Careers in Pharmaceutical Manufacturing

You can make a difference
If you want a career where you will improve the health and wellbeing of society then the pharmaceutical sector offers a range of options.

The benefits of new medicines are felt by people all over the world. But, while you can clearly see the improvements that these medicines make to millions of people’s lives, there’s a lot more to the pharmaceutical industry than most people realise.

The pharmaceutical industry is a major recruiter in the UK directly employing around 73,000 people. As there are still thousands of diseases for which we have no cure, the work of the pharmaceutical industry will continue to be essential for the foreseeable future. This gives great potential for long-term employment and career progression both within the UK and globally.

**Why work in pharmaceuticals?**

- Opportunities to change the way medicines are manufactured
- Be part of the 4th industrial revolution and smart ways of making medicines
- Help the industry rapidly respond to the next Zica virus
- Become a highly valued individual with interdisciplinary skills

43% of organisations have reported difficulties recruiting staff, hence there is a great demand for more young workers.
Job Satisfaction

If you ask anyone who works in the pharmaceutical industry what their main motivation is, it’s more than likely you’ll hear the same answer: improving people’s lives. As the benefits of new medicines are felt by people all over the world, not many jobs offer you more of a chance to do this.

Such an environment brings great job satisfaction, whether you’re working on a cost-saving device, marketing tool, or discovering a new chemical compound that has the potential to save someone’s life. After all, it’s all part of the same process.

Do you want to know what a career in Pharmaceutical Manufacturing is like day-to-day?

The ABPI careers website includes case studies of over 80 individual people who actually work in the industry; from people who joined the industry straight from school, through to those with postgraduate degrees and postdoctoral experience.

40k
shortfall of new workers within the UK science industry resulting in great job security
How to enter a career in Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing

There are different routes available to enter the industry:

Apprenticeships
Apprenticeships are a fantastic first step on the career ladder for young people. No longer deemed as a second rate option to university, Apprenticeships are high quality work-based training programmes, where young people earn a wage whilst learning in the workplace. An Apprenticeship provides young people with the essential practical skills sought by employers.

To view current apprenticeship opportunities visit, www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship and www.cogentskills.com

Degree / Industrial Placements
Studying for a degree at University is a route into the sector. Competition in the graduate jobs market has risen dramatically in recent years. Getting a good degree is no longer enough to secure a graduate job. Work experience or industrial placements whilst at university will enhance students CVs and improve their employability by gaining the skills highly sought after by companies.

Where to look
To view current opportunities take a look on the Cogent Skills website: www.cogentskills.com/new-talent/individuals/placements-internships/

The ABPI website provides a searchable database of pharmaceutical and contract research companies – an excellent starting place if you are looking for a work placement or a job.

Visit: www.abpicareers.org.uk

85% of apprentices stay in employment after finishing their Apprenticeship
What additional skills are good to obtain?

Employability skills are the transferable skills needed by an individual in the workplace. Along with good technical understanding and subject knowledge, employers often outline a set of skills that they believe will equip an employee to carry out a particular role to the best of their ability. Here are a few common examples:

**Communication**

The ability to explain what you mean in a clear and concise way through written and spoken means. Practice interview questions and speaking in front of people.

**Problem solving**

The ability to understand a problem by breaking it down into smaller parts and identifying the key issues, implications and possible solutions.

**Initiative and self-motivation**

Having new ideas of your own which can be made into reality. Showing a strong personal drive and not waiting to be told to do things.

**Organisational skills**

Being organised and methodical; able to plan work to meet deadlines and targets.

**Teamwork**

Working well with other people from different disciplines, backgrounds, and expertise to accomplish a task or goal.

70% of learners with work experience are more likely to get jobs
Businesses need people like you

A big concern of the employers in the science-based industries is the shortage of young people choosing to study science at school, university and through an Apprenticeship. Each year the number of people studying science remains similar; yet the pharmaceutical sector will need thousands of new recruits – including technicians, operators, scientists, engineers and managers – over the next decade.

With my Apprenticeship I’m lucky that my employer will support me to go on to University to continue my study.

Daniel, Technician

My Apprenticeship is providing me with an excellent opportunity to acquire a range of production and technical skills. It’s been really worthwhile!

Emma, Apprentice

Every day is different in a job in science – trust me, you’ll never get bored.

Sarah, Apprentice

20%

On average, those working in STEM occupations earn 20% more than those working in other fields
I love working in science because it allows me to work on research which may affect our healthcare and technology industries. From studying a STEM subject, I feel that I am being equipped with transferrable skills, so I will be able to choose from many career paths.

Diki Fundu

I enjoy that I work for a pharmaceutical company, knowing that our company works towards improving the quality of life globally.

Leon Jacobs
Cogent skills
for science industries