

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Master of Pharmacy (Fnd) in Pharmacy

Awarding institution	Liverpool John Moores University
Teaching institution	LJMU
UCAS Code	SPFY
JACS Code	B230
Programme Duration	Full-Time: 5 Years
Language of Programme	All LJMU programmes are delivered and assessed in English
Subject benchmark statement	GPhC Standards for Pharmacy Education QAA Pharmacy Subject Benchmark Statement
Programme accredited by	The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC)
Description of accreditation	http://www.pharmacyregulation.org/ (Levels 4-7)
Validated target and alternative exit awards	Master of Pharmacy (Fnd) in Pharmacy
Programme Leader	Neil Henney

Educational aims of the programme

To inculcate an appreciation of pharmacy as a patient centred discipline and an understanding of the role of the pharmacist in a variety of professional settings.

To provide knowledge of the chemical, physical and biological sciences appropriate to professional practice in pharmacy or generally in the pharmaceutical industries, research or education.

To provide knowledge of legal and administrative arrangements, codes of practice and ethics and develop practical skills relevant to the profession of pharmacy.

To facilitate the development of an ability to apply knowledge of basic scientific principles and/or legal and administrative arrangements to the solution of practical problems in a clinical setting and in industry and the pharmaceutical sciences.

To provide knowledge of the planning and execution of research and the analysis of results obtained and to encourage a critical approach to published research leading to evidence-based decision-making skills.

To facilitate the development of problem solving skills.

To facilitate the development of an ability to work both independently and as a team member.

To facilitate the development of all forms of communication skills.

To prepare students for life-long learning and continuing professional development.

To prepare students for entry into the pre-registration training required for registration by the GPhC.

To encourage students to fully engage with the development of employability skills by completing a self-awareness statement.

Target award Learning Outcomes - Master of Pharmacy (Fnd)

A student successfully completing the programme of study will have acquired the following subject knowledge and understanding as well as skills and other attributes.

A student who is eligible for this award will be able to:

1. Explain aspects of chemistry relevant to the structure, isolation, purification, synthesis, chemical reactivity and biological activity of drugs, biotechnology, the quality control of medicinal products and the quantification of drugs in medicines and biological fluids.
2. Explain the relevance of physical chemistry including chemical kinetics and drug stability.
3. Explain all stages of drug development, assessment of safety, efficacy and cost-effectiveness marketing.

4. Explain the formulation and manufacture of medicinal products including sterile products, general and microbiological quality control and packaging and labelling.
5. Demonstrate how physiology, biochemistry, pathology, microbiology, genetics and nutrition leading to an understanding of disease processes and how drugs are used to prevent, ameliorate or cure such conditions.
6. Demonstrate how the processes by which drugs are absorbed into, distributed around and eliminated from the body.
7. Explain and identify adverse drug reactions and drug interactions.
8. Explain the law and ethics as relevant to the supply of medicines and administrative arrangements within the NHS.
9. Explain social and behavioural sciences as relevant to pharmacy practice.
10. Explain the relevant health policy and pharmaco-economics.
11. Explain the types and relevance of complementary therapies.
12. Explain the drug and substance abuse and the relevant issues.
13. Demonstrate the ability to arrive at an understanding of complex issues which require the assembly, assimilation, critical analysis and synthesis of a wide range of information.
14. Demonstrate creativity in the production of solutions to complex problems, especially in the practice setting.
15. Demonstrate the design and assessment of research and analysis of data.
16. Conduct standard laboratory procedures and operate instruments likely to be met in the practice setting or laboratory.
17. Safely handle potentially dangerous materials and assess risks.
18. Store and supply medicines applying pharmaceutical knowledge and in accordance with legal and administrative requirements and ethics.
19. Accurately perform pharmaceutical calculations and use units appropriately.
20. Apply pharmaceutical principles and clinical governance to the formulation, preparation and packaging of products dispensed (including those prepared extemporaneously).
21. Recognise common disease states and respond appropriately.
22. Advise patients and other health care professionals on the use of medicines.
23. Report adverse reactions to medicinal products.
24. Perform diagnostic testing, health screening and engage in health promotion.
25. Manage themselves in accordance with the GPhC's Standards for Pharmacy Professionals.
26. Demonstrate library skills - information retrieval from primary and secondary sources.
27. Demonstrate the use of information and communications technology including word processing, the use of spread sheets and online information searching.
28. Demonstrate the effective dissemination of information in oral and written form to a specialist or lay audience.
29. Demonstrate ability to work effectively either independently or as a member of a team Self-motivation, planning strategies and efficient time management.
30. Demonstrate the capacity for independent learning that will be required for continuing professional development.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

