

Just the Job

Information Sheet

Job title: Pharmacist

Job description:

Preparation of and dispensing of Drugs

Qualifications required:

NCEA Level 3 Maths, English, Biology, Chemistry and Physics are essential.
Excellent communication and mathematical skills, close attention to detail.
4 year Bachelor of Pharmacy Degree

Training costs:

University of Otago – four year degree course – approximately \$20-\$25k.
University of Auckland – four year course – approximately \$20-\$25k.

Location of job:

Mostly within a dispensary located either in a community or hospital pharmacy.

Career path:

Pharmacists work in both community and hospital pharmacies. The roles vary considerably with progression possible down a number of routes in both areas. There are options for specialising in clinical pharmacy, carrying out research, studying further towards a PhD and/or Masters in Pharmacy. There are teaching and training roles in Universities and tertiary education providers, information and advice roles in professional pharmacy bodies and government departments.

Salary range:

The starting salary for a newly qualified pharmacist in their Internship year is around \$13.50ph rising to between \$15 and \$20ph as the year progresses. Once registered, a pharmacist can expect to earn around \$30-\$40ph with future options including managing and/or owning their own pharmacy.

Other careers this profession could lead to:

The skills developed by pharmacists can be applied across a wide range of areas particularly management, training and teaching, research and Government departments, as well as other areas of the health sector.

Tips on how to increase the chances of successfully entering this industry:

Talk to your local pharmacist and/or get a part-time job in a pharmacy.

Other places to source information about this job:

Pharmacy Industry Training Organisation (PITO) www.pito.org.nz
KiwiCareers www.kiwicareers.govt.nz