

## Programme Regulations: 2026/27

### Programme Title: Master of Pharmacy with Honours

Code: B230

#### Notes

- (i) *These programme regulations should be read in conjunction with the University's Taught Programme Regulations.*
- (ii) *The Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) is a non-modular programme leading to a professional qualification.*
- (iii) *The MPharm is equivalent to Level 7 on the University Qualifications and Credit Framework.*
- (iv) *As the MPharm is a qualification leading to professional registration, the University has an overriding duty of care to ensure that all students graduating from the programme not only meet the academic requirements, but are also physically and mentally fit to practise and are of good character. The case of any student whose fitness for professional practice is a matter for concern shall be considered under the University Fitness to Practise Procedure.*
- (v) *Students will be required to undergo appropriate DBS and Healthcare checks as stipulated in University and School policies.*
- (vi) *Students will be required to fulfil all requirements for placements (including clinical access) as dictated by the relevant Care Quality Commission Regulated provider.*
- (vii) *This programme is accredited by the General Pharmaceutical Council.*
- (viii) *The Master of Pharmacy is an attendance-based programme and is principally delivered face to face at the Newcastle City campus and associated clinical locations. Although some teaching and structured guided learning may be delivered online, due to the clinical and integrated structure of the programme, sessions planned for face to face delivery cannot be substituted by other forms of delivery, including blended, online, and remote.*

#### 1. Programme Structure

- (a) The programme is available for study in full-time mode.
- (b) The period of study for full-time mode shall be four years starting in September. Stages 1, 2, 3 and 4 individually consist of one Unit of Study.
- (c) During the programme of study, all candidates for the degree of MPharm are required to attend all practical experiences and compulsory experiential placement activities organised as part of the programme.
- (d) All candidates shall follow the units of study prescribed below:

##### **Stage 1**

All candidates shall take the following compulsory and core unit of study:

Fundamentals of Pharmacy and Professionalism– the Integration of Science and Practice (equivalent to FHEQ Level 4)

##### **Stage 2**

All candidates shall take the following compulsory and core unit of study:

Pharmaceutical Care: Pathology, Patients and Professionalism (equivalent to FHEQ Level 5)

### **Stage 3**

All candidates shall take the following compulsory and core unit of study:

Applied Pharmaceutical Interventions: Design, Delivery and Decisions (equivalent to FHEQ Level 6)

### **Stage 4**

All candidates shall take the following compulsory and core units of study:

Targeted Therapeutics and Research: Optimisation, Critique and Responsibility (equivalent to FHEQ Level 7)

Each Stage of the programme includes compulsory experiential placement activities.

## **2. Assessment Methods**

Details of the assessment pattern for each unit of study are explained in the programme handbook.

## **3. Assessment and Progression**

- (a) Candidates will be expected to demonstrate competence in the knowledge and skills element of the programme and be in good standing professionally in order to progress from one stage to another.
- (b) All assessments detailed in each unit of study must be passed and there will be no cross-compensation between the various elements of assessment. Candidates must also complete the scheduled compulsory experiential placement hours in all Stages of the programme.
- (c) The pass mark for Stage 1, 2 and 3 assessments is 40. The pass mark for Stage 4 assessments is 50. For Pharmaceutical Numeracy assessments, the pass mark is 70. For Objective Structured Clinical assessments threshold marks will not initially be determined by the University common scales but will be determined by rigorous standard setting methods appropriate to the nature of the assessment. Following the standard setting process marks will be scaled to align with the University common scales.
- (d) Professionalism is embedded throughout each stage of the programme via teaching and experiential placement activities and is incorporated into stage assessments. Professionalism is monitored through the School's PIN system and candidates who exceed the maximum points will be subject to Fitness to Practise.
- (e) Candidates who fail an assessment at the first attempt will automatically be permitted a second attempt (re-sit). Candidates who do not complete the scheduled compulsory experiential placement hours will have one opportunity to undertake the outstanding hours.
- (f) Re-sit assessment marks will be capped for calculation purposes at 40 for Stages 1, 2 and 3 and 50 for Stage 4. Candidates failing both attempts will not be allowed to proceed or be considered for the MPharm award.
- (g) Progression from one stage to another and the award of the degree is determined by candidates achieving a stage average. Stage averages will be calculated using the weighted average of each assessment.
- (h) In order to progress to Stage 2 of the programme candidates must pass all elements of assessment and achieve a minimum Stage 1 average of 40. Candidates must also complete all scheduled compulsory experiential placement hours.

