



# APPEL

An Chleamhnacht um Fhoighlaim ó  
Thaithí Chleachtadh na Córaisíochta

Affiliation for Pharmacy  
Practice Experiential Learning

## An Integrated Model of Pharmacy Education

APPEL Programme –  
Community Pharmacy Placements



Is comhcheangal é APPEL idir Scoileanna Córaisíochta UCC, RCSI agus TCD  
APPEL is an affiliation between the schools of Pharmacy of UCC, RCSI and TCD

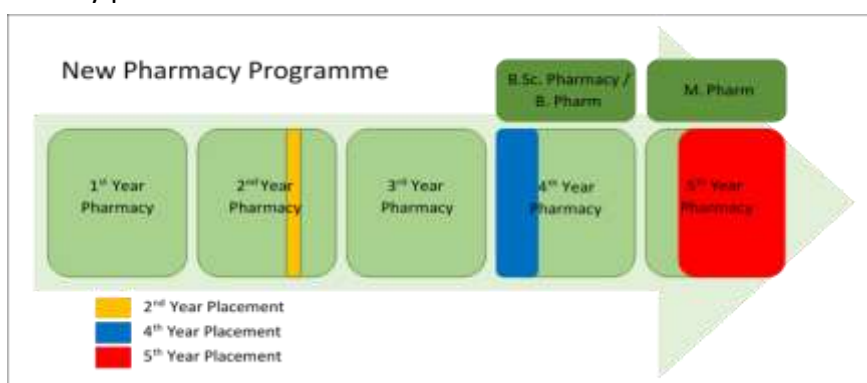


Trinity College Dublin  
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath  
The University of Dublin

## An Integrated Model of Pharmacy Education

A new model of pharmacy education was introduced in September 2015. Pharmacy graduates now undertake a fully integrated programme which includes placements in a breadth of practice settings interspersed through the five years of their education.

This early practical and dispersed experience helps students to contextualise the theory they learn in their School of Pharmacy. Experiential learning throughout the integrated pharmacy programme provides students with the skills necessary to meet the demands of the future healthcare environment. Experiential learning placements in community pharmacies will support students to develop the clinical skills and competencies required to provide optimal patient care in accordance with evolving pharmacy practice.



Placement	Duration	Setting
2 <sup>nd</sup> -Year	2 weeks (or equivalent)	Community or hospital pharmacy setting
4 <sup>th</sup> -Year	4 month placement (Sept – Dec)	All pharmacy practice settings
5 <sup>th</sup> -Year	8 month placement (Jan – Aug)	Community or hospital pharmacy setting

### What is APPEL?

APPEL (Affiliation for Pharmacy Practice Experiential Learning) is a unique collaboration between University College Cork (UCC), the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) and Trinity College Dublin (Trinity).

It was established to manage, centralise and streamline the experiential learning placements of the three Schools of Pharmacy in Ireland.

APPEL offers placement providers and students with a single point of contact and a source of expertise in relation to pharmacy placements.



# Community Pharmacy Placements

## How does the programme work?

Students undertake experiential learning placements during the 5 year programme. These placements involve a mix of guided academic modules and authentic learning experiences guided by a Trainer while they attend placement.



## What opportunities does the APPEL programme provide to pharmacists?

Training a student offers excellent CPD opportunities, peer-networking at APPEL events, opportunities for learning through teaching and learning from students, and opportunities to develop core competencies including leadership skills and human resources management skills.

In 2023, **95%** of all Preceptors recommended acting as a Preceptor to other pharmacists and **95%** found it a rewarding and enjoyable experience. Feedback included;

*“It was hugely rewarding”*

*“Having a student was great, it challenged me to think more carefully about my practice and it was great to see my student develop over the placement”*

*“My students were lovely, intelligent and willing to learn”*

Placement providers have a unique opportunity to increase awareness of their organisations in the Schools of Pharmacy and create an employment pipeline among pharmacy graduates. This programme enables placement providers to engage with talented and highly motivated students and inspire them to consider a career in their organisation or practice setting.

### What does supervising a student entail for me?

Any qualified pharmacist can act as a Supervisor for a 2<sup>nd</sup>-Year student or Preceptor for 4<sup>th</sup>-Year student but to be a Senior Preceptor for a 5<sup>th</sup>-Year student you must have at least 3 years of post-registration experience

Supervision requirements differ based on which year the student is in;

- 2<sup>nd</sup>-Year: Supervise student while they attend placement, sign Supervisor’s Report confirming student’s on-placement attendance and achievement of certain learning outcomes.
- 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>-Year: Supervise student while they attend placement and complete two Competency Assessments to evaluate their ability to demonstrate competencies from PSI’s Core Competency Framework.

## How does the matching process work?

For the short 2<sup>nd</sup>-Year Placements, students are assigned based on location. For 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>-Year the following steps take place:

**Step 1:** Placement Provider declares interest in taking an APPEL student for a placement.

**Step 2:** Placement provider enters the APPEL online matching system where they complete a brief description of what the placement will entail for the student.

**Step 3:** Students and Placement Providers are matched via the online system, given time to engage with each other and then can confirm the match online.

**Step 4:** Once the placement is confirmed, a Trainer is nominated. Training and accreditation documents need to be completed.



## Training and Accreditation

In order to be recognised as a Trainer for 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> year placements there is a requirement to complete Trainer Training. This can be done online at any time via [www.appel.ie](http://www.appel.ie)

For all placement year groups the completion of accreditation documentation is required. These documents include undertaking to follow the APPEL Standards and ensuring that your Training Establishment will meet these standards

Are you interested in becoming involved?

**REGISTER WITH APPEL  
AT WWW.APPEL.IE**



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