The methods used to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated are as follows:

Learning is facilitated by a variety of methods. These include lectures, practicals, workshops, tutorials, computer aided learning and directed independent study.

A variety of assessment methods are used, these include competencies, coursework and examination. Coursework will consist of reports, posters and presentations relating to theoretical and practice-based topics, case-studies or laboratory exercises. Formative assessment and feedback will be provided for all types of assessment. Examinations will be based on multiple choice questions and extended multiple items to mirror the GPhC pre-registration examinations.

Tutorials, workshops, practice-based activities (interprofessional learning, simulations, patient-student engagement), individual report production, group assignments, library projects, professional learning days, throughout the programme and a research project undertaken at Level 7.

Performance in workshops, tutorials and group assignments is assessed by tutor and may also be subject to peer group assessment. Research projects are assessed by seminars, poster production and written reports and for group research, peer assessment will also be used.

Lectures, dispensing exercises within the school's own dispensary and clinical suites, workshops, tutorials, directed independent study and periods of professional placement in community and hospital pharmacies.

Written examinations, practical dispensing tests, Objective Structured Laboratory Assessments (OSLAs) and Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs).

Effective work and study practices are introduced in lectures and workshops and embedded into Level 4 module. Computer literacy is embedded within all modules at all levels of the programme. Development of skills in the dissemination of information is facilitated by the preparation and presentation of seminars and the production of written reports. At all levels, group projects, reports and practical exercises necessitate group working. A large element of independent private study is embedded within each module.

A portfolio is required to be submitted at levels 4-7 of the programme and will require students to demonstrate the acquisition of a full range of key skills. Reports, seminars and posters are assessed at all levels to ensure adequate communication skills.

Programme structure - programme rules and modules

The programme is offered as a 5 year programme of full time study only. It is organised as 5 levels of study each corresponding to one year of the programme. The programme is based on a two semester academic year. A total of 600 credits is required for the award of an MPharm degree and the credits are divided equally between the 5 levels of study. Levels 4-7 have one 120 credit module. Credits are designated to each module and are awarded for the achievement of the learning outcomes of the module. Degree classification is based on 60% of level 7 credit plus 30% of level 6 credit plus 10% of level 5 credit. The programme of each individual student is detailed in their transcript.

Level 7

7000IMPHAR Advancing patient-centred care

Competencies required (4):

Calculations Pass/Fail up to 5 opportunities

Objective Structured Clinical Examination 1 Pass/Fail up to 3 opportunities

Objective Structured Clinical Examination 2 Pass/Fail up to 3 opportunities

Portfolio and Personal and Professional Development Plan Pass/Fail up to 2 opportunities

Level 6

6000IMPHAR Complexities of healthcare

Competencies required (6):

Calculations Pass/Fail up to 5 opportunities

Pharmacy Law Pass/Fail up to 3 opportunities

Dispensing examination Pass/Fail up to 3 opportunities

Objective Structured Clinical Examination Pass/Fail up to 3 opportunities

Objective Structured Laboratory Assessment Pass/Fail up to 3 opportunities

Portfolio and Personal and Professional Development Plan Pass/Fail up to 2 opportunities

Level 5

5000IMPHAR Medicines, patients and the pharmacist

Competencies required (6):

Calculations Pass/Fail up to 5 opportunities

Pharmacy Law Pass/Fail up to 3 opportunities

Dispensing examination Pass/Fail up to 3 opportunities

Objective Structured Clinical Examination Pass/Fail up to 3 opportunities

Objective Structured Laboratory Assessment Pass/Fail up to 3 opportunities

Portfolio and Personal and Professional Development Plan Pass/Fail up to 2 opportunities

