

Undergraduate Pharmacy Placements

Why hold undergraduate pharmacy placements in community pharmacy?

The role of pharmacists in community has rapidly expanded in recent years, improving patient outcomes and safety, as well as reducing prescribing costs. With the increased focus on workforce development, holding undergraduate pharmacy placements at your pharmacies could achieve the following:

- ◆ **Building the workforce**– Contributing to the training and development of pharmacy students helps ensure a well-prepared and capable future healthcare workforce.
- ◆ **Workforce development** – Early exposure can encourage students to pursue careers in community pharmacy upon qualification, addressing workforce shortages and enhancing capacity.
- ◆ **Future recruitment**- Hosting students provides an opportunity to identify potential future employees who are already familiar with your pharmacy operations and culture. Pharmacy students make great evening cover, Saturday staff or can help during holidays.
- ◆ **Patient trust:** Patients may appreciate the involvement of pharmacy students in their care, knowing that the pharmacy is committed to education and continuous improvement. This also helps with GPhC visits.
- ◆ **Teaching and mentorship opportunities:** Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians have the chance to mentor and teach students, which can be professionally rewarding and contribute to their own CPD.
- ◆ **Payment for your time and expertise:** Each placement is fully funded through the clinical placement tariff at a rate of £137 per week per student. The number of students per placement site is determined by the placement provider.

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How can our students help your pharmacy?

Our students can assist in various activities whilst on placement using their theoretical knowledge taught at university. Some roles are listed below:

- ◆ **Serving customers/patients:** Students can take in, download and hand out prescriptions. Students are trained to help patients with symptom queries and can recommend products under supervision. They may also assist with counselling patients on prescription medication.
- ◆ **Dispensing:** Students can put away stock and label and dispense prescriptions, including routine tasks such as the preparation of daily/weekly methadone bottles.
- ◆ **Services:** Students can help with services such as taking blood pressure readings. Students can help to identify and sign patients up for services such as NMS, vaccinations, hypertension case finding service, Pharmacy First service, Pharmacy Contraception Service etc.
- ◆ **Support for staff:** Pharmacy students can alleviate some of your workload by assisting in routine tasks such as repeat medication queries and administrative duties such as ordering patients' medication.
- ◆ **Audits or health promotion projects:** Students are trained in data gathering and can help you complete PQS audits or other projects. They can help your team to set up HLP displays.

PLACEMENT DATES 2024-2025

Year 1: 2 week placement week beginning 17th February 2025

Year 2: 2 Week placements week beginning 11th November 2024 & 28th April 2025

Year 3: 2 Week placements week beginning 21st October 2024 & 10th March 2025

Year 4: 6 Week placements week beginning 20th January 2025