MSc CLINICAL PHARMACY

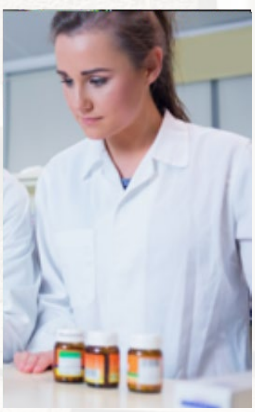
School of Pharmacy

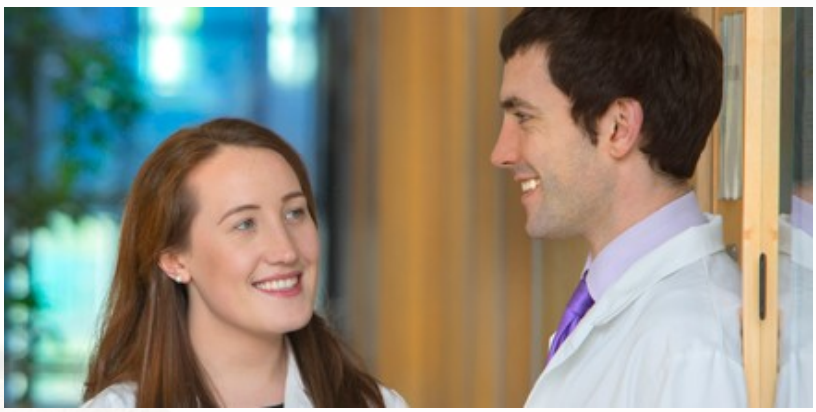
UCC
University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

The MSc in Clinical Pharmacy is a two-year part-time distance learning Master's Degree offered by the School of Pharmacy, University College Cork. The distance learning format provides greater flexibility and allows students to work at their own pace and to remain in full or part-time employment throughout the course. E-learning material is supported by teleconferences/ webinars with experienced medical and pharmacy practitioners. Much of the learning is case-based so scientific and professional elements are integrated.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

The course is aimed at pharmacists working in the healthcare sectors, such as hospital and community pharmacy, who wish to enhance their clinical pharmacy knowledge and practice skills in a variety of general and specialist areas, and who want to take a lead role in developing clinical pharmacy services. Such skills include critical appraisal of drug therapies and rational drug use (including pharmacoeconomic evaluation), medication safety management, research project management, presentation skills and report writing.





Course Outline

There are TWO OPTIONS available to obtain the Master's Degree:

PATHWAY I:

2 year part-time programme covering all modules.

Part 1: 60 credits taught modules
(30 credits in Year 1 and 30 credits in Year 2)

For each of the areas covered in each individual module below students should be able to:

BIOSTATISTICS /CRITICAL APPRAISAL

- Demonstrate knowledge of trial designs, the different types of secondary research and the statistical methods involved in evaluating study findings and apply these to specific examples.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the evidence-based medicine and its application to improving professional practice.
- Read and critically appraise a research paper.

PHARMACOECONOMICS

- Apply the principles of health economics, economic modelling, QALYs and sensitivity analysis for use in the health care system.
- Apply the economic principles used to measure the cost-effectiveness of medicines to clinical practice, medical decision making and the rational use of medicines.

DRUGS AND THERAPEUTICS: SAFETY, EFFICACY AND RATIONAL USE

- Critically evaluate the benefit/risk evaluation of drugs in order to ensure the rational use of medicines.
- Identify the mechanisms of adverse drug reactions, drug-drug, drug-disease and drug-gene interactions and how they can be prevented.
- Analyse how medication errors occur, how they can be prevented and use pharmacovigilance to monitor drug safety in practice.
- Discern the clinical relevance of pharmacokinetics, therapeutic drug monitoring and pharmacogenomics in practice.
- Describe harm reduction principles in terms of substance misuse and apply these principles when providing services such as opiate substitution treatment and needle exchange services.
- Apply principles of safe, effective and rational use of drugs to pharmaceutical care planning and medication usage/review, in particular to the palliative care patient.

PHARMACOTHERAPY

Pharmacotherapy I
Renal, Cardiovascular, Respiratory and Gastrointestinal (including liver) disorders.

Pharmacotherapy II
Endocrinology, CNS (Psychiatry/Neurology), Musculoskeletal and Infectious diseases.

Pharmacotherapy III
Paediatrics, older adults, pregnancy/breast feeding, assisted reproduction, critical care (including surgery), dermatological disorders, haematological and malignant conditions.

- Discuss and explain the epidemiology, aetiology, pathophysiology, signs, symptoms, and tests leading to the diagnosis, of common disorders/diseases in each area.
- Choose the appropriate and effective therapy, for selected diseases of these areas
- Formulate pharmaceutical care plans and counsel patients, including those with comorbid-disease.

Part 2: 30 credits (Year 2)

RESEARCH PROJECT AND DISSERTATION

- Develop an understanding of the planning, execution and reporting of a research project. Develop problem solving skills, project management skills and presentation skills.

PATHWAY II:

1 year part-time conversion programme for students who already hold a Diploma in Clinical Pharmacy from other recognised institutions.

Students take 45 credits of course material which includes the Research project and dissertation.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

PATHWAY I

- Candidates must hold a primary degree from a School of Pharmacy that is approved by the Programme Committee;
- They must be registered with the professional accreditation authority in the country in which they are practicing;
- Candidates should have practical experience in their area of qualifications of at least one year post-registration;
- All candidates will be required to have full access to computer and internet facilities and to be computer literate;
- Candidates must be employed in a healthcare setting;
- Applicants may be requested to undergo an interview;
- In some exceptional circumstances candidates, by virtue of their training and experience may, at the discretion of the Programme Director and the Head of School, be deemed suitable for entry to the degree.

PATHWAY II

In addition to the above, applicants must have completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Pharmacy.

CONTACT DETAILS

Programme Director:
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Pone: 021 490 1792

WEBSITE LINKS

MSc Clinical Pharmacy
http://www.ucc.ie/en/ckx03/

UCC Postgraduate Application Portal
http://www.ucc.ie/apply