

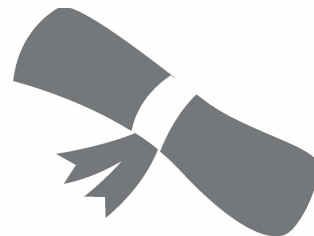
The Good Universities Guide 2018

PHARMACY

This is a detailed profile of the pharmacy field of study. It lists the range of specialisations available and compares degree-level courses. We examine the institutions that get the best ratings, based on real student experience and graduate outcome data, which will help you decide the right university for your educational journey.



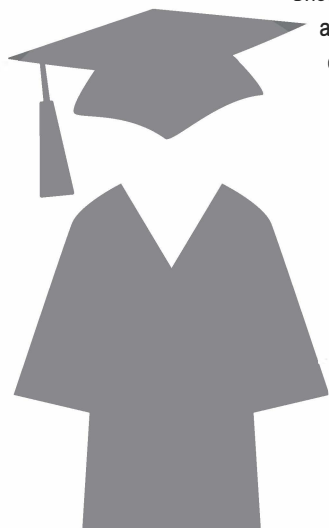
HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR DEGREE



Every degree is a unique mix of many different ingredients — from the subjects covered to the career it leads to — and choosing the right course requires a lot of research. Once you have worked out the field in which you want to study, there are many factors to consider when you are weighing up courses and institutions.

- The first step to success is to ensure you will be studying subjects you are interested in and that lead to the career you want. Some courses require all students to complete the same 'core' subjects to meet industry requirements and don't allow a lot of room to choose electives or explore different subject areas. Others give you the freedom to choose a broad range of electives and graduate with a specialisation or major.
- Each course has a very different intellectual style, so make sure that it is suited to you. Some courses are mainly quantitative, while others are verbal or language-based. Some are conceptual and encourage you to express your own ideas through writing, while others require you to apply what you learn practically.
- A typical bachelor degree can be completed in around three years. Some degrees may require five or six years of full-time study plus an internship period to gain full accreditation. Double degrees and part-time programs will also take longer to complete.
- When choosing a course, you need to be sure that you will meet the entry requirements or investigate whether alternative entry is available. Some courses rely more heavily upon the submission of a portfolio, an interview or an audition.
- Some courses lock you into an occupation. Others are much broader in their scope. If you are sure about your future career, you might opt for a specialised vocational option that allows you to immerse yourself in your field. If you're not 100 per cent certain about what the future holds, you could enter a generalist degree that will give you room to explore.
- Different programs teach very different things — even courses in the same field may be taught differently at separate institutions. The university you choose should concentrate on topics you are interested in or that are professionally relevant.

HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR TERTIARY PROVIDER



Choosing where to study is about more than how close the campus is to your home and whether it offers a course you like. These are important factors, but you should also consider the following points as you conduct your research:

- Public institutions, which includes most Australian universities, are funded by the government. Private institutions are independent and usually rely on full tuition fees to subsidise student places. While universities offer a range of fields, private education providers often focus on a particular discipline or provide a specialised campus environment.
- Would you prefer an intimate regional environment or a buzzing metropolitan one? Every institution has a different atmosphere, so be sure to take the time to visit before applying. Institutions differ in terms of the range of services and facilities on offer, such as sporting options and academic support, often depend on the university's size and location.
- Are most students studying on or off campus? Are there more school leavers or mature-age students? Does the student body contain a lot of international students to add to the cultural diversity? You may find that each institution offers different study modes for your course, such as part-time or distance options, which will shape your university experience.

PHARMACY

WHAT YOU'RE IN FOR...

Pharmacy is a specialised field that is ideal for those with a passion for science, health care and people. It also offers a range of career options in other health-related fields such as health services and support, medicine, nursing and rehabilitation, and veterinary science.

MEDIAN GRADUATE SALARY

\$41,600

UNDERGRADUATE

\$58,700

POSTGRADUATE

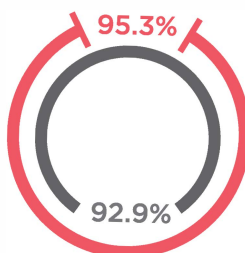


FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

undergraduate postgraduate



Proportion of students who have secured a full-time job within four months of graduating



WHAT CAN I DO?



Biochemistry



Life Science



Chemistry



Medical Sales



Pharmacy



Clinical Resourcing

COMPARE



Decide the categories most important to your university search and compare field of study ratings over the page to choose the right institution.