- (i) In order to progress to Stage 3 of the programme candidates must pass all elements of assessment and achieve a minimum Stage 2 average of 50. Candidates must also complete all scheduled compulsory experiential placement hours.
- (j) In order to progress to Stage 4 of the programme candidates must pass all elements of assessment and achieve a minimum Stage 3 average of 50. Candidates must also complete all scheduled compulsory experiential placement hours.
- (k) Candidates who are unable to progress under 3(i) but who have achieved a Stage 2 average of 40 – 49 can transfer, as of right, to BSc (Hons) Pharmaceutical Studies. Under DPD permission such candidates may also be considered for a transfer to Stage 2 of an appropriate Biomedical Sciences BSc award.
- (l) In order to be awarded the Master of Pharmacy with Honours, candidates must have met the progression requirements listed in 3(h- j), have passed all Stage 4 assessments and achieved a minimum Stage 4 average of 50. Candidates must also complete all scheduled compulsory experiential placement hours within Stage 4.
- (m) Candidates who do not complete the scheduled compulsory experiential placement hours and/or fail the placement portfolio in Stages 1, 2, or 3 will be required to undertake the outstanding hours and/or submit outstanding portfolio assessments as agreed by the Placement Lead. If possible, the outstanding hours will be undertaken in the next available opportunity within the same academic year. If this is not possible, candidates may be required to undertake the required hours as an external candidate the following academic year. Upon successful completion of all assessments and the required placement hours candidates may return to full-time studies the next academic year.
- (n) Candidates who do not complete the scheduled compulsory experiential placement hours in Stage 4 will be required to undertake the outstanding hours as agreed by the Placement Lead. If possible, the outstanding hours will be undertaken in the next available opportunity within the same academic year. If this is not possible, candidates may be required to undertake the required hours as an external candidate. Upon successful completion of all assessments and the required placement hours, candidates will be considered for the award of Master of Pharmacy.
- (o) Candidates who have successfully completed all assessments but have not met the placement requirements or who have not been recommended for an Integrated Masters degree under the accredited degree programme regulations, but are eligible for an Integrated Masters degree in accordance with the University Taught Programme regulations, will be considered for an MSci Pharmaceutical Studies unaccredited degree.
- (p) Candidates who have taken an interruption of study will not normally be allowed to resume their studies if they are more than two years in arrears (either through multiple or a single interruption of study, and including any resit stages). In recognising that there are various reasons for taking an interruption of study, such decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis by the Board of Examiners, in conjunction with the PEC committee (if appropriate), taking into consideration the student's individual circumstances, academic and placement profiles and University and GPhC regulations. In consultation with the Student Progress Service and Student Health & Wellbeing Service, the Board of Examiners may override previous decisions made by the PEC or Fitness to Practise committees where it is felt student and patient safety may be at risk. Where it is agreed that a candidate cannot continue on the programme an appropriate exit qualification will be awarded.
- (q) Due to the non-modular structure of the programme and integrated nature of teaching, where a student returns from an interruption of study, they will only be able to resume studies at the start of the Stage (module). Any assessments previously completed within a previous academic year, but for the same stage of study, would be repeated following the return to study.
- (r) Further guidance for candidates is available in the Programme Handbook.

#### **4. Degree Classification**

- (a) Candidates being considered for the MPharm and MSci Pharmaceutical Students (unaccredited) degrees will be assessed for degree classification on the basis of all units of study taken at Stages 2, 3

and 4 with the weighting of the stages being 1:2:3 for Stage 2, Stage 3 and Stage 4 respectively. The experiential placement hours do not contribute to the MPharm degree classification. However, candidates must successfully complete the compulsory experiential placement hours and Placement Portfolio (Stages 1-4) to graduate with an MPharm.

