



Are you thinking about a career in science or medicine?

Why not consider pharmacology?

Pharmacologists make a difference to the lives of people all around the world every day. They are scientists who are fascinated by medicines and work in pharmacology, the science of medicines and their effect on the body.

If you are interested in sciences like chemistry or biology and want to make a difference in medicine and health, a career in pharmacology could be for you.



As new diseases are found and medicines like antibiotics stop working, the need for pharmacologists to find better and safer treatments is becoming even more important. Without pharmacologists we would not be able to:

- Discover new medicines to help fight diseases
- Improve their effectiveness and reduce unwanted side effects
- Understand why people have different responses to medicines, and why some work better for some people than others
- Understand why some drugs cause addiction

If you want to become a pharmacologist, you will need to study science subjects at school.

You might decide to train as a scientist and then get a job as a pharmacologist in a lab. Or you might train as a doctor and then specialise as a clinical pharmacologist later.

There are lots of potential careers in pharmacology that you can have with or without a degree.



As a pharmacologist you could discover new medicines, improve our understanding of how they work, help make sure that medicines are safe or advise on how they are used to treat patients.

Did you know?

Ibuprofen is a painkiller you might have heard of. People take it to relieve pain from conditions like arthritis.

However, some people can't take ibuprofen, because it affects their stomach.

Pharmacologists developed a different formulation of the drug that is rubbed into the body where it is needed. This means people can still benefit from the drug, without unwanted side effects.

To find out more about the impact of pharmacology and how you could become a pharmacologist, visit **bps.ac.uk/careers**.