

BTEC Professional Diploma (Clinical Pharmacy Technicians)



New challenges - New roles for Hospital Pharmacy Technicians

Question: *Why do I need to do this course?*

Answer: *Because the role of the hospital pharmacy technician is changing!*

New roles are emerging on wards monitoring prescriptions, counselling patients, talking to doctors and nurses.

Technicians are involved in audit, running satellites, taking on more responsibilities.

Question: *What must a technician do?*

Answer: *Get prepared!*

In order to take up these new roles technicians need to be up to date with current thinking on therapeutics, be able to apply their knowledge in different situations, have good communication skills and understand the workings of the NHS.

Question: *Why come to the Pharmacy Academic Practice Unit at the University of Derby?*

Answer: *Because we have the track record and your interests at heart!*

The unit was the first to initiate a post qualification Btec programme for hospital pharmacy technicians in September 2000 in collaboration with colleagues in the Southern Derbyshire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust. Also, we have a long history of running post-graduate clinical pharmacy courses. The Masters in Clinical Pharmacy was the first hospital based clinical pharmacy course in Britain and this can now be taken up to Doctorate level. A newly developed programme in Primary Care Pharmacy commenced in January 2003. The experience from all of these courses feeds into and supports the BTEC programme.

The main emphasis for teaching and learning on the course is the integration of clinical practice with education and the application of knowledge. This is facilitated by use of clinical cases in tutorial sessions and the completion of ward based tasks and assignments.

All course materials are written and updated by practising pharmacists, technicians or other medical staff where appropriate.

The course starts in September of each year and is 2 years part time.

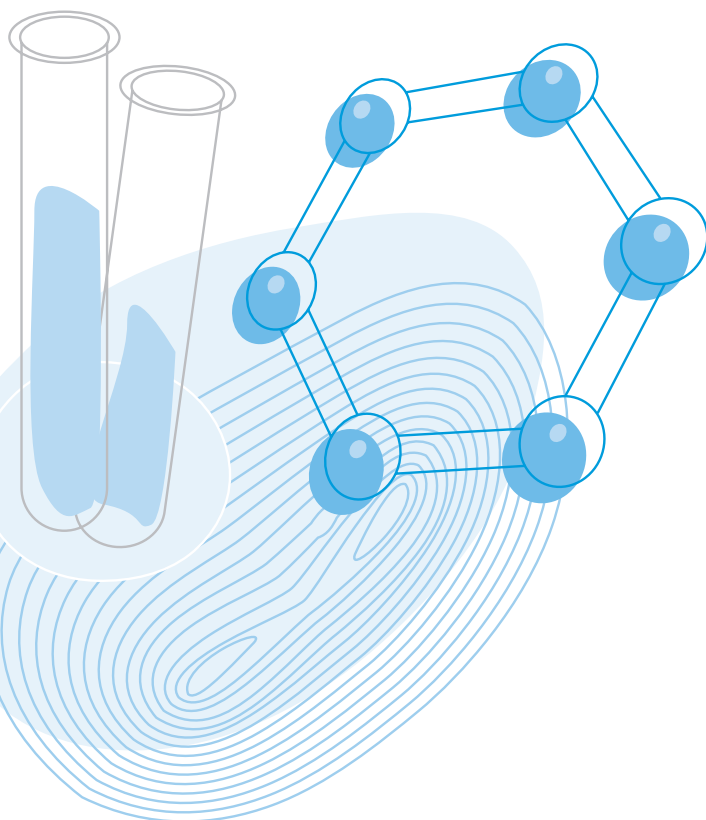
The future

With new opportunities for pharmacists as supplementary prescribers, who knows what new opportunities may be around the corner for technicians?

Registration of technicians is planned for 2007 and with this may come compulsory CPD. This course will develop the skills required for lifelong learning and CPD enabling students to be ready for anything that the future may bring.

Aims of the course

To enhance the skills and responsibilities of pharmacy technicians to enable them to undertake and take greater responsibility for, a range of basic clinical and ward based, as well as technical and management duties, which will contribute to ensuring continuous improvement and development of hospital pharmacy services.



Course structure

The course consists of 5 compulsory modules. Study is part time over two years.

Year	Module title
One	Core knowledge & skills in clinical practice
	Biochemistry & pathophysiology in clinical practice
	Therapeutics

Year	Module title
Two	Pharmacy practice & management
	Specialist pharmacy practice

Delivery of the course

Delivery is by distance learning, provided the student is working in an approved hospital and has the support of a local mentor. Each module is delivered using a comprehensive Learning Pack in PDF format via the University web-site, which includes teaching material, directed reading and exercises for the student to complete. Mentors are also able to access to the web-site to help them support their students.

Entry requirements

Applicants must be a qualified pharmacy technician currently working in a hospital pharmacy, with two years hospital pharmacy experience.

Applicants will require the support of their employer to meet the programme's requirements, including access to wards in order to gain appropriate clinical experience and be able to complete assignments, plus provision of a nominated tutor/mentor at their work place. Students will require a minimum of half a day per week of study time, which will include tutorial sessions.

Students will be expected to undertake six to ten hours of private study a week.

Named Award

Successful completion of the course will lead to the award of BTEC Professional Diploma (Clinical Pharmacy Technicians) equivalent to NVQ level 4

For more information please contact

For an information pack and application form please contact:

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To discuss the programme please contact

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