

# FAQ – Pharmacy (BPharm)

## Who can apply for admission to Pharmacy?

### School Leavers

**NCEA:** Applicants must achieve a minimum rank score of **220** over a maximum of 5 approved subjects at Level 3, with a minimum of 18 credits in each of Biology and Chemistry.

**CIE:** Applicants must achieve a minimum rank score of **230**. They will be allocated a rank score according to their UCAS tariff score total accumulated over a maximum of 6 subject units at AS or A Level from subjects that contribute to university entrance. In addition, applicants must have taken Biology and Chemistry; preferred A Levels.

**IB Diploma:** Applicants must obtain IB Diploma with at least **29** points overall.

### Alternative admissions

A candidate in this category is one who has left secondary school and undergone further formal education in a relevant degree programme for a minimum of one year of full time study.

This includes both graduates in a relevant degree and those who have successfully completed Part I or more of another degree; typically The University of Auckland's Bachelor of Health Sciences or Bachelor of Science (Biomedical Science) degrees.

Approximately 40 places are generally offered to Alternative Admissions candidates in each intake. Candidates are considered if a minimum GPA of 5.0 (B average) is achieved across their entire course of study. These places are competitive and limited in number.

### RRAS

Up to 10 places are allocated for students who have undertaken full course of pre-secondary or at least 3 years of secondary education in a regional or rural area. For the purpose of the scheme a regional rural area is defined as any part of New Zealand that does not fall within the local authority boundaries of the Auckland, Hamilton, Tauranga, Wellington, Porirua, Hutt, Upper Hutt, Christchurch or Dunedin City Councils.

### MAPAS

This category is for students of Maori or Pacific descent. Up to 25 places will be offered to MAPAS candidates in each intake. Those applying under this scheme must be able to demonstrate a willingness to participate in their culture. Applicants may be school-leavers or alternative admissions students.

***In all cases admission to the BPharm is dependent on performance at the interview as well as academic achievement.***

## What subjects should I take if I am applying under the School Leaver Category?

In addition to meeting the standard entry requirements, it is compulsory that you take Chemistry and Biology.

English is not a required subject, beyond university entry standard, but you will be required to demonstrate the ability to communicate well in written and spoken English, both for selection and progress through the degree.

Mathematics with Statistics, Mathematics with Calculus and Physics are useful additional subjects.

## Is there any way that I can be admitted to the Pharmacy degree if I do not take Biology and Chemistry in high school?

**No. 18 credits in Chemistry and 18 credits in Biology** at NCEA level 3 or equivalent are required for admission as a school-leaver applicant.

You may be eligible as an Alternative Admissions candidate if you have completed a minimum of one year full-time study with sufficiently high grades in a relevant degree including Biology and Chemistry courses e.g. BSc (Biomedical Science) or BHSc at Auckland.

The reason that Chemistry and Biology are highlighted is that most of the Pharmacy degree relies on a strong academic foundation in these subjects.

## What academic background do I need to apply under the Alternative Admissions category?

You can apply under this category if you have completed at least one year of the following:

- University of Auckland degrees: BHSc, or BSc (Biomedical Science).
- A relevant degree or tertiary qualification.
- The Faculty's Certificate in Health Sciences, offered to Maori and Pacific students under the MAPAS scheme.

Candidates are expected to achieve a minimum GPA of 5.0 (B average) across their entire course of study.

## If I am admitted under the Alternative Admissions category am I exempt from any courses?

If you are applying from one of The University of Auckland degrees listed above, you will not have to take courses common to Pharmacy that you have already completed.

In other cases, the Academic Director of Pharmacy will advise what exemptions you will receive based on the Credit Regulations of the University. These are based upon the comparability of courses you have completed elsewhere and how recently the study was completed.

You cannot generally be exempted for the whole of Part I. However, alternative admissions students coming from the first year at the University of Auckland may be eligible to complete all outstanding elements of Part I of the programme together with all Part II courses if they are missing only two courses from the BPharm Part I Schedule. Individual advice will be offered to Alternative Admissions students by the Academic Director upon entry to the programme.

## What if I already have a degree/or a partly completed degree in Pharmacy from overseas but want to gain a University of Auckland BPharm to register to practice in New Zealand?

Overseas registered pharmacists are encouraged to apply for New Zealand registration through the Pharmacy Council of New Zealand processes. This will generally be a

less costly and a more appropriate procedure than completing the Bachelor of Pharmacy.

However, overseas registered pharmacists still wishing to be admitted to the Pharmacy programme, or those who have completed or partly completed a pharmacy degree overseas are welcome to apply to the Bachelor of Pharmacy, but will be treated in exactly the same way as any other Alternative Admissions applicant. You must meet the same academic standards and successfully complete an admissions interview before entry. Some credits may be given for previous studies but in most cases completion of the Bachelor of Pharmacy will still take between three and four years.

## Can I transfer from the School of Pharmacy at Otago?

There are no formal transfer arrangements between the two Universities for this programme. Applicants from the School of Pharmacy at Otago will be treated in the same way as other Alternative Admissions applicants, i.e. they will require a minimum GPA of 5 and will be interviewed if eligible.