DISCOVER

Find out more about career paths and potential jobs by picking up a copy of *The Good Careers Guide 2017* or visiting the website www.goodcareersguide.com.au

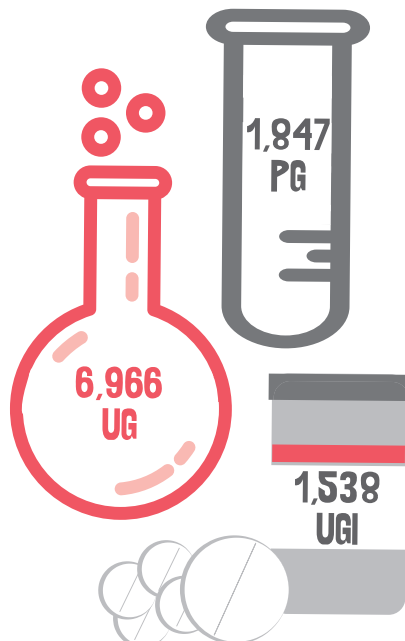


**GOOD
EDUCATION
GROUP**

Good Education Group is Australia's leading independent provider of high-quality education and career information.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS

UG = Undergraduate
PG = Postgraduate
UGI = Undergraduate international



MORE ABOUT PHARMACY

Pharmacy is a specialised field that has a great deal to offer those with a passion for science, health care and working with people. In order to practise as a pharmacist, graduates must complete a set number of hours of pre-registration training under the supervision of a registered pharmacist and sit an examination. The majority of pharmacy graduates complete their preregistration year in either community pharmacies or hospital pharmacies. The Pharmacy Board of Australia sets these accreditation requirements.

If you are thinking about studying pharmacy, you may also want to consider other health-related fields such as health services and support, medicine, nursing and rehabilitation, and perhaps veterinary science if working with animals is of interest.

Courses and specialisations

Degree courses in pharmacy typically centre around four core areas of study: medicinal chemistry (the chemistry of drugs); pharmacology (the action of drugs); pharmaceuticals (the formulation of drug dosages); and pharmacy practice. There are also a number of double degrees available, which offer combinations with areas such as management and engineering, as well as some that combine pharmacy and pharmaceutical science. Courses typically include a practical placement, usually in the later years of the course.

For more information about careers in this area, visit the following websites:

- Pharmacy Board of Australia — www.pharmacyboard.gov.au
- Pharmaceutical Society of Australia — www.psa.org.au
- Pharmacy Guild of Australia — www.guild.org.au

Where to study

The number of universities offering pharmacy degrees has increased significantly over the last decade or so, particularly with the introduction of courses that have a targeted focus on pharmacy in rural and regional areas to counter the demand for pharmacists in country Australia.

Pharmacy courses tend to be tightly regulated by the profession and entry is competitive, usually demanding high ATARs and good Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test (UMAT) scores. Graduates who succeed in getting through the demanding four-year courses can, however, look forward to excellent employment prospects.

What the data tells

Employment outcomes are interesting for pharmacy students, with more than 90 per cent of graduates from all 10 listed institutions finding work within four months, a remarkably high amount. This could be an indicator of demand, as well as the more vocational nature of studying a field like pharmacy. Median

salaries are reasonably low compared to other fields of study, with UniSA boasting the highest (\$45,000).

UNE has impressive five star results for overall educational experience (84.2 per cent), teaching quality (92.1 per cent), skills development (86.5 per cent) and learning resources (93.2 per cent). Despite the lack of graduate outcome data, their other strong results suggest they offer a well-regarded university experience.

Tasmania may have the lowest percentage for learning resources (73.2 per cent) yet the institution excels in employment outcomes, with 100 per cent of pharmacy students nailing down a full-time job within four months of graduating with an above average median salary (\$42,500).

There can be a very fine line between making the top 20 per cent and just missing out. La Trobe completed the five-star universities in graduate employment with 98.5 per cent, however JCU is close behind with 98 per cent. Elsewhere, UNE rounded out the five star leaders with 86.5 per cent in student support, while La Trobe and Monash fell just short on 86.4 per cent. This suggests that because a university misses out on five stars in a category doesn't mean it has achieved poor results and may speak to the competitiveness between universities in this field of study.

National average rate of retention

ATAR range	80-89	90-100	Non-ATAR criteria
CANBERRA	67%		
CURTIN	94%	87%	82%
GRIFFITH	20%		
JCU	88%	100%	20%
LA TROBE		100%	
MONASH	91%	97%	17%
QUEENSLAND	85%	92%	89%
QUT	100%	82%	100%
SYDNEY	95%	91%	100%
TASMANIA			90%
UNE	20%		88%
UniSA		95%	85%
National average rate of retention by ATAR range	85%	90%	85%

Non-ATAR criteria may include entry via direct application, audition and/or portfolio submission, or via an academic pathway.

STUDENT PROFILE

Grace — Bachelor of Pharmacy



Why did you choose to study pharmacy?

I've always wanted to be in the health industry and help people. Originally, I wanted to be a doctor and study medicine; however, things didn't turn out that way and I chose to study pharmacy. I haven't looked back since!

What was the best thing about your course?

I enjoy interacting with customers and being able to make a difference in their lives. You are a well-respected health professional and people value your opinion and advice. Often you are the first point of call for patients in regards to their health, as well as being the most accessible health professional.

What was the worst thing about your course?

The worst part of a pharmacy course is the first year. There were many general science-based courses, which didn't necessarily relate to pharmacy directly. This made it hard to stay motivated at times. It gets a lot more industry-specific once you've gotten through that!

Have you found work in your field?

I am currently working in a pharmacy, which is both a community and hospital pharmacy, on a 24-hour roster. I also have four years' prior experience in different community-based pharmacies. It's good to get exposure working under different pharmacy brand names and with new people to keep things fresh.

What advice would you give to students considering studying pharmacy?

Get all the work experience that you possibly can. It's advantageous if you can get a job at a pharmacy, as this allows you to get hands-on experience of what it's like to work in a pharmacy and put theory into practice. During your course you should have the opportunity to find experience in both community and hospital environments, as well as making pharmaceutical products. It was during this time that I realised I didn't like the industrial manufacturing side of pharmacy.

Have you completed further study?

After graduating from university and completing my internship year, I realised I wanted a break from study. I think I'm at the stage now where I would consider going back — but I'm yet to decide what I'd explore!



FIVE-STAR UNIVERSITIES PHARMACY

EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

JCU	92.6%
CURTIN	86.6%
QUEENSLAND	86.2%

**NATIONAL
AVERAGE = 80.5%**

GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT

TASMANIA	100%
UniSA	98.8%
LA TROBE	98.5%

**NATIONAL
AVERAGE = 95.3%**

LEARNER ENGAGEMENT

JCU	81.5%
RMIT	75.0%
MONASH	74.8%

**NATIONAL
AVERAGE = 70.0%**

LEARNING RESOURCES

NEWCASTLE	100%
QUEENSLAND	94.1%
UNE	93.2%

**NATIONAL
AVERAGE = 86.0%**

MEDIAN GRAD STARTING SALARY

UniSA	\$45,000
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TASMANIA	\$42,500
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**NATIONAL
AVERAGE = \$41,600**

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

TASMANIA	89.5%
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CSU	88.2%
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UNE	86.5%
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**NATIONAL
AVERAGE = 84.3%**

STUDENT SUPPORT

JCU	86.8%
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NEWCASTLE	82.7%
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UNE	82.0%
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GRIFFITH	81.6%
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**NATIONAL
AVERAGE = 72.7%**

TEACHING QUALITY

CSU	94.1%
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JCU	92.5%
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UNE	92.1%
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**NATIONAL
AVERAGE = 83.3%**

WHAT DO THESE NUMBERS MEAN?

The ratings above represent the top 20 per cent of results for each measure in this particular field of study. For overall institution results, see the ratings section at the front of the Guide.



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

The graphs compare institutions in the pharmacy field of study. If you are interested in this field of study you can see all the institutions that offer courses and how they compare.

Universities compared

The “Five-Star Universities” graphs show the institutions whose results place them in the top 20 per cent of universities in pharmacy.

Student experience measures

These ratings compare the performance of universities across six student experience categories. For each category, the percentage of students who were satisfied with the university’s performance in the area is noted. For example, if a university achieves 75 per cent for Teaching Quality, this indicates that 75 per cent of students at the university were satisfied with the quality of teaching they experienced.

Data has been sourced from the Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT) and is based on the results of the Student Experience Survey. Please note that the QILT website provides confidence intervals that reflect the accuracy of these estimated values, which have not been included in this guide.

Graduate outcomes

Starting salary

This rating compares the median salary of graduates from different universities. Universities are awarded five stars if they fall within the top 20 per cent of all universities.

Full-time employment

This rating compares the employment rates of graduates from different universities. It looks at the proportion of graduates who were employed full time four months after completing their course. Universities are awarded five stars if they fall within the top 20 per cent of all universities.

Data has been sourced from the Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT) and is based on the results of the Graduate Destination Survey. Please note that the QILT website provides confidence intervals that reflect the accuracy of these estimated values, which have not been included in this guide.

National average rate of retention

These tables show the rate of student retention at each university. The ability of students to complete their first year of study and progress to a second year may be affected by the tertiary entrance score they achieved in their final year of school. Often, students with high scores have higher rates of retention than students with low scores. These tables identify the rate at which students who achieved a tertiary entrance score within a specific band are retained through to a second year of study.

Non-ATAR criteria may include entry via direct application, audition and/or portfolio submission, or via an academic pathway.

Data published in these tables refers to the number of students who commenced studies in 2014 and were still enrolled at the same institution in 2015, as a proportion of all students who commenced in 2014 in pharmacy. This data refers specifically to students who commenced a bachelor degree in 2014 on the basis of a tertiary entrance score and who came directly from secondary school.

Remember that rankings and ratings are indicators only. They help but do not present a full picture. Research your choices carefully!