

Pharmacology



Undergraduate study

Courses

Single Honours

BSc Pharmacology

three years B210

MSci Pharmacology with Study in Industry

four years B211

Why study pharmacology at Bristol?

Pharmacology is the study of the action of 'drugs' in the widest possible sense, encompassing many types of chemicals and medicines that affect the functioning of the body.

For students who are drawn to this fascinating subject, Bristol's degrees in pharmacology deliver a rigorous training for many careers in bioscience and medicine alongside transferable skills valued by employers beyond the scientific world.

You will benefit from:

- a dedicated teaching staff whose research excellence is embedded in the teaching;
- innovative educational resources, including eBiolabs, a dynamic laboratory manual where you can rehearse your lab skills; a human patient simulator; and an online histology virtual microscope;
- excellent teaching labs where you will receive hands-on experience in advanced techniques throughout your undergraduate course;

- being taught in a Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) in Applied and Integrated Medical Sciences;
- training in presentation skills, experimental design, data handling, scientific writing, biomedical research, ethics and enterprise;
- cutting-edge facilities for research in neuropharmacology, cell signalling and cardiovascular pharmacology;
- year in industry opportunities with top biotechnology and pharmaceutical firms;
- automatic enrolment as a British Pharmacological Society member.

'The pharmacology course provides many opportunities to explore different aspects of the subject, especially in the final year, where research projects and a very in-depth in vivo course become available. The practical lab sessions are always great due to the relaxed environment and provide a great place to quickly acquire skills that are essential for learning the connection between theoretical and practical science.'

Kris (BSc Pharmacology)

What will you study?

You will study pharmacology and a choice of optional units in each of your first two years. In the first year you will be introduced to key concepts such as how drugs interact with receptors to exert their effects on the body, and how drugs enter the body, are distributed around it and then removed. The drug design and development process is also discussed. These concepts will then be applied to different body systems and diseases in the remainder of the first and second years.

Alongside pharmacology you also take a mandatory unit in understanding body function in year one. Pharmacology is closely related to several scientific disciplines and your optional units in years one and two can cover subjects such as physiology, neuroscience, anatomy, biochemistry, and cellular and molecular medicine. This gives you an excellent multidisciplinary grounding. A second-year unit in biomedical science skills covers aspects of data interpretation, data analysis and presentation skills and an introduction to understanding scientific literature. There is also the option in year two of taking an open unit such as philosophy or a language.

All students (BSc and MSci) are encouraged to apply for Nuffield, British Pharmacological Society and Wellcome Scholarships to carry out summer placement projects at the end of the second year.

The four-year MSci degree gives you the opportunity to spend your third year gaining valuable experience of how pharmacology is related to the pharmaceutical and associated industries. Placements may be in major pharmaceutical companies and other health, biotech and research companies in the UK and abroad.

In your final year you will focus entirely on pharmacology, taking units from within the School of Physiology, Pharmacology and Neuroscience. Students on the BSc course will undertake a research project, drawing on the expertise of our academic staff, while those on the MSci will undertake additional advanced study in place of the research project.

Assessment

In years one and two assessment is by coursework and end-of-unit exams. Coursework includes dissertations, presentations, essays and practical work, all of which contribute to the end-of-unit mark.

In the final year, assessment is mainly based on end-of-year written exams. In addition there is assessment of coursework including your research project.

For MSci Pharmacology with Study in Industry you are required to write a report following the completion of your year in industry and present a poster.

Teaching methods

During your first two years, you will usually attend nine lectures and three practical classes a week. You will also attend several small- and large-group tutorials and undertake Directed Self Education.



Final year projects

BSc students will carry out a research project supervised by a member of staff. A variety of projects is offered, and they may be laboratory-based or involve performing a detailed literature review of an area of current pharmacology interest. You will produce a written dissertation and a poster presentation, both of which contribute to your final mark.

If you are studying towards the MSci, your final year will involve designing a research grant application.



Careers and graduate destinations

A degree in pharmacology opens up many rewarding career opportunities. You could join a pharmaceutical or biotech company as a researcher and be part of a team involved in the discovery of new drugs which may affect the lives of millions of people.

Alternatively, you may be more interested in the product management side of the industry or in applying your skills to areas such as marketing and medical information, where you act as the link between the pharmaceutical company and doctors and patients.

Typically, about 30 per cent of Bristol pharmacology graduates enter employment in areas of research, finance, financial consultancy, NHS, accountancy, management, medical sales and the public sector. Another 30 per cent will go on to further study with master's or PhDs. The remainder tend to find employment in areas of their own interest.

From the last two years surveyed, 100 per cent of MSci Pharmacology with Study in Industry students have gone on to work or further study after graduation (Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey, combined data from 2015/16 and 2016/17).

The University of Bristol has one of the best employment records in the UK. We are rated sixth in the UK in the QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2018 and are the fourth most targeted university by top UK graduate employers (High Fliers Research 2018).



Making your application

Typical offer for BSc Pharmacology*

Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug19-pharmacology for other qualifications.

A-levels AAB (contextual ABC[†]) including AB (in any order) in Chemistry and another science-related subject

IB Diploma 34 points overall (contextual 31[†]) with 17 at Higher Level (contextual 15[†]), including 6, 5 (in any order) at Higher Level in Chemistry and another science-related subject.

English Language profile E^{††}

GCSEs No specific subjects required.

[†]For information on contextual offers, visit bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers.

^{††}For details of English language profiles, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements.

Selection UCAS or Common Application.

*The typical offer is indicative only and the University accepts a wide range of qualifications. The information is correct at the time of printing (June 2018); however, we recommend you check the University's website for the most up-to-date information: bristol.ac.uk/ug-study.

Applicants should normally be taking A-levels in three subjects which must include Chemistry and one other science subject. We do not normally include General Studies in the terms of a conditional offer.

Applicants should demonstrate a clear desire to study pharmacology; this may take the form of wider reading in areas of interest that are not necessarily covered in school work. Pharmacology-related work experience is not necessary, but any involvement in science-based work experience or other science activity would be helpful. We welcome applications from mature candidates and those with non-standard qualifications. We will invite you to attend a visit day after we have made you an offer.

Further information

Find out more about the School of Physiology, Pharmacology and Neuroscience: bristol.ac.uk/phys-pharm-neuro.

Learn more about eBiolabs: bristol.ac.uk/ebiolabs.

Contact us

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If you have any questions about courses, applications or any aspect of being a UK or international student at Bristol please contact the Enquiries Team.

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University guide to the city of Bristol

bristol.ac.uk/citybristol

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