Level 4

4000IMPHAR Integrated Foundations of Pharmacy

Competencies required (6):

Calculations Pass/Fail up to 5 opportunities

Pharmacy Law Pass/Fail up to 3 opportunities

Dispensing examination Pass/Fail up to 3 opportunities

Objective Structured Clinical Examination Pass/Fail up to 3 opportunities

Objective Structured Laboratory Assessment Pass/Fail up to 3 opportunities

Portfolio and Personal and Professional Development Plan Pass/Fail up to 2 opportunities

Students who successfully complete 120 credits at Level 4 but who do not continue on the MPharm programme will be transferred to the alternative exit award of Certificate of Higher Education Pharmaceutical Studies.

Students who successfully complete 240 credits at Levels 4 and 5 but who do not continue on the MPharm programme will be transferred to the alternative exit award of Diploma of Higher Education Pharmaceutical Studies.

To progress to Level 4 of this programme (MPharmF), students are required to be successful in all modules. To be successful in modules 3452FNDSCI Introductory Chemistry and Cell Biology, 3453FNDSCI, Fundamentals of Physical and Inorganic Chemistry, 3455FNDSCI Human Anatomy and Physiology and 3456FNDSCI Fundamentals of Organic Chemistry, students need to obtain a mark of at least 55% in each assessment component.

Students who successfully complete 360 credits at Levels 4, 5 and 6 but who do not continue on the MPharm programme will be transferred to the alternative exit award of BSc (Hons) Pharmaceutical Studies.

Option: additional study year abroad following Level 5

The programme will offer the opportunity of an additional study year abroad following Level 5. Students will be enrolled on a 720 credit integrated masters with study abroad programme. Of those 720 credits, 120 will be taken via a Level 5 study abroad module [5002IMPHAR Study Year abroad]. The modules to be studied in the host institution must be agreed in advance. The Level 5 mean for the final award mark will be calculated based upon the 240 credits at Level 5.

Level 7	Potential Awards on completion	Master of Pharmacy (Fnd)
Core	Option	Award Requirements
7100IMPHAR ADVANCING PATIENT-CENTRED CARE (120 credits)		120 core credits at level 7 0 option credits at level 7
Level 6	Potential Awards on completion	
Core	Option	Award Requirements
6000IMPHAR COMPLEXITIES OF HEALTHCARE (120 credits)		120 core credits at level 6 0 option credits at level 6
Level 5	Potential Awards on completion	
Core	Option	Award Requirements
5000IMPHAR MEDICINES, PATIENTS AND THE PHARMACIST (120 credits)		120 core credits at level 5 0 option credits at level 5
Level 4	Potential Awards on completion	
Core	Option	Award Requirements
4000IMPHAR INTEGRATED FOUNDATIONS OF PHARMACY (120 credits)		120 core credits at level 4 0 option credits at level 4
Level 3	Potential Awards on completion	
Core	Option	Award Requirements
3451FNDSCI SKILLS AND PERSPECTIVES IN PHARMACY 1 (20 credits) 3452FNDSCI INTRODUCTORY		120 core credits at level 3 0 option credits at level 3

CHEMISTRY AND CELL BIOLOGY (20 credits) 3453FNDSCI FUNDAMENTALS OF PHYSICAL AND INORGANIC CHEMISTRY (20 credits) 3454FNDSCI SKILLS AND PERSPECTIVES IN PHARMACY 2 (20 credits) 3455FNDSCI HUMAN ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY (20 credits) 3456FNDSCI FUNDAMENTALS OF ORGANIC CHEMISTRY (20 credits)		
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Information about assessment regulations

All programmes leading to LJMU awards operate within the University's Academic Framework.
<https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/about-us/public-information/academic-quality-and-regulations/academic-framework>

This programme has the following variances to the Academic Framework, approved by Education Committee in June 2018:

1. A module size of 120 credits is permitted at levels 4-7

This requirement relates to the framework for Pharmacy education and integrated nature of the programme.

