



# FAQ – Master of Pharmacy

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## Admission Information

Question:

**How do I apply for the Master of Pharmacy program?**

Answer:

Admission applications are via an online application through the Universities Admission Centre (link above).

UAC charge \$58 to process your application. There are no hard copy application forms - only an online application is possible. In some circumstances, UAC will ask for documentation ie: if you have not undertaken your study in Australia.

More information can be found here regarding when you need to supply hard copy documentation etc:

<http://www.uac.edu.au/postgraduate/faq/print-documents.shtml>

Question:

**Do I need to supply my academic transcripts to UAC?**

Answer:

No. UAC has the capacity to collect your academic data on your behalf from most institution/s you have studied at within Australia. If UAC can't access your data, they will contact you for hard copy documentation (see above link).

Question:

**When do admission applications for the Master of Pharmacy program usually open?**

Answer:

Online admission applications open in early September (usually the second week.)

Question:

**Do I have to apply for the program by a certain date?**

Answer:

Admission applications are open usually until early January but check the UAC website: [www.uac.edu.au](http://www.uac.edu.au) for more specific information at application time in September and also keep checking the UAC website for updates regarding closing dates or extensions to closing dates.

Question:

**Can I apply for the Master of Pharmacy program if I am still studying and completing my undergraduate program but not until the end of the year?**

Answer:

*Yes, you can still apply for the program. We will assess your application and 'park' it so to speak until you have been qualified/completed from your program of study by your institution. You must have what we call 'graduate status' before you are eligible to receive an offer.*

Question:

**Can I apply for the Master of Pharmacy program if I am still completing one or two prerequisite courses/subjects?**

Answer:

*Same as above. If you were required to enrol in some additional courses/subjects to meet the admission criteria for the Master of Pharmacy program, again, we would 'park' your application when received at UoN until such time that UAC can collect your completed academic data and forward on for consideration.*

Question:

**Are there any other admission requirements ie: GAMSAT examination or an interview requirement?**

Answer:

*No, the only admission requirements that we consider is that you meet graduate status and the completion of the mandatory prerequisite admission course/subject requirements.*

Question:

**I have applied for the Master of Pharmacy program but am still completing my degree program or prerequisite course/subjects, when do I get advised if my application has been successful?**

Answer:

*If you are still completing your program of study, your application will be 'parked' until such time that you complete your degree program. A conditional letter of offer from the UoN Postgraduate Admissions Unit will be forwarded, advising that based on successfully completing either your degree program or prerequisite course/subject enrolment, you will receive a formal offer from UAC.*

*However, it is your responsibility to ensure that your institution qualifies you from your degree program in a timely manner. UoN has no control over the formal completion of your degree program. Unofficial results are not sufficient to use as evidence of completing your degree program. Your institution must confer you from your degree program so that UAC can then forward onto our Postgraduate Admissions Unit for a final assessment.*

Question:

**I have applied for the Master of Pharmacy program and have completed my degree program, when do I get advised if my application has been successful?**

Answer:

*If you have already completed a degree program, depending on how many applications are received and depending on your academic standing, you should be advised by UAC if an offer can be extended (or not successful too) as soon as possible. UAC should be in contact with you, within a week of your application being received. NB. The time-frame of receiving an offer (or a 'reject') from UAC is dependent on how long it takes for UAC to collect your data and forward onto the UoN Postgraduate Admissions Unit who in turn forward to the Faculty for an assessment.*

Question:

**Is the Master of Pharmacy program available to international students?**

Answer:

*Yes. Prospective international students need to apply through our International Admissions office.*

*Further information on how to apply etc, can be found at this link:*

*<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/students/international/our-programs/how-to-apply/>*

## Prerequisite Information

Question:

I have most of the prerequisites listed in the Program Handbook for the Master of Pharmacy program. Do I need all of them? Note: At UoN, we call our units of study 'courses' but you might be used to 'subjects'.

Answer:

Yes. They are all required:

- chemistry x 2 subjects/courses/units
- mathematics x 1 subject/course/unit
- physiology x 1 subject/course/unit
- molecular biology/or biochemistry x 1subject/course/unit
- pharmacology x 1 subject/course/unit

Question:

I'm not sure that the courses that I have completed at my institution meet UoN's Master of Pharmacy prerequisite criteria?

Answer:

You can compare some examples of prerequisite course/s content that we would expect that you should cover in your courses/subjects in your degree, by checking the content of the following program:

- the Bachelor of Biomedical Science handbook information: <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/program/10986.html>
- The Bachelor of Biotechnology program handbook information: <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/program/10981.html>

NB. (B Biomedical Science at UoN is one pathway to the Master of Pharmacy at UoN as it covers all prerequisite requirements) – some students may also apply who have completed a Bachelor of Biotechnology (another UoN program).

NB. It should be noted that these students undertaking the B Biotechnology program at UoN must ensure that they enrol in elective course/s that will cover any prerequisite courses/s that their degree might not cover in their degree program.

Question:

How else can I compare courses/subjects that you have completed to ensure that I meet prerequisite course/subject content? Which ones do I look for?

Answer:

Some examples of courses/subjects you can consider/compare when determining if you think courses you have completed in **your** program of study at **your** institution will cover the content we are looking for in terms of prerequisite admission criteria:

**Biochemistry:-**

- BIOL2010 – Biochemistry:  
<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/course/BIOL2010.html>

**Physiology:-**

- HUBS1401 – Human Bioscience:  
<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/course/HUBS1401.html>

**Pharmacology:-**

- HUBS2203 – Introductory Pharmacology:  
<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/course/HUBS2203.html>

**Molecular Biology:-**

- HUBS1202 – Human Genomics & Biomolecular Analysis:  
<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/course/HUBS1202.html>

**Mathematics:-**

- MATH1002 – Foundational Studies in Mathematics:  
<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/course/MATH1002.html>

**Note:** Completing the following courses below, satisfies both the **physiology** and the **molecular biology** prerequisite requirement.

⇒ **HUBS1403 – Biomedical Science Part 1:**

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/course/HUBS1403.html>

and

⇒ **HUBS1404 – Biomedical Science Part 2:**

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/course/HUBS1404.html>

Question:

Can I receive an offer to the program and concurrently complete any prerequisites that may still be outstanding?

Answer:

No. Prerequisite/s must be successfully completed before an offer to the program can be made.

Question:

If I only have one prerequisite to complete, can I still apply for the program and complete the outstanding prerequisite over a summer period of study for example?

Answer:

No – not usually. Summer study results are not released in time (usually) for offer processing. Additionally, the Master of Pharmacy at UON is a trimester-based program, which means that study commences typically in either the last week of January or the first week of February. As a result, summer study/examinations etc will not be completed in time (usually).

## Prerequisite Enrolment – What Are my Options?

Question:

**I don't have all the required prerequisites. How do I complete these additional prerequisites I need?**

Answer:

*It depends on your status. If you have already completed your undergraduate program of study but still need some/all prerequisites, you can enrol in what is commonly known at most Universities as – Non Award Admission or Non Award Admission.*

*A non-award student is one who wishes to study one or more courses without proceeding to an award. Information regarding this type of admission can be found on our website at:*

**<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/admissions/non-award.html>**

Question:

**How do I apply for Non-Award Admission at the University of Newcastle?**

Answer:

*Non-Award Admission is a direct application to our Admissions Unit at UoN. It is not through the Universities Admission Centre (UAC).*

*Information regarding how to apply can be found at the above link.*

Question:

**My current program/degree of study allows me to fit all these prerequisites into my degree eg. Elective component included in my program/degree structure allows me to cover all prerequisites needed. Do I need to do anything else?**

Answer:

*No. If your program/degree includes these prerequisites, you don't need to do anything except successfully complete them!*

Question:

**Do I have to enrol at the University of Newcastle to complete my prerequisites?**

Answer:

*No. You can undertake them anywhere but they must be at a tertiary level of study eg. TAFE study is not admissible.*

Question:

**There are mandatory and 'desirable' prerequisites identified in the program handbook, if I complete the 'desirable' prerequisites, does that make my application more competitive?**

Answer:

*No. However, the desirable prerequisites will definitely assist you once you are actually undertaking the Master of Pharmacy program but they are not mandatory in terms of meeting admission criteria.*

## Fees/Costs

Question:

**Is the Master of Pharmacy a Commonwealth Supported program?**

Answer:

No. The Master of Pharmacy program is a full-fee paying program. Fee information can be found at this link:

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/fees/>

Question:

**Do Non-Award courses (at UoN we refer to individual units of study as courses – some institutions refer to them as subjects) cost the same as CSP (Commonwealth Supported Place) courses?**

Answer:

No. Non-Award courses are full fee paying (up-front payment) – they are not Commonwealth Supported. More information can be found here about Non-Award admission at the University of Newcastle:

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/admissions/non-award.html>

Question:

**Can I receive financial help to help pay for the Master of Pharmacy program?**

Answer:

Yes. FEE-HELP is a loan available to eligible fee paying Australian citizens and holders of Permanent Humanitarian Visa students to help pay part or all of their tuition fees.

