

# Certificate in Pharmacy (Introduction)

Level 3



## Aim:

This programme aims to provide the pharmacy sector with graduates with underpinning knowledge and skills in pharmacy retail. Graduates will be able to work within a pharmacy in a non-dispensing role with the supervision of a pharmacist.

**Credits:** 40 credits

**Duration:** 15 teaching weeks plus 3 study break weeks. Face to face learning activities / Clinical Placement are normally scheduled over 3 days per week.

**Delivery:** You can expect the following workload for the theory modules:

- 20 hours per week engaging in face-to-face learning activities.
- 10 hours per week completing independent study tasks.

For 6 of the last 7 weeks of the programme students will be required to complete 135 hours of practicum in a commercial pharmacy setting (22.5 hours per week). The 7th week is for feedback activities relating to the practicum.

**Qualification gained:** This programme leads to the NZ Certificate in Pharmacy (Introduction to Pharmacy Practice) (Level 3)

The programme aims to provide the pharmacy sector with a graduate who has underpinning knowledge and skills in pharmacy retail. Graduates will be able to work within a pharmacy in a non-dispensing role with the supervision of a pharmacist or pathway into further study at level 4 or 5 in a pharmacy programme.

## Career Pathways:

Pharmacy Assistants can progress to be a Pharmacy Technician working in the dispensary or may become retail or business managers looking after the retail side of the pharmacy.

## What will I learn?

We value holistic education and guidance. This programme includes classroom-based learning, self-directed learning, and clinical placement.

- Safe practice and Communication / Professional and ethical basic practices for a Pharmacy Assistant
- Pharmacy-related products and services · Pharmacy Assistant (Clinical)



# Entry requirements:

## All students –

Must be able to understand requirements, follow instructions, and communicate clearly and effectively with others, and are expected to have the English skills to be able to communicate in the programme. Supplementary English tuition may be required or recommended if the student has difficulties with English after starting the programme.

## Domestic students –

- At least 16 years of age at programme start date
- 8 credits at NCEA Level 1 in English (4 in reading, 4 in writing) or equivalent.
- Minimum of 3 years secondary education.
- There are no minimum academic requirements for applicants 20 years of age and over.

## International students –

- At least 18 years of age at programme start date.
- Year 12 or 13 qualification or equivalent (high school) including at least one science subject.
- IELTS 5.0 with individual no bands less than 5.0 or equivalent as per the English Language Proficiency Requirements for International students determined by NZQA.

These are specified in the table found at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/about-us/our-role/legislation/nzqa-rules/nzqf-related-rules/the-table/>.

## What could I earn?

As a Pharmacy Assistant you are a retail sales assistant with underpinning knowledge and skills in pharmacy retail. Pay varies depending on experience and the company you work for.

- Entry-level sales assistants usually start on minimum wage.
- Mid-level sales assistants usually earn up to \$45,000 a year.
- Senior sales assistants can earn between \$45,000 and \$48,000.

Source: Retail NZ 2020 Wages Guide, 2020. <https://www.careers.govt.nz/jobs-database/retail-and-personal-services/retail/retail-sales-assistant/>

Once you train to become a Pharmacy Technician you can expect to earn the following:

- Pharmacy technician trainees usually earn between minimum wage and \$45,000 a year.
- Qualified pharmacy technicians can earn between \$45,000 and \$52,000.
- Hospital pharmacy technicians who take on additional responsibilities can earn up to \$56,000.

Sources: Auckland District Health Boards/PSA, 'Allied, Public Health and Technical Multi-employer Collective Agreement, to October 2017; Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand, 2017. <https://www.careers.govt.nz/jobs-database/health-and-community/health/pharmacy-technician/>

Ask us for more information on our Certificate in Pharmacy Technician Level 5 programme.



# FAQs

## How many days a week do I need to study?

You will need to engage in face to face learning activities / clinical placement a minimum of 3 days per week throughout the duration of the programme. You will also be expected to engage in at least 10 hours per week of independent study tasks.

## What resources will I need?

We operate a BYOD policy which means you will need to have a laptop. Your laptop will need to meet the following specifications:

- Windows 10 (or Mac Os 10.x Yosemite or higher)
- i3 dual core or equivalent processor 4GB RAM
- 320GB or greater hard drive
- Wireless capability 802.11n dual band
- At least a 13 inch screen
- Up-to-date antivirus software
- Battery life of a minimum of 6 hours (there is limited access to charging facilities in class)

We will provide you with a uniform for your clinical placement

## Does the programme include clinical placement/work experience?

Yes! You will complete 6 consecutive weeks of clinical placement (minimum of 135 hours).

## Will you assist with the job search?

We don't provide direct job assistance, but what we do provide is a programme that has been designed with industry needs in mind. This means that our graduates' skills are valued by industry. We provide access to employers through guest speakers and clinical placements. We have Clinical Placement Coordinators who work closely with industry, and we are often approached for graduate information and informed of job recruitment campaigns. From time to time, companies will come on-campus to carry out interviews.

## Would I be able to work 20 hours while I am studying?

View Immigration NZ's guidance on what type of courses are eligible for work rights. <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/options/study/working-during-after-your-study/working-on-a-student-visa>

## Would I be able to get post-study work rights after completion of this programme?

View Immigration NZ's guidance on what type of courses are eligible for post-study work rights. <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/visa-factsheet/post-study-work-visa#overview>

## What can I study after completion of this programme?

After completion of this programme, you can enrol into our Certificate in Pharmacy Technician (Level 5) programme

## What jobs can I apply for after completing this programme?

Graduates of this programme will have the knowledge and skills to be able to work in a non-dispensing support role in a pharmacy.