(GPhC standard 5.1, 5.5a)

2. Component marking

- A pass mark must be achieved in each validated component of a module.

- No trailing of modules or module components is permitted. All components must be passed and all competencies must be satisfied to pass a module.

This is a requirement of the GPhC (GPhC standards – 5.9, 5.10, 5.11)

The aim is that students are treated in a similar manner to students with a more normal modular structure, and that the effects of failure are not unusually harsh.

3. Referrals in individual assessments

Failure in an individual assessment component at the first attempt will result in the student being referred in that component rather than the entire module.

Referrals may be offered "in year" following a formal Board of Examiners in order to facilitate progression.

Referral in an individual component (Exam/coursework) will result in the mark for the referred component being capped at the pass mark rather than the overall module mark being capped at the pass mark.

If after these referrals have been completed a student has not passed all components (Exam/coursework), an exceptional second referral(s) will be offered by the Board of Examiners if:

The student has passed components that contribute at least 80% of the module mark.

The total of the components considered for exceptional second referral at any one level of the programme does not contribute more than 20% to the module mark. The student has attempted all the relevant referral opportunities.

Students will normally be permitted an exceptional opportunity in ONE competency provided all other competencies within level have been passed.

4. The penalty for AMP2 and AMP3 tariffs should be the same as AMP1 – namely Zero for assessment component

5. Final Award Calculation

To permit the use of the weighted assessment component marks at L7 rather than the overall module mark in the calculation of the award mark and consideration of borderline students.

Opportunities for work-related learning (location and nature of activities)

4000IMPHAR

Half day (each) in hospital and community pharmacy - information gathering

Student-patient engagement 1 hour

Interprofessional learning - patient safety conference with students of nursing

5000IMPHAR

One day community pharmacy visit

Student-patient engagement 2 hours

Interprofessional learning - exploring professional role with medical students

6000IMPHAR

3 x half day hospital pharmacy - ward visits

2 x 1hour PCT or hospital visit with clinical tutor - facilitation of PBL tutorials

Simulation/interprofessional learning

1 x 6 hours Community nurse home visits

Student-patient engagement

7100IMPHAR

3 x Half day pharmacy visit

Simulation/interprofessional learning

Student-patient engagement

At all levels - strongly encouraged and assisted to find at least 1 week's work experience in hospital and 1 week in community pharmacy during own time

Large proportions of all modules are directly relevant to the work of a Pharmacist and are delivered in a manner that closely simulates real working conditions.

Criteria for admission

A/AS Level

The entrance requirements for the MPharm programme are described on the University webpages at <https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/study/courses>

UCAS Tariff Points Required: 96 pts

Tariff points may differ for International Baccalaureate qualifications.

A Levels:

Minimum number of A Levels required: 2

Subject specific requirements: A2 Chemistry and minimum AS Biology

General Studies is not acceptable

AS level awards are acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. A maximum of 20 AS points accepted

AS Double Award: Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications

All applicants are advised to study at least 2 sciences at A2

GCSE and Equivalents

GCSE/Standard grades required: At least Grade 4 (or equivalent) in English and Maths . Grade 4 (or equivalent) or above in all sciences studied.

BTEC National Diploma

BTEC Extended Diploma - MMM

BTEC Diploma - DD

Irish Leaving Certificate

Irish Leaving Certificate - Grades/subjects required: 88 pts from a minimum of 5 subjects including Chemistry and preferably Biology (at higher level)

Scottish Higher

Advanced Higher: Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Additional information: 88 points Chemistry must be included.

International Baccalaureate

International Baccalaureate - Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications Minimum 26. Grade 6 in Chemistry and Biology (higher level).

Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Advanced Diploma grades/subjects required 88 UCAS pts.

Access

Relevant subject including Distinctions in units involving Chemistry and another Science, preferably Biology.

Other

NVQ Levels 1, 2 and 3 are not accepted.

English requirements for the LJMU MPharm programme are explicitly stated on the University's and UCAS website. UK applicants must have GSCE at Grade 4 (or equivalent) or above in English.

