bills.
- **What amount of money is required monthly to cover living cost?**
 - Up to £500.
- **As an EU student can I enter preregistration training in the UK?**
 - Yes.
- **What career options do I have as a pharmacist in the UK?**
 - The full range of career options is open to you: community, hospital, and industry are the main employers.



Keele University

- **How many pharmacist graduate annually in the UK and how many can enter preregistration training?**
 - Currently there are approximately 2600 graduates per year. 90% of these enter pre-registration training.
- **How do the number of graduates compare to the number of vacant jobs currently?**
 - The market is getting much tighter as the opening of several new schools of pharmacy has resulted in a much larger output of registered pharmacists. However a UK MPharm degree is acceptable in all EU countries as a primary pharmacy qualification.
- **What salary can I expect in the different roles 5 years after registration in the UK?**
 - Community pharmacy – up to £45,000
 - Hospital pharmacy – up to £38,000
- **What is the advantage of a UK Pharmacy degree over any other EU Pharmacy degree?**
 - We believe that the Keele MPharm opens up the global pharmacy market for all our graduates.