

## Options for people who have failed the preregistration exam (Registration Assessment) three times

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You must be very disappointed, but be assured there are options open to you. This factsheet aims to give you some ideas regarding other career options and signpost you in some possible directions.

Although you are not able to register as a pharmacist, remember that you do have a good science degree as well as your own skills, knowledge and experience and many graduate vacancies do not specify particular degree disciplines.

### Careers advice

You may find it helpful to speak to a careers adviser, to talk through possible options, which take into account your skills, knowledge, experience and interests.

### University careers service

As a university graduate, you will be able to use your former university's careers service so your first step could be to make an appointment with them. Even if you are no longer living in that area, the careers service may well have online information and interactive tools and they may offer advice remotely or be able to put you in touch with a university careers adviser nearer to your current home, so do contact them.

### The Institute of Career Guidance (ICG)

<http://www.icg-uk.org/home.html>

The ICG is a professional association for careers guidance practitioners in the UK. There is a search facility on their website to find a careers adviser in your area but do note that the advisers will charge for their services.

### Prospects

<http://www.prospects.ac.uk/index.htm>

Prospects is a graduate careers website provided by Graduate Prospects, the commercial arm of the charity Higher Education Careers Services Unit. The website has a wide range of careers advice material, including career options for your subject (you can search under *Pharmacy*) as well as lots of advice on CVs, applying for a job and interviews. There is also a graduate vacancies section.

### Health Learning and Skills Advice Line

<https://nextstep.direct.gov.uk/HLAS/Pages/default.aspx>

This advice line provides free, independent and confidential careers information and advice to support people who work in, or are considering a career in healthcare.



**Pharmacist Support**

working for pharmacists & their families

### NHS careers

The NHS careers website gives information on a range of career options within the NHS. You can search the site by career, for example, *healthcare science* (which includes pharmacists and pharmacy technicians) or by group, for example, *recent graduates*. There is also a careers A-Z where you can search for a particular role and see information on it including an introduction to the role, entry requirements, training and career development plus where to look for vacancies: <http://www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/index.shtml>

### Pharmacy-related work Industry

Other areas where pharmacy skills and knowledge would be relevant include:-

- clinical research
- product or process development
- regulation of pharmaceutical and medical products
- pharmacology
- toxicology
- other work in a pharmacy, for example, as a pharmacy technician – see below
- medical writing or journalism.

The Prospects website (see separate *Prospects* section) gives further information on pharmacy-related careers, including job descriptions and entry requirements. Some of the options will require some further training.

### Pharmacy technicians

Pharmacy technicians are required to be registered with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) and there are specific approved qualifications (which take two years to complete) required by the GPhC for pharmacy technicians. Further details about the requirements can be found on the GPhC website. From the home page, go to the section on renewing or restoring your registration and then follow the link to the pharmacy technician information.

The GPhC can be contacted on:

Tel: 020 3365 3400

Email: [info@pharmacyregulation.org](mailto:info@pharmacyregulation.org)

<http://www.pharmacyregulation.org/index.aspx>

The following may also be able to provide further information:

### **Association of Pharmacy Technicians (APTUK)**

Tel: 020 7121 5551

Email: [website@aptuk.org](mailto:website@aptuk.org)

[www.aptuk.org/](http://www.aptuk.org/)

### **Buttercups Training**

Tel: 0115 937 4936

Email: [training@buttercups.co.uk](mailto:training@buttercups.co.uk)

<http://www.buttercups.co.uk/website/website.nsf/lookupcontent/index.html?opendocument>

### **National Pharmacy Association**

Tel: 01727 832161

<http://www.npa.co.uk/>

### **Non-pharmacy-related work**

It might be helpful to talk to a careers adviser about options for other non-pharmacy graduate work. For example, large organisations such as the Civil Service (which is made up of government departments, government agencies and non-departmental public bodies) recruit science graduates.

<http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/index.aspx>

Other work areas not specifically related to pharmacy but where the skills gained in your degree could be used might include:

- computing
- finance
- accounting.

The Prospects website (see *Prospects* section) gives further information on a wide range of careers including job descriptions and entry requirements. Some of the options will require some further training.