The transfer of students studying MPharm at another UK School of Pharmacy will be considered only in exceptional circumstances and only when successful at all relevant modules. Such transfers can only be agreed between the respective Heads of School. Graduates with a minimum of a 2.1 will be considered for admission to the MPharm programme. Transfer of students from other programmes of study, for example Pharmaceutical science students will only be possible if the above entrance criteria are met. LJMU Pharmaceutical science students must attain a minimum of 60% overall at level 4 (selected modules). Fitness to Practise requirements must be also be attained.

The Fitness to Practise requirements refer to both the prospective student's character and health. All applicants are required to self-declare in writing that their character and health are aligned to the HEOPs regulations. During the course of the first year of the programme, students are required to complete a DBS check and undergo a health screening to ensure that they align to the HEOPs standards for pharmacy students. A Fitness to Practise Panel will undertake a review, if there is inconsistency with a student's self-declaration and the outcome of their DBS check. The Panel will determine if such students should remain on the MPharm programme. If the health screening undertaken by the LJMU Occupational Health Unit does not reach the HEOP standards then the student is required to leave the MPharm programme. However, an alternative LJMU degree programme will be offered after appropriate discussion has taken place. All the relevant Fitness to Practise criteria are to be fulfilled before a student is able to progress to the next level of the programme.

Due to the integrated nature of the MPharm programme no recognition of prior learning will be permitted. Students are only able to enter at Level 3 of this programme.

Overseas qualifications

International students are required have IELTS 7.0 with a minimum of 6.5 in all components (or recognised equivalent qualification) (see Standard 4.2b).

International students will be required to provide, in addition to the Fitness to Practise requirements noted above, the following:

- an overseas DBS as outlined in the UK Visa and Immigration website
- a Letter of Good Character

External Quality Benchmarks

All programmes leading to LJMU awards have been designed and approved in accordance with the UK Quality Code for Higher Education, including the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in the UK (FHEQ) and subject benchmark statements where applicable.

The University is subject to periodic review of its quality and standards by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Published review reports are available on the QAA website at www.qaa.ac.uk

Programmes which are professionally accredited are reviewed by professional, statutory and regulatory bodies (PSRBs) and such programmes must meet the competencies/standards of those PSRBs.

Support for students and their learning

The University aims to provide students with access to appropriate and timely information, support and guidance to ensure that they are able to benefit fully from their time at LJMU. All students are assigned a Personal Tutor to provide academic support and when necessary signpost students to the appropriate University support services.

Students are able to access a range of professional services including:

- Advice on practical aspects of study and how to use these opportunities to support and enhance their personal and academic development. This includes support for placements and careers guidance.
- Student Advice and Wellbeing Services provide students with advice, support and information, particularly in the areas of: student funding and financial matters, disability, advice and support to international students, study support, accommodation, health, wellbeing and counselling.
- Students studying for an LJMU award at a partner organisation will have access to local support services

Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning

Student Feedback and Evaluation

The University uses the results of student feedback from internal and external student surveys (such as module evaluations, the NSS and PTES), module evaluation questionnaires and meetings with student representatives to improve the quality of programmes.

Staff development

The quality of teaching is assured through staff review and staff development in learning, teaching and assessment.

Internal Review

All programmes are reviewed annually and periodically, informed by a range of data and feedback, to ensure quality and standards of programmes and to make improvements to programmes.

External Examining

External examiners are appointed to programmes to assess whether:

- the University is maintaining the threshold academic standards set for awards in accordance with the FHEQ and applicable subject benchmark statements
- the assessment process measures student achievement rigorously and fairly against the intended outcomes of the programme(s) and is conducted in line with University policies and regulations
- the academic standards are comparable with those in other UK higher education institutions of which external examiners have experience
- the achievement of students are comparable with those in other UK higher education institutions of which the external examiners have experience

and to provide informative comment and recommendations on:

- good practice and innovation relating to learning, teaching and assessment observed by external examiners
- opportunities to enhance the quality of the learning opportunities provided to students

Please note:

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in module and programme guides.