

Master of Pharmacy (MPharm)

INTERVIEW GUIDANCE FOR APPLICANTS

Thank you for your interest in the MPharm programme at the University of Suffolk, and congratulations on being invited to interview!

We appreciate that interviews can feel intimidating, so this guide has been created to help you feel well prepared, informed, and supported ahead of your interview day.

Please take some time to read through this information carefully, as it explains what to expect, how the day will run, and how you can best prepare.

INTERVIEW LOCATION AND ARRIVAL

Your interview will take place **face to face at the University of Suffolk**. Please check your interview invitation carefully to confirm whether you have been invited to attend a **morning** or **afternoon** session.

On the day, please report to the **Waterfront Building Reception** for registration.

To help the day run smoothly and start on time, we recommend arriving **15 minutes before your scheduled start time**. When planning your journey, please allow extra time for possible traffic delays or public transport disruption.

INTERVIEW SESSION TIMES

Morning interviews

Please arrive in time for a **9.30 start**. We expect all interview activities for the morning session to finish by **12.30**.

Afternoon interviews

Please arrive in time for a **13.00 start**. We expect all interview activities for the afternoon session to finish by **16.00**.

PREPARING FOR YOUR INTERVIEW



Pharmacists are trusted healthcare professionals and must always practise ethically. A key part of your interview will focus on professional values and behaviours.

We strongly encourage you to familiarise yourself with the [General Pharmaceutical Council \(GPhC\) Standards for Pharmacy Professionals](#) before your interview, as these standards underpin pharmacy practice and will be particularly relevant to the “*Values and Behaviours*” component of your interview.

Further information about the GPhC Standards for Pharmacy Professionals is available on the [GPhC website](#), and we recommend reading this carefully as part of your preparation.

INTERVIEW DAY SCHEDULE

Your interview day will last approximately three hours and will take place in either a morning or afternoon time slot. It will include a welcome session, interview activities, a tour of the facilities, and plenty of opportunities to ask questions.

When you arrive, please report to the **Waterfront Building Reception** to register. You will be asked to show **photographic identification**, such as a passport, student ID card, or driving licence, to confirm your identity. You will also be allocated to a group, which will determine the timing of your interview tasks later in the day.

INTERVIEW TASKS (Candidates only - approximately 1 hour and 10 minutes)

You will take part in a series of selection activities designed to assess skills and qualities that are important for studying pharmacy and becoming a future healthcare professional.

These activities include:

- An assessment testing basic calculation skills
- Five Multiple Mini-Interviews (MMIs)

The Mini-Interviews are designed to explore communication skills, scientific understanding, ethical values, professionalism, decision-making, awareness of the pharmacy profession, and teamwork skills.

The five Mini-Interviews (MI) are:

1. Pharmacy Awareness and Professionalism
2. Values and Behaviours
3. Service User Interaction
4. Scientific Knowledge
5. Teamwork Knowledge

Calculation Skills - Multiple Choice Questions (20 minutes)

You will complete a supervised quiz consisting of 10 multiple-choice questions. These questions assess basic mathematical skills relevant to pharmacy study, such as simple arithmetic, dilutions, and unit conversions.

You will not be tested on advanced mathematics or complex theories. Calculators are not permitted, so please ensure you are comfortable with basic calculations.

Mini-Interviews Overview (5 × 10 minutes)

Task	Who You Meet	What is Assessed	What to Expect
Pharmacy Awareness & Professionalism	Academic staff	Motivation, professionalism, self-awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why pharmacy? Role of a pharmacist Link to GPhC standards
Values & Behaviours	Academic staff	Ethics, decision-making, integrity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethical scenario Explain your actions Professional behaviour & conduct
Service User Interaction	Academic staff + service user	Communication, empathy, listening skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-clinical scenario Explain clearly Show empathy & respect
Scientific Knowledge	Academic staff	Scientific understanding, clarity of explanation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A-level science concept Explain simply Apply to pharmacy
Teamwork Knowledge	Academic staff	Teamwork, collaboration, problem-solving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teamwork-based scenario Communication & leadership Working with others

Campus Tour

Student ambassadors will lead a guided tour of the University's facilities, including teaching spaces and simulation suites. Family members or friends are welcome to join this tour.

At the end of the day, an academic will be available for a question-and-answer session.

INTERVIEW OUTCOMES

Following the selection event, outcomes may include:

- Offer
- Reserve list
- Alternative course offer
- Reject

Conditions of offer

All offers for a place on the MPharm programme are subject to:

- Verification of required academic qualifications
- A satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check
- Satisfactory health checks

Please note that if these requirements are not met you may be unenrolled from the course.

What does it mean if I am on a reserve list?

If you are placed on the reserve list, you will initially see a “Reject” decision in UCAS Hub, followed by an email offering you a place on the reserve list. If you wish to be included, **you must respond to that email to confirm.**

Candidates may be offered a place from the reserve list at any time between **August and the end of September**, depending on availability. Places are offered based on interview scores. Unfortunately, we are unable to confirm a candidate’s position on the reserve list.

Being on the reserve list does not guarantee a place the following year. If you are not offered a place, you will need to reapply.

Feedback for unsuccessful applicants is available on request. Please contact the Admissions Office at admissions@uos.ac.uk.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Work Experience

We strongly encourage applicants to gain experience in pharmacy or healthcare settings where possible. However, we understand this is not always achievable.

You do not need to provide documentary evidence of work experience. We are most interested in your understanding of the pharmacist's role and your ability to reflect on experiences such as volunteering, part-time work, or extracurricular activities.

Standards for Pharmacy Professionals

Please ensure you read the GPhC Standards for Pharmacy Professionals before your interview. As a regulated profession, pharmacy requires high standards of behaviour, and these standards apply to students as well as qualified pharmacists.

Health Questionnaire and Character Checks

Because the MPharm programme includes placements and potential work with vulnerable patients, all successful applicants must complete:

- An Enhanced DBS check (or international equivalent)
- A health check

If you have any concerns relating to health or character, we encourage you to raise these early so we can offer appropriate guidance and support.

For queries, please contact Admissions at admissions@uos.ac.uk or **01473 338348**.

Suggested Resources

Preparing thoroughly will help you feel more confident on the day, these resources are provided as guidance only and are not exhaustive:

- GPhC | [Standards and guidance](#) for pharmacy professionals
- General Pharmaceutical Council ([GPhC](#))
- GPhC | [Pharmacists](#)
- NHS | [Pharmacy Careers](#)
- British Pharmaceutical Students' Association ([BPSA](#))
- [The Pharmaceutical Journal](#)

We look forward to meeting you and learning more about your interest in pharmacy.

If you need further support, please contact the Student Centre on **01473 338833** or studentlife@uos.ac.uk.

Best wishes

MPharm Course and Admissions teams.