- (b) Candidates being considered for the BSc (Hons) Pharmaceutical Studies exit award will be assessed for degree classification on the basis of all units of study taken at Stages 2 and 3 with the weighting of the stages being 1:2 for Stage 2 and Stage 3 respectively. The experiential placement hours do not contribute to the degree classification.
- (c) Discretion may be used by the Board of Examiners when considering borderline classifications of 68 or 69 and 58 or 59 for promotion. A candidate will be considered for promotion based on:
  - i) proximity of their final weighted average to the borderline (after rounding),
  - ii) the distribution of weighted assessment marks in the higher degree class(es) across Stages 2-4 and in classes two or more below the proposed final class, and,
  - iii) the presence of exceptional performance (classed as a percentage score two classifications above the final weighted average, or in the case of promotions to first class, the percentage score >80% in any weighted assessment).

Exit velocity will not be used as the stages are already weighted. Performance in individual modules or assessments will also not be used solely for promotion.

Note, consideration of discretion does not mean discretion must be applied.

- d) The above criteria applies to candidates being considered for the BSc exit award, use of discretion will be based on stage 2 and stage 3 weighted assessment marks.

## 5. Exit Awards

- (a) Candidates not meeting the required stage average at the end of a stage or who wish to withdraw from study may be considered for the following exit awards:

### **Higher Education Certificate in Pharmaceutical Studies**

Requires successful completion of Stage 1.

### **Higher Education Diploma in Pharmaceutical Studies**

Requires successful completion of Stages 1 and 2.

### **BSc (Hons) Pharmaceutical Studies**

Requires successful completion of Stages 1, 2 and 3 – based on BSc (Hons) Pharmaceutical Studies progression and award requirements.

### **MSci (Hons) Pharmaceutical Studies unaccredited degree.**

Requires successful completion of Stages 1, 2, 3 and 4 taught assessments and meets the requirements of the University Taught Programme regulations in relation to the award of an integrated masters.

- (b) None of the exit awards listed in 5(a) are registrable qualifications for Pharmacy.

## **6. Exemptions to the University's Taught Programme Regulations**

- (a) Due to the integrated nature and professional requirements of the award, the following variations to the University Regulations have been approved:

### **Non-modular structure**

The programme does not operate a modular credit-based system, and instead uses an integrated approach to teaching, learning and assessment. Programme regulations therefore appear different in style and substance from other programmes of study. Regulatory requirements in relation to module and credit are not applicable.

### **Taught Programme Regulations (Integrated) – Return of Marks**

Standard setting, used to determine the required passing threshold needed to ensure a student can be certified as competent in a particular area of knowledge or skill, is used for Objective Structured Clinical assessments.

The passing threshold for such assessments varies and will not always be the standard mark of 40 (Level 4, 5 & 6) or 50 (Level 7).

In relation to the Pharmaceutical Numeracy assessments, the pass mark for these assessments is set at 70 to be in line with the professional standards.

### **Taught Programme Regulations – Principles of Discretion**

#### **Taught Programme Regulations (Integrated) - Principles of Compensation**

#### **Taught Programme Regulations (Integrated) - The Award and Classification of Degrees - Use of Discretion**

In order to meet all learning outcomes students must pass all elements of assessment. To meet these requirements compensation is not used by the Board of Examiners. Discretion will also not be used by the Board of Examiners other than when considering borderline classifications of 68 or 69 and 58 or 59

#### **Taught Programme Regulations (Integrated) - Progression from One Stage to Another & The Award and Classification of Degrees**

The programme is not modular and all assessments at each stage must be passed therefore allowing 20 credits of failure is not possible. To be considered for the award the final stage programme average should be no less than 50, however all assessments must also be passed.

#### **Taught Programme Regulations (Integrated) - Failing Performance by Integrated Master Degree Students**

When calculating the classification of resit candidates, the best mark achieved will be used. Classifications will not be capped at 2:ii for those students whose programme average at first attempt is below 50.

- (b) In the event of any inconsistency between the programme and University regulations in relation to the above section, the programme regulations take precedence over the University regulations. Further guidance is available in programme/stage handbooks available on the programme's VLE.