

Training

Pharmacists study for four years to gain a Bachelor of Pharmacy at either University of Auckland or University of Otago. Students are required to do a Health Science first year then apply to enter the Pharmacy degree. Check the university websites for more detail. Some places are designated for rural or Maori and Pacific Island students. Study is followed by a one-year paid internship to gain an annual practising certificate.

Pharmacy Technicians must hold a New Zealand Certificate in Pharmacy (Pharmacy Technician) Levels 4, 5 or 6 or be enrolled in a training programme. Study can be full-time, or part-time by distance learning while working in a pharmacy.

Pharmacy Assistants may study for New Zealand Certificate in Pharmacy (Introduction to Pharmacy Practice) Level 3 either full time or on the job. The qualification covers the basic requirements for working in a pharmacy, or can be a step towards the New Zealand Certificate in Pharmacy (Pharmacy Technician) Level 4.

Open Polytechnic of New Zealand, Academy New Zealand and Kauri Academy provide study programmes for pharmacy assistants and technicians. Manakau Institute of Technology offers New Zealand Certificate in Pharmacy (Specialist Technician) for qualified technicians.

Personal Qualities

People working in a pharmacy need to:

- be very precise and accurate
- be an excellent communicator and listener
- responsible and careful
- very well organised
- safety conscious
- good at maths
- friendly, patient, helpful
- good at record-keeping



Information collated by NZIRH
Where to go for more information:

www.careers.govt.nz
www.kiaorahauora.org.nz
www.psnz.org.nz

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November 2019

Pharmacy



What do they do?

Pharmacists

Pharmacists are specialists in medicines and drugs. They prepare, make and dispense medicines prescribed by a doctor. Also, they provide information and advice to people on how to take these drugs and of any possible side effects. They may advise on treatment of a range of illnesses with non-prescription drugs. A pharmacist may also supply medical devices and aids and explain how to use them.



Pharmacy technicians

Pharmacy technicians assist pharmacists to prepare and dispense prescription medicines and run the pharmacy. They work under the supervision of a registered pharmacist in either a community or hospital pharmacy. Tasks and duties will vary according to the number of other staff and the services that the pharmacy provides.

Pharmacy assistants

Pharmacy assistants help pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in community pharmacies. They are generally the first point of contact for pharmacy customers. Although not involved in dispensing prescription medicines, assistants sell and advise on a range of over the counter medicines. They advise customers on basic health and beauty care.

Where do they work?

Pharmacists may work in and/or own a pharmacy or in a community or hospital pharmacy. They may play a role in research, policy development or project management in organizations such as universities, government agencies and pharmaceutical companies.

Pharmacy technicians may work in a community or a hospital pharmacy.

Pharmacy assistants work in community pharmacies.

