

MEDWAY SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Key Facts

- The Medway School of Pharmacy, the first regional school of pharmacy in the UK, was established in 2004, and is a unique collaboration between the Universities of Greenwich and Kent to provide innovative patient focused undergraduate and postgraduate programmes to address the needs of healthcare professionals. A significant investment in facilities and equipment has allowed the universities to embark on the objective of establishing an internationally recognised research reputation based on multidisciplinary team work.
- The School obtained professional recognition from the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (RPSGB) and approval for its first intake to the MPharm Programme in 2004. The RPSGB is monitoring the course, with the process of accreditation considered complete when the first cohort graduates with an MPharm degree in July 2008.
- Undergraduate programmes include a Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) degree, a Foundation degree in Pharmacy Practice and a Foundation degree in Medicines Management.
- Postgraduate programmes include an MSc/PGDip/PGCert in Medicines Management, a PGCert in Independent and Supplementary Prescribing, and a PGCert in General Pharmacy Practice.
- The School currently has 600 students, which include 35 from overseas. The demand and the quality of applicants will ensure that the Medway School of Pharmacy will grow substantially over the next six years. The School has 60 members of staff.
- The school's first-class facilities include new research and teaching laboratories, state-of-the-art pharmaceutical equipment and a new training dispensary which will give students the chance to gain practical experience in a retail setting. The School, which has close links with the pharmaceutical company, Pfizer Ltd.



Profile of the School

The unique collaboration between the Universities of Greenwich and Kent has provided an opportunity to design an innovative, patient-focussed programme that addresses the needs of modern pharmacy practice. The School received approval from the RPSGB in March 2004 and the first cohort of students started their pharmacy degree in September 2004.

COURSES

The School is situated in the heart of a new multiversity development in Chatham Maritime, Kent. All classes are held on the Medway campus, with external placements arranged to hospital, community, industry and primary care throughout the programme. Extensive use is made of problem-based learning, tutorials, workshops and practical laboratory classes.



The 4-year MPharm programme has been designed especially for workers within the industry who are not pharmacists. These include people who require training in the use of medicines such as pharmacy technicians, people in care settings, those working in general practice and those undertaking modernisation roles within the NHS.

The school's postgraduate portfolio includes MSc Medicines Management, designed to equip health care professionals with the skills and knowledge to contribute effectively to medicines management services and to individual drug therapy decisions in primary and secondary care.

The postgraduate certificate in supplementary prescribing for pharmacists and the postgraduate certificate in supplementary/extended independent prescribing for nurses programmes are designed to prepare pharmacists to practice as supplementary prescribers; prepare nurses and midwives to practice as supplementary/extended independent prescribers; and to meet the standards set by the respective professional body as required within the legislative framework.

Master of Pharmacy (MPharm)



The Master of Pharmacy (4 year MPharm degree) is based on three interlinked themes: **Practitioner and Patient** (one course per year for four years); **Medicines Design and Manufacture** (one course per year for three years); **The Patient, Disease and Drug Action** (two courses for the first three years). The MPharm is an undergraduate Masters degree with a research methods course at Stage 3 leading to a sustained research project which constitutes 50% of the final year of the programme.

Extensive use will be made of problem-based learning, tutorials, workshops and practical laboratory classes.

All classes will be held on the Medway Campus, with external placements arranged to hospital, community, industry and primary care throughout the programme.

The RPSGB is monitoring the programme over the first four years with the process of accreditation considered complete when the first cohort graduates with an MPharm degree in July 2008.

Graduates are required to work for one year in practice and undertake and pass a pre-registration examination before they can register as a pharmacist in Great Britain.

Foundation Degree in Pharmacy Practice

The Foundation degree in Pharmacy Practice is a two year full time programme which provides underpinning chemistry and biological sciences and incorporates the first year of the MPharm programme together with weekly placements in practice.

The overall aim of the programme is to equip students to undertake careers in pharmacy and other related health care professions which involves working with people who take medicines. For some students progression to stage 2 of the MPharm will be their goal as the MPharm is the only route to registration as a Pharmacist.

The programme achieves this aim by:

- Providing knowledge about scientific and problem solving principles.
- Providing a broad knowledge of the pathophysiology and pharmacology of selected disease states.
- Providing an introduction to the study of pharmaceutical chemistry, biochemistry and pharmacology.
- Introducing students to the ways in which medicines are designed, developed and manufactured.
- Developing transferable skills to facilitate personal development, including progression to honours and postgraduate options, in particular the BSc. in Pharmaceutical Science delivered by the University of Greenwich.

