

MPharm Sandwich Course – the experience

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- What it is and is not
- How it evolved
- What it looks like today
- How it is funded
- Placements - where do they go?
- The challenges
- Does it produce better outcomes?
- Future developments

What it is and is not

- 'Old' innovation – launched in 1970
- Modification of 4 + 1 model
- One of two models run by UoB
- Both built on same modular building blocks
- NOT a co-terminus degree with integrated clinical placements c.f. nursing, medicine
- UoB does NOT set learning outcomes for or assess placements or award credit

How it has evolved

- **Four-year BPharm launched in 1970**
 - 1st placement April to October of year 2
 - 2nd placement October of year 3 to April of year 4
- **Modularised and semesterised in 1993**
 - 1st placement February to August of year 2
 - 2nd placement August of year 3 to February of year 4
- **Five-year MPharm in 1997**
 - 1st placement February to August of year 3
 - 2nd placement August of year 4 to February of year 5
- **Five-year Integrated Masters in 2007**
 - Research project in year 4

What it looks like today

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Semester 1				Project 30 Credits	Pre-Registration Training
Semester 2			Pre-Registration Training		

Other key features

- Outcome-based
- Spiral curriculum
- Integrated, systems-based approach
- Core plus options
- Clinical placements
- Case-based – hybrid model

How is it funded?

- 4 years at HEFCE Price Band B
- 1 year 0.5WTE at HEFCE Price Band C
- Student pays:
 - Years 1 to 4 - £3,290 per year
 - Year 5 - £650
- Student receives normal pre-reg. salary

Where do they go?

- Community and hospital
- 40% do placement in both
- 60% do both placements in community

What are the challenges?

- Educational – late exposure to practice
- Financial
- Running two MPharm programmes
- Placements, including:
 - availability
 - balance
 - location

What are the challenges?

- Organisation and management
- Training of placement providers/tutors
- The 'problem' student
- The 'problem' placement
- Challenges for placement providers

What are the challenges?

- Fitting into a semesterised system
- University regulations:
 - Progression to placement
 - Progression from Stage 3 to 4

Progression issues

	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3		
Semester 1					Pre-registration training
				Stage 4	
Semester 2			Pre-registration training		

Does it produce better outcomes?

- No evidence that it produces better teaching and learning outcomes
- Enhanced:
 - Maturity
 - Motivation
 - Student satisfaction

Future developments

“The greatest advantage of a sandwich course is that the student comes into contact with practice of the profession of pharmacy during his studies. Hence the more advanced studies have greater reality and meaning.”

J.M.Rowson (1970)

“The Government, working with all relevant parties.....will begin planning to ensure there is meaningful clinical context throughout the undergraduate programme and determine whether this can be maximised by integrating the degree course with the pre-registration training year.”

Pharmacy in England (2008)