

PHARMACY

UCAS: [Pharmacy](#)

Look at the [Complete University Guide](#) website. Bath, Belfast, Strathclyde, and Ulster all score very highly. UCL and Lincoln also fall in the top 10 in the UK. Traditionally Manchester has had a good reputation for Pharmacy.

Top tips:

- Get some work experience in a pharmacy so that you have a full appreciation for the career you will be training for. Ask your local hospital and your local high street pharmacy.
- Questions to ask at Open Days;
 - What does the course look like?
 - How will you be assessed?
 - How much placement activity is included?
 - Do they integrate the trainee year into their programme?
 - What are the graduate success rates for the GPhC exam and career success following registration?
 - How do their students rank in ORIEL? (*the system which ranks pharmacy students across the UK and coordinates where students go for their trainee year with the highest scoring students getting their top preference trainee location*)
 - Do they offer overseas placements?
 - What kinds of projects do the students do?
 - As of summer 2026, trainee pharmacists who pass the GPhC exam will have prescribing qualifications, and so a topical question might be around how the universities are preparing their graduates to be competent and confident prescribers for when they register as pharmacists?(N.B. Also ask current students at the open day what they think)

Also it is worth looking at the pass rate by University for the GPhC registration exam. This website has helpfully displayed these in a bar chart (make sure you press the play button to move from 2021 to 2023 rankings):

- [League table: Which pharmacy schools smashed the registration assessment? | Chemist+Druggist :: C+D \(chemistanddruggist.co.uk\)](#)
(*The Top 5 Universities in the 2023 exam were Bath, Birmingham, Newcastle, Nottingham, and Manchester. Cardiff 7th and Strathclyde 11th*)

Recommended Reading and Viewing

[The Pharmaceutical Journal](#) - probably the most highly rated journal for pharmacists and can give you some insight into current affairs in the industry.

[Let Sleeping Pharmacists Lie](#)

Plus the Recommended Reading list in the [Biology](#), [Chemistry](#) and [Medicine section](#)