Each course includes seminars, laboratory work, problem based learning, practice-based activities

and assignments to be carried out in the work place. In the second year, students carry out a work-based project. Assessment is by practice work, examinations, submission of work-based assignments within a portfolio of evidence.

Work Placements:

Students will be placed in a pharmacy for one day a week (or an equivalent block of time) for 10 weeks per term. Placements will take place in two terms. Placements can be nominated by the student (subject to School of Pharmacy approval) or more usually will be allocated to the student by the School of Pharmacy. Students will not receive payments for the specified days in the work placement as they are an essential component of the Foundation Degree programme.

Foundation Degree in Medicines Management



The Foundation degree in Medicines Management (FdMM) is a three year part time programme for pharmacy technicians working in hospital, community or primary care pharmacy. It has a practical, work-based focus enabling the technician to become a confident, competent member of the healthcare team who can contribute to the delivery of the medicines management agenda, whilst developing transferable skills to facilitate personal development.

The Foundation Degree in Medicines Management (FdMM) is a three year part time programme for pharmacy technicians working in hospital, community or primary care pharmacy. It has a practical, work-based focus enabling the technician to become a confident, competent member of the healthcare team who can contribute to the delivery of the medicines management agenda, whilst developing transferable skills to facilitate personal development.

Teaching

The FdMM is delivered by a combination of taught study days, distance learning and work-based learning. Students will continue to work in their role as a technician within their department. The programme includes 30 study days of which at least 7 days will be taught in conjunction with the NHS South East Medicines Management Education and Development team (SEMMED).

Medicines Management, MSc/PGDip/PGCert

Medicines management describes a system of processes and behaviours that determine how medicines are used by patients and the NHS. Effective medicines management places the patient as the primary focus of interventions by health-care professionals and is a key driver for NHS modernisation in the UK.

The aim of the programme is to equip healthcare professionals with the skills and knowledge to contribute to medicines management services and to individual drug therapy decisions in primary and secondary care.

The programme is delivered by flexible learning, supported by up to nine (depending upon the pathway chosen) compulsory contact days, and is structured to enable the student to incorporate learning directly into the workplace.

The material provided for self-study is designed for use by all health professionals involved in medicines management and reflects the most recent evidence and practice.

There are two main pathways to the qualification of MSc Medicines Management:

One involves the PGCert in Prescribing. Regardless of the pathway chosen, course options allow students to achieve personal goals within the credit totals for each stage of the degree.

All courses can be divided into three five-credit sections which may



be accessed separately as short courses if preferred.

They can thus provide a valuable means of supporting continuing professional development, or be used as a training package to support service developments in primary or secondary care.

Students successfully completing four courses are eligible for a PGCert Medicines Management.

Alternatively, students may elect to continue with an additional four courses to achieve the Diploma.

A research project is required to complete the MSc.

Supplementary/Independent Prescribing, PGCert

District nurses and health visitors have been able to prescribe from a limited formulary since 1998.

In 1999 an advisory group, chaired by Dr June Crown, reviewed the prescribing, supply and administration of medicines and recommended that prescribing responsibilities be extended to other health care professionals.

The legal framework for this was included in the Health and Social Care Act 2001, following which secondary legislation (Oct 2003) was passed naming nurses and pharmacists as the first group.

Subsequently, legislative changes in 2005 enabled supplementary prescribing by radiographers, physiotherapists, podiatrists and optometrists. From May 2006 amendments to regulations have allowed nurses and pharmacists to qualify as independent prescribers.

The aim of the prescribing programme is to prepare health care professionals to practice as supplementary/independent prescribers, and to meet the standards set by the respective professional/regulatory body as required within the legislative framework.

The programme is delivered by flexible learning plus a total of five compulsory study days at the university where there will be shared learning, plus 12 days of supervised learning in practice.

Research

The school has over twenty academic research staff arranged in three primary research groups:

- Chemistry and Drug Delivery
- Biological Sciences
- Clinical and Professional Practice

The School has a five year plan (2005/06 to 2009/10) for developing capacity and infrastructure to establish a programme of high quality international research. To achieve this, the School has made a commitment to investing £6 million over this period with £3.8 million in building refurbishment and start up costs, £1 million in research scholarships (for 40 PhD students over the next 4 years) and £1.2 million in research consumables.