## Can I go straight into the Bachelor of Pharmacy if I'm a Pharmacy Technician?

Not automatically. In order to gain a place in the Bachelor of Pharmacy programme, you must be able to demonstrate academic achievement at a university level to a good standard (a minimum GPA of 5.0 – i.e. a B average). This is to ensure you will be able to meet the academic demands of the programme. You must also successfully complete an admissions interview.

A number of Pharmacy Technicians have entered the Bachelor of Pharmacy, normally after completing the first year of a relevant degree programme (e.g. BHSc or BSc-Biomedical Science) at the University of Auckland.

## Is there a mid-year intake for the Bachelor of Pharmacy?

No.

## Do I need to sit UMAT for BPharm?

No.



### **Will I get an admissions interview to the Bachelor of Pharmacy if I am a mature student but have not completed any tertiary studies?**

No, all alternative admission applicants selected for an admissions interview for the Pharmacy programme must be able to demonstrate academic achievement at university level to a good standard in relevant subjects. This is to ensure you will be able to meet the academic demands of the programme.

A number of mature students have entered the Bachelor of Pharmacy having demonstrated their academic standing through courses under taken in the Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Health Sciences programmes, or through schemes such as the New Start programme [newstart@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:newstart@auckland.ac.nz) or the Tertiary Foundation Certificate [tfc@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:tfc@auckland.ac.nz).

### **Can I move from the Bachelor of Pharmacy to other clinical programmes in the Faculty, such as Medicine, after my first year if I wish?**

No. Students are not eligible to transfer from the BPharm programme to the MBChB (medical) programme. You may apply after the completion of your degree or you may transfer to other non-clinical programmes such as the BSc and BHSc programmes.

BPharm students may potentially transfer to the Bachelor of Nursing programme.

### **Is there a mid-year intake for the Bachelor of Pharmacy?**

No.

### **Do I need to sit UMAT for BPharm?**

No.

### **Are Australian students considered as International applicants?**

No. Citizens and permanent residents of Australia and students from the Cook Islands, Tokelau or Niue who are New Zealand citizens, are eligible for enrolment on the same basis as New Zealand students.

### **What if I am an International Student?**

The BPharm programme is not currently available to independent full fee paying international applicants.

### **What are the Pharmacy entry requirements for competence in English?**

The Bachelor of Pharmacy degree requires a high level of competence in written and spoken English. In order to practise as a pharmacist in New Zealand you must be able to communicate well in English and this ability is evaluated at the interview and repeatedly throughout the programme.

If your entrance qualifications are from an overseas university and your first language is not English you will have to meet the University's English requirements for admission and provide evidence of one of the following:

- an IELTS academic module to 6.5 (with no band less than 6.0)
- TOEFL 575 (paper based) or 233 (computer based) with TWE 4.5 or
- a statement from your previous educational institution confirming that you have been taught in the medium of English, full time for a minimum of two years. This cannot include English language acquisition courses.

In addition, all students entering the programme must complete an English language competency assessment. Those students who are identified as having insufficient written or spoken skills must successfully complete additional English language classes to continue to Part III of the programme.

### **Are there any other English language requirements necessary to enter the Pharmacy profession?**

It is important to note that the Pharmacy Council of New Zealand requires acceptable English competence before you can register as a pharmacist.

Before applying for pharmacy, you are strongly encouraged to ensure that your English competence is at an acceptable standard.

## Postgraduate study: Can I do postgraduate study or research on completion of the Bachelor of Pharmacy degree?

Yes, there are many opportunities to take a variety of postgraduate qualifications, both in New Zealand and overseas, on completion of the Bachelor of Pharmacy. Most graduates complete their one year pre-registration training and register as pharmacists before undertaking postgraduate study. The School of Pharmacy offers a variety of postgraduate programmes in pharmacy practice and the pharmaceutical sciences, ranging from postgraduate certificate to doctoral level.

For further postgraduate information please see the postgraduate section of the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences website -

<http://www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/faculty/postgrad/>

**\* As selection criteria may change from year to year, applicants should consult the faculty website, prospectus or the faculty admissions office for the latest information**

## Applications Close 1 November

**Late or incomplete applications will NOT be considered**

## Application Checklist

**Please note: all documents are required by 01 November.**

### Central Admissions Office

- Apply for the BPharm programme: [www.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.auckland.ac.nz)
- Make sure you have submitted all the required documentations

**Phone:** 0800 61 62 63 or +64 9 308 2386

**Email:** [studentinfo@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:studentinfo@auckland.ac.nz)

### FMHS Admissions Office

- All applicants:** MH03 BPharm Supplementary Information Form
- School leavers only:** School Report Prediction Form
- MAPAS applicants only:** MH04 BPharm Supplementary Information Form **in addition to MH03 form**

Forms: complete online or download from

<http://www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/faculty/undergrad/forms/>

**Phone:** +64 9 923 4888

**Email:** [fmhs@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:fmhs@auckland.ac.nz)

### What next?

- Make yourself available during the interviewing period. See faculty website for key dates: <http://www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/faculty/undergrad/important-dates.aspx>

All alternative admissions interviews: early December

All school leavers interviews: mid-January

- Ensure your contact details are up-to-date on the Student Services Online. Please also inform [fmhs@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:fmhs@auckland.ac.nz) of any changes so we can communicate with you effectively during the admissions period.
- If offered an admission interview, respond promptly.