### **Teaching**

Science is a priority subject but there is currently a shortage of science teachers and you may be entitled to a bursary while training. To become a teacher you need to be professionally qualified and in order to do this you can do a year of training, for example, a Postgraduate Certificate in Education ((PGCE) and an initial teaching year. Alternatively there is also the Graduate Teacher Programme which allows you to work in a paid teaching role and train at the same time. See the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDAS) website for more information about this: <http://www.tda.gov.uk/get-into-teaching/teacher-training-options/gtp.aspx>

The Prospects website has more information about a career as a teacher:

[http://www.prospects.ac.uk/teaching\\_advice.htm](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/teaching_advice.htm)

and the TDAS has further information on training and funding: <http://www.tda.gov.uk/>

### **Further study and research**

Undertaking further study could be an option for you to enhance your career opportunities. Depending on your original degree classification you could opt to study for an MSc (if you wanted to pursue science) an MA (for arts and education) or an MBA (for a business focus). You could also consider a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) – see the *Teaching* section for further info on teaching as an option. Obviously there are costs associated with this and you would need to consider carefully whether this is a feasible option for you.

You could also consider further study and retraining in a different area, such as nursing. Look at the Prospects website for further information.

If you achieved a 2.1 or higher, it might be possible for you to consider research, for example, a research assistant or starting a PhD. With a PhD or higher degree there will be more opportunities open to you in, for example, the pharmaceutical industry, research and development.

The Postgrad.com website:

<http://www.postgrad.com/> has general information on postgraduate study and life and you can search for and find further information on specific courses.

### **Non UK nationals**

If you are not a UK national, you could investigate the process for registering in your home country and consider returning to attempt to register there.

### **Take a break**

You may decide that you would like to take a break to think things through and may wish to consider volunteering overseas. Some organisations or projects may have a minimum work experience requirement, but some, particularly for shorter projects will not.

Volunteering organisations include:

#### **International Voluntary Service (IVS)**

<http://ivsgb.org/info/home.html>

#### **Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)**

<http://www.vso.org.uk/>

#### **BUNAC**

<http://www.bunac.org/uk/>

## Financial help

If you are available for work and seeking work, you may be entitled to jobseeker's allowance. Your local Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) will be able to give you further advice on this. To find your nearest CAB, see the Citizens Advice website:  
<http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/index/getadvice.htm>

You may also be entitled to other help, for example, housing benefit (if you are paying rent) and council tax benefit. Your CAB will be able to give you advice or see the national CAB website:  
[www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk)

## Someone to talk to Supervisor/tutor

Your prereg supervisor in your most recent six months of work may be able to make some suggestions.

You might also consider contacting your personal tutor at your university to talk through your concerns.

## Listening Friends

Pharmacist Support's Listening Friends service can provide a listening ear if you would like to talk to someone in confidence. Contact them on:  
Tel: 0808168 5133

## RPS Support

The Royal Pharmaceutical Support team can also provide you with support if you are a member. Contact them on:  
Tel: 0845 257 2570  
Email:[support@rpharms.com](mailto:support@rpharms.com)

## RPS mentoring service

The RPS career mentoring service gives members the opportunity to talk with a mentor in confidence about career options. Mentoring can help improve your confidence and lead to a positive impact on your career development.

You can access the mentoring service via:

- an online database; or
- your local practice forum (LPF)

For further information, see  
<http://www.rpharms.com/you-and-your-career/mentoring.asp>)

To access the LPF route, follow the link from the Mentoring page, login in and then select the *Mentoring* tab which can provide local contacts and help you access the mentoring service.

RPS suggest that before you register on the mentoring database you may wish to consider the following points:

- what have been my most notable achievements so far
- what has worked well for me
- what might I need to change/develop in order to achieve new goals/aspirations
- what do I want to achieve from my mentoring relationship
- do I need support with this single issue (shorter term relationship) or a longer term involvement
- am I looking for a formal or informal mentor
- how do I prefer to communicate with my mentor (eg face to face only or combination of communication routes).

## Thanks

We are very grateful to our volunteers and to the RPS Support team for all their help in producing this factsheet.

## Feedback

Your comments and additional suggestions on this fact sheet are very welcome. Contact us on:

Tel: 0808 168 2233

Email:[info@pharmacistsupport.org](mailto:info@pharmacistsupport.org)