

New Zealand Certificate in Pharmacy (Introduction to Pharmacy Practice) (Level 3)

This is a core pharmacy qualification covering the skills and knowledge required by all staff in the pharmacy. It provides a pathway for trainee pharmacy technicians and pharmacy assistants to gain core skills for provision of safe, patient-centred healthcare under the supervision of a pharmacist.

Qualification code NZ1886

Level > 3	Credits > 40
Workload >	Allow 200 hours of study per course. Your workload may be higher around assessment due dates.
Study type >	Open.
Cost >	See the qualification page on the website.
Student loan >	You can get a student loan for this qualification if you meet the criteria. Visit studylink.govt.nz for more information.

Career Opportunities

Graduates of this qualification will be able to work in a non-dispensary support role within a pharmacy. Employment pathways include the progression to a pharmacy technician role in either community or hospital pharmacy, or to a retail management role within a community pharmacy.

How to apply

Go to the choose courses tab on the qualification page on our website. If you're enrolling in this qualification for the first time, select PHR001 Working and Communicating Professionally in the Pharmacy and click apply now. You'll be taken through our step-by-step enrolment process, which you can save and exit from at any time.



Qualification structure

This programme is made up of two courses that are to be completed in the order shown below. Check the qualification page on our website for course availability before applying to enrol. This programme can only be studied one course at a time in order to build on previous learning.

Course Code	Course Name	Credits
PHR001	Working and Communicating Professionally in the Pharmacy	20
PHR002	Providing Pharmacy Services and Advice	20

What you will learn

When you achieve this qualification you will be able to:

- Work ethically and professionally as required by the pharmacy codes and standards
- Interact with pharmacy team members and customers/patients to ensure the provision of culturally appropriate customer service
- Apply legislation relevant to your workplace
- Determine if it is safe and appropriate to provide pharmacy related products and services or advice to customers/patients, and know when to refer to a pharmacist
- Carry out a range of support activities within the pharmacy
- Provide first aid
- Perform calculations using appropriate information technology tools for point of sale transactions and retail operations

Entry requirements

To gain admission into the New Zealand Certificate in Pharmacy (Introduction to Pharmacy Practice) (Level 3) you need to:

- be employed in a pharmacy while enrolled on this programme for a minimum of 20 hours per week
- have Level 2 credits in communication or English, or be able to show comparable skills and knowledge
- have a current first aid certificate worth 2 credits or obtain one within the first six months of starting your studies. This is equivalent to essential first aid or First Aid Level 1. Your first aid certificate will need to be kept up-to-date throughout the duration of this programme.

Verification of work-based tasks

During the online enrolment process you will need to provide the contact details of your intended employer. They will then be sent an online form to complete for further Pharmacist Verifier details.

20 years old or over

If you are 20 years of age or over and do not hold the minimum entry requirements you will be eligible to be enrolled where your previous educational, work, or life experience indicates you have a reasonable likelihood of success.

Study Pathways

This is an introductory qualification and will allow graduates to progress into the following Open Polytechnic programme:

- NZ1888 New Zealand Certificate in Pharmacy (Pharmacy Technician - Core) (Level 4)

Computer and online access

This programme is delivered 100% online. To complete this programme you will need access to a laptop or desktop computer, reliable broadband internet connection and a data plan able to support online learning such as streaming of videos (including YouTube), downloading content, and writing and submitting online assessments. If you are unsure if your current computer or internet access allows you to complete your online learning with us, please contact us before applying to enrol.

Visit openpolytechnic.ac.nz/online to view our online learning and study tools.

English language requirements

International students must have an IELTS (Academic) score of 5.5 with no band score lower than 5, or equivalent.

Domestic students for whom English or Māori is not their first language must also have an IELTS (Academic) score of 5.5 with no band score lower than 5, or equivalent.

International students and domestic students living overseas

You can study this programme part-time if you're an international student living in New Zealand. You will need to be in paid employment for a minimum of 20 hours per week with a valid work permit. The work permit must be valid for the duration of the study.

You cannot study this programme if you're an international student living overseas, or a New Zealand citizen living overseas. This is because the courses are based on New Zealand legislation, terminology and codes of practice. Also the programme includes some practical workplace tasks and assessments in a New Zealand pharmacy.

Learn more about studying as an international student openpolytechnic.ac.nz/study-with-us/distance-learning-with-us/international-students