

Global Pharmacy

MSc, PGDip, PGCert

Improving global health through pharmacy



Our unique and innovative course aims to equip you for your role in improving global health through pharmacy. We will provide you with a foundation in the complex determinants of health and the global burden and management of disease, before critically exploring barriers to how the pharmacy workforce and pharmaceuticals can improve global health. We will then investigate how these obstacles can be overcome, particularly focusing on populations most affected by health inequities.

It is being increasingly acknowledged that pharmacy has an essential part to play in improving health globally. It encompasses all aspects of medicines, their discovery, development and use, as well as the evolving role of the pharmacy profession. However two billion people worldwide, primarily in resource-poor settings, do not have access to the most basic medicines, and the pharmacy workforce is underutilised where disease burden is highest.

In this course we explore the impact of pharmacists and pharmaceuticals on the health of the world’s population, with a focus on the avoidable health differences experienced by many people globally. The course is for pharmacists, those working in the pharmaceutical industry and pharmaceutical policy makers, but is also suitable for anyone interested in how pharmacy can impact global health. It equips students to apply their specialist knowledge and skills to make a unique contribution to improving health worldwide.

“This module has not only taught me a lot about the complexity and importance of access to medicines, but has given me the chance to hear from and interact with some inspirational people working in the field. It has been truly engaging and eye-opening.”

Access to Medicines module student 2016-2017

Course structure

1 year full-time / 2 years part-time

Course	Modules
PGCert	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Global Health Principles• Access to Medicines• Pharmacy and Global Health
PGDip	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Global Health Principles• Global Burden and Management of Disease• Research Practice in Global Contexts• Access to Medicines• Pharmacy and Global Health
MSc	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PGDip modules• Plus a 15,000-word dissertation

What the course offers

- Teaching by leading experts in global health and global pharmacy
- A friendly, supportive and stimulating learning environment, with students from a wide range of disciplines and nationalities
- Dynamic and interactive teaching methods to help you explore global pharmacy issues and solutions
- Two terms of campus-based teaching, close to the beautiful South Downs and the vibrant seaside city of Brighton
- One term focusing on a research-based dissertation for which you may choose to be based overseas or in the UK

Core modules

Global Health Principles provides the foundations for the study of global health and thus global pharmacy. The module will introduce you to the complex determinants of health and ill health in a globalised world, developing your understanding of the diversity of factors and processes that can impact the health of individuals and societies around the world.

Global Burden and Management of Disease introduces you to the spectrum of disease, injury and disability found across the world, focusing on the most prevalent health problems globally. It explores the existing control measures and the actors involved, in order to develop your ability to understand and critically evaluate the strategies used to prevent and manage disease globally and locally.

Research Practice in Global Contexts empowers you to plan and conduct ethical research. It also equips you with practical knowledge and skills to undertake your own global pharmacy project or dissertation.

“The range of speakers was fantastic, and getting their personal opinion on things was also valuable. I enjoyed this module the most out of the entire course.”

Pharmacy and Global Health module student 2017-2018

Access to Medicines examines the facilitators and barriers to access to pharmaceuticals, particularly in resource-poor settings, and gives you the knowledge and skills to critically analyse the evidence informing interventions to improve that access. Topics include: supply chain, affordability and quality of medicines, access to medicines in humanitarian settings, the role of the pharmaceutical industry and rational use of medicines.

Pharmacy and Global Health. There are many ways in which pharmacy can improve health globally. But what are the barriers that the pharmacy workforce and the industry face in doing this and how could these be overcome? This module equips you to critically assess current global pharmacy practice, policies and programmes, particularly in the context of resource-poor settings. As part of this module you will also have the opportunity to reflect on your own role in improving global health.



The Dissertation or Research Project is your opportunity to develop in-depth expertise in an area of global pharmacy that interests you, with support of a research supervisor. You will have the chance to plan and execute a rigorous research project, allowing you to put your academic learning into practice. Projects can be based in the UK or, depending upon availability, overseas.



Career opportunities

Graduates from this course will have the skills to work as global pharmacy practitioners, policy makers, consultants or researchers within governments, universities, non-governmental organisations, and international health and development agencies or in global health-related aspects of the pharmaceutical industry.

Entry requirements

A first or upper second class undergraduate honours degree or equivalent in any relevant subject (such as pharmacy, biomedical or pharmaceutical sciences, biology, chemistry, pharmacology, biochemistry, international development etc). English Language (IELTS): A minimum score of 7, with no less than 6.5 in each section.

Further information

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