

Pharmacology

Your skills and the employment market

A degree in pharmacology provides a solid grounding in scientific knowledge. It also teaches specific knowledge and skills in the formulation and operation of clinical trials, drug regulation and the marketing of pharmaceuticals. You would also have picked up some transferable skills such as:

- Communication skills: oral, written incl. report writing
- Data gathering skills: data validation, analysis and interpretations skills
- The ability to carry out a written methodology in a laboratory context
- Critical analytical skills and problem-solving abilities
- Good organisational skills
- The ability to work without supervision and use your own initiative
- Decision-making skills
- Time management, Teamwork and IT skills

Sample Job Advertisements

Some jobs advertised recently that may suit students / graduates (jobs are shown for illustration purposes only).

Pharmaceutical Regulatory Placement/Internship, GE. Regulatory activities in support of licensed medicinal products, assisting with preparation of applications to regulatory agencies and regulatory compliance. Life Sciences/Pharmacology degree. Able to take ownership for projects and work to time limits. Analytical. Problem solver. Clear communication. Proficient in Microsoft Office. Ability to work as part of a team.

Information Designer, Teckro. Analyse, understand, and process complex scientific/ medical/ pharmaceutical information. Degree in biological science, pharmacy, pharmacology, health-related. Interest in clinical research, medical advancement and drug / biotech development. Superb editorial skills. Proven ability to organize information in a logical and systematic way.

Validation Internship, PSC Biotech. BSc in pharmaceutical, biotechnology or related technical field. Exp of QA in FDA regulated environment preferred.

Science Internship, Abbott Ireland could involve working in Solution Preparation, In-Process Testing, Product Formulation, Process Development, Documentation Review & Approval, Research and Development areas as well as general Laboratory work.

Possible Career Opportunities

Pharmaceutical Researcher	Pharmaceutical Sales	Clinical Pharmacologist
Toxicology Testing	Recruitment Consultant	Clinical Trials Scientist
Biomedical Researcher	Quality Assurance Officer	Scientific Journalist
Regulatory Affairs Officer	Industrial Researcher	Forensic Scientist
Immunologist	Patent Work	Medical Writer

Note: This list is a sample representation of positions available.

What can I do with a degree in Pharmacology?

Many exciting careers exist in the **Pharmaceutical Industry** - working on the development of new medicines, testing new medicines, assessing the safety of new medicines, marketing new medicines, patent & regulatory affairs or providing IT support.

Have you skills to communicate your ideas & to motivate students? An **Academic Institution** could be the place for you - Pharmacology is an important part of many university science programmes. (PhD required).

Research – would you like to discover something new about the body or help to discover a new medicine? Check out opportunities in Universities, research institutes and pharmaceutical companies many of whom work collaboratively.

Recruitment – Do you want to use your scientific knowledge indirectly? The Pharmaceutical Industry is always looking out for suitable recruits within all areas from medical sales, through basic research to regulatory affairs. Have you the skills to locate the right person for position in the pharmaceutical industry?

Medical Writing – Scientists & Doctors need to communicate their work to others. Have you a talent for writing and communicating ideas in a simple and exciting way? Medical writers work in pharmaceutical companies and produce clinical trial reports, papers for scientific publication and advertising materials.

Other areas in which pharmacologists typically find employment are medical research departments in hospitals, government departments, management, finance & consultancy.

Further Study Opportunities

Some of the courses chosen by graduates in the past at NUI Galway (www.nuigalway.ie/courses) were:

- Structured PhD
- Master of Science (Regenerative Medicine)
- Professional Masters in Education
- Higher Diploma in Business Studies

Courses taken by graduates elsewhere were:

- Graduate Medicine
- MRes Cancer Biology
- Masters in Pharmacy
- Masters in Pharmacology
- MSc Immunology and Global Health

www.nuigalway.ie/conversion covers conversion courses at NUI Galway. The website www.postgradireland.com contains information on postgraduate courses in Ireland, www.prospects.ac.uk for researching opportunities in the UK and <https://ec.europa.eu/ploteus/> covers the EU.

Read our FAQ on *Postgraduate Courses* for more and pick up our booklet on writing personal statements.

What past graduates have done

Here is a sample of the destinations of past students who studied Pharmacology - taken from our annual graduate survey.

- Sourcing specialist, Camida
- Lab assistant, NUIG
- Lab technician, Allergan
- Lab Technican, Lab Solutions
- Associate Operations Specialist, Quintiles
- Research Assistant, University of Oxford
- Research Associate in vitro biochemical pharmacology, London
- Diagnostic Technologist, Abbott

Jobs obtained by graduates of NUIG's MSc Neuropharmacology include:

- Bioassay Analyst, MSD
- Product Specialist, Qualtrex
- Pharmacovigilance Associate, Primevigilance
- R&D Quality Documentation Controller, Mylan
- QC Analyst, Merck Sharpe & Dohme
- Associate Operations Specialist, Quintiles
- Controlled Drugs Licensing Administrator, Irish Medicines Board
- Cancer Research Assistant, St James Hospital
- Pharmacovigilance Associate, Quintiles

Resources in the Careers Information Room

Our Job Sector files contain a range of information about working in a specific sector – from job descriptions to professional associations. At the back of each (where possible) are advertised jobs so that you can look through requirements of previously advertised jobs.

We also have a range of reference books covering science including:

- Careers with a Science Degree
- Alternative Careers in Science
- Who wants to be a Scientist? Choosing Science as a career

There are also resources to help with your job search including reference books on taking psychometric tests, going for interview, writing a CV or personal statement... and much more.

Drop into our information room and we will be happy to assist you – there's no need to book an appointment to browse through our resources.

Be sure and pick up our free booklets 'Your CV' and 'Interview Skills'.

Useful websites

We have found that the following websites contain relevant and interesting information on opportunities with a degree in Pharmacology.

- www.biopharmachemireland.ie
- <http://gradireland.com/career-sectors/science-research-and-development>
- <https://jobs.newscientist.com/>
- www.morganmckinley.ie/science-jobs
- www.imda.ie
- www.prospects.ac.uk/options_pharmacology.htm
- www.bps.ac.uk/ - British Pharmacological Society
- <http://careers.abpi.org.uk>
- www.wileyjobnetwork.com/content/pharmaceutical/
- <http://jobs.pmlive.com/>
- www.pharmiweb.com

Deciding on your Career

Choosing a career after university can be extremely difficult and any long-term decisions should not be made lightly. While some people have already planned a career even before arriving at university, others will have only a vague idea of what they intend to do, or perhaps even no idea at all.

Pick up our *Exploring your Options*, and *Researching Careers Information Online* FAQs and ask for details on completing an interest test.

There are also links to psychometric tests at: <http://www.nuigalway.ie/career-development-centre/servicesforstudents/explore/careerinteresttests/>