

CAREER OPTIONS FOR PHARMACOLOGY GRADUATES

Major in Pharmacology

Past graduates of this Discipline have found that a major in Pharmacology offers a high degree of versatility with regard to future career options. In recent years, many of our graduates have found employment in the pharmaceutical industry as sales representatives or research associates; in hospital or university-based research laboratories; or in various Government agencies involved in the drug/chemical approval process. Generally speaking however, employers with these kinds of vacancies seek BSc graduates who have completed an Honours degree. While there are exceptions to this rule, more effort will be required to find employment of this type without Honours. Thus over the past 4 or 5 years, over 95% of our Honours graduates found jobs in relevant fields or have gone onto further study (i.e. enrolled into the Masters or PhD programs).

Among students who choose not to study for an Honours degree, many use their major in Pharmacology as a springboard for specialisation in some other discipline, such as dietetics, pharmacy, dentistry, nursing, medicine, secondary teaching, law, science journalism, or physiotherapy. They typically find that the skills and knowledge gained during their study of pharmacology are very useful in their subsequent training.

Honours in Pharmacology.

The Honours program hosted by the Discipline of Pharmacology provides an opportunity for students to perform biomedical research in a laboratory, under the supervision of an academic or affiliated staff member from an associated institution (e.g. Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science). While the research training and problem-solving skills gained during an Honours degree are very important when seeking future employment, Honours also provides familiarity with the research environment so that students can make informed decisions regarding their future involvement in scientific research. In recent years, our Honours graduates have had a very high success rate in obtaining jobs within some sector of the biomedical community, ranging from tertiary educational institutions, hospitals, government departments and the pharmaceutical industry.