Information regarding FEE-HELP can be found here:

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/fees/help/fee-help.html>

## Accommodation Information

Question:

If I receive an offer to the Master of Pharmacy program I will have to move to Newcastle. Is there any information that the University of Newcastle can provide that will assist me with relocating?

Answer:

Yes. The University can provide you with a variety of accommodation available for students as listed on their database. Listings are advertised on the database by other students, people in the community and real estate agents. Please visit this website for more information:

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/accommodation/off-campus/>

Question:

I am an International student. How can I find out more?

Answer:

Information about accommodation for you as an international student can be found here:

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/students/international/student-support/arrival/index.html>

Question:

Is temporary accommodation available to me as an International student whilst I'm trying to find long term accommodation?

Answer:

Yes. Temporary accommodation is made available to international students from the time of their arrival in Newcastle until they are able to find permanent accommodation. More information regarding this can be found at this link:

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/students/international/student-support/>

Questions:

## Help Services at the University of Newcastle

Question:

Is there someone who can help me with any questions that I might have as an International student?

Answer:

Yes. At UoN our International Student Support Team can provide you with practical and personal support:

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/students/international/student-support/>

Question:

I have a disability. Should I advise the University? Who should I talk to?

Answer:

By talking to the University about any questions you might be and talking to the Disability Unit we are better able to support your needs.

Information on the Disability Support Service can be found at:

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/disability/>

Question:

What other support is available?

Answer:

You can find information on other support services here:

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/student-support/>

Additionally, you can use our "ask UoN" service. This service can provide you with all the questions you might be looking for-online :

<http://askuon.custhelp.com/>

## Registration

Question:

**If I am undertaking the Master of Pharmacy program at the University of Newcastle, do I have to register in NSW?**

Answer:

No. Due to the introduction of a National Register & Accreditation Scheme introduced in 2010, registration as a pharmacist means that the registered person can practice as a pharmacist in all states and territories in Australia.

Question:

**Can you tell me more about this National Register?**

Answer:

The National registration body is called AHPRA or the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency.

Graduates pre-register or seek 'provisional registration' with AHPRA, usually towards the end of your degree program, about 4-6 weeks prior to completion. More information about pre-registration can be found at this AHPRA site:

<http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Graduate-Applications.aspx>

Questions:

**How long does the registration process take?**

Answer:

Once official results are released and your program of study has been finalised, a list of all graduates is forwarded to AHPRA who in turn process your registration. How quickly this process takes is dependent on how fast the completion of the conferral of your award takes and then how long AHPRA takes processing your registration. The intention is to turn around the conferral process as quickly as possible.

Question:

**To be registered to practice as a pharmacist, do I need to do an additional year of 'internship'?**

Answer:

Yes.

Question:

**What is this internship?**

Answer:

Graduates of an approved program of study, such as the Master of Pharmacy, must undertake a one-year internship before seeking general registration as a practicing pharmacist.

Applicants graduating from the Master of Pharmacy program at UoN must submit an application for provisional registration & supervised practice to AHPRA before supervised practice can be commenced.

You are required to enrol in a PBA (Pharmacy Board of Australia) approved intern-training program. A list of program providers can be found here: [www.pharmacycouncil.org.au](http://www.pharmacycouncil.org.au)

At the end of the pre-registration year, students have to undertake an examination that is administered by the Pharmacy Board of NSW. A valid certification of completion of the NITP (National Intern Training Program) is a requirement for full registration.

Question:

Where do I find more information on registration & internship?

Answer:

Go to the AHPRA (Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency) website: <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/> and more specifically here: <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration.aspx>

More internship information can be found here:

<http://www.pharmacyboard.gov.au/Search.aspx?q=internship>

Question:

Can you register with any Pharmacy Board of Australia after you have completed your pre-registration or internship year.

Answer:

Yes.

Question:

Does this mean that I can work in other states?

Answer:

Yes.

Question:

I am not an Australian citizen or resident? Do I need a specific kind of Visa to undertake an internship?

Answer:

Yes. However, Visa questions need to be directed to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC). It is your responsibility to organise an appropriate Visa.