

WHAT'S  
GONNA DO?

# WORKING IN PHARMACY COULD B 4 U

*"It is really rewarding knowing that patients actually care about what I say to them and that the information I give to them is really important."*

Mariana, Bachelor of Pharmacy student at the University of Auckland

**Q** What does someone working in pharmacy do?

**Q** What subjects do I need to take at school?

**Q** How do I get into it??

**Q** Will I get a job after studying?

**Q** Where can I find out more information?

**Are you interested in learning how medicines work? Do you have good communication and listening skills? Do you have a high attention to detail?**

**If you answered yes, then working in PHARMACY could B 4 U!**

### **What does someone working in pharmacy do?**

**Pharmacists** are the specialists in medicines, and may work in a community pharmacy or a hospital. They prepare and give out medicines prescribed by a doctor, and advise people on their use and effects.

**Pharmacy technicians** help pharmacists to prepare and give out medicines. **Pharmacy assistants** help pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, and are usually the first point of contact for customers. They advise customers on basic health and beauty care.

### **What subjects do I need to take at school?**

Good subjects to take are biology, chemistry, maths and English.

### **How do I get into it?**

To become a **pharmacist** you need to do a 4-year pharmacy degree at the University of Auckland or the University of Otago. The University of Auckland has alternative entry schemes such as MAPAS for Maaori and Pacific students and ROMPE for students from a rural area.

To become a **pharmacy technician** you need to do a 2-year Certificate in Pharmacy (Technician) through Academy New Zealand, or alternatively a part-time correspondence course while you are working through the Open Polytechnic of NZ.

To become a **pharmacy assistant** you need to get a job at a community pharmacy. They normally provide on-the-job training. You can also complete the 1-year Certificate in Pharmacy (Assistant) while you are working through the Open Polytechnic of NZ or Academy New Zealand.

Check out the accompanying "Health Occupations Summary" for a more detailed list of courses available and entry requirements.

### **Will I get a job after studying?**

It is very likely you will get a job as there is a shortage of pharmacy workers and these shortages are expected to get worse in the future.

### **Where can I find out more information?**

The University of Auckland, School of Pharmacy  
Website: [www.health.auckland.ac.nz/pharmacy](http://www.health.auckland.ac.nz/pharmacy)

Email: [studentinfo@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:studentinfo@auckland.ac.nz)

Tel: 0800 61 62 63

The University of Otago, School of Pharmacy

Website: [www.pharmacy.otago.ac.nz](http://www.pharmacy.otago.ac.nz)

The Open Polytechnic of NZ

Website: [www.topnz.ac.nz](http://www.topnz.ac.nz)

Email: [studentservices@openpolytechnic.ac.nz](mailto:studentservices@openpolytechnic.ac.nz)

Tel: 0508 650 200

Academy New Zealand

Website: [www.academy.ac.nz](http://www.academy.ac.nz)

Email: [info@academy.ac.nz](mailto:info@academy.ac.nz)

Tel: 09 276 0576

Pharmacy Council website: [www.pharmacycouncil.org.nz](http://www.pharmacycouncil.org.nz)

Careers websites: [www.cmdhb.org.nz/careers](http://www.cmdhb.org.nz/careers)

[www.healthcareers.org.nz](http://www.healthcareers.org.nz)

[www.kiwicareers.govt.nz](http://www.kiwicareers.govt.nz)

[www.kiwiquals.govt.nz](http://www.kiwiquals.govt.nz)

For any other questions call Counties Manukau District Health Board on (09) 259 5052 to speak with someone about careers or email [careers@cmdhb.org.nz](mailto:careers@cmdhb.org.nz).