

# Pharmacy Technician (Ph Tech)

*Providing professional medicines management and pharmaceutical advice and support to the RAF and Defence Medical Services*

## KEY POINTS

- Be treated, trained and supported like a professional.
- Join the RAF, get paid whilst undertaking a fully funded BTEC Level 3 Diploma in the Principles and Practice for Pharmacy Technicians.
- Employment within 3 areas: Primary Healthcare Dispensary, Operational Medical Logistics and Training.

## TRADE OVERVIEW

As a Pharmacy Technician, you will provide professional medicines management and pharmaceutical advice and support to the RAF Medical Services.

In Primary Healthcare, you will work in a medical centre on a large RAF unit. You will order, receive, prepare, store, issue and dispense medical equipment, supplies and medication including controlled and accountable drugs – and provide pharmaceutical and medical supply advice.

In Medical Logistics, you could be based at a military Medical Distribution Centre, where you will supply units with medical equipment, supplies and medication or Headquarters Tactical Medical Wing, where you would be responsible for the maintenance, co-ordination and deployment of operational medical modules for deployed RAF medical teams.

In Training you will be responsible for delivering pharmacy and medical supply training to a wide range of Defence Medical Services personnel. You will also manage and train tri-Service Pharmacy Technicians.

Like most people in the RAF, you will probably be re-assigned every few years, and each job is known as a *tour*. There are opportunities for tours in both Primary Healthcare and Medical Logistics. On operations or exercises, you could perform your role in a deployed medical centre or hospital facility, or you may deploy in a tri-Service environment.

## TRANSFERABLE SKILLS:

The qualifications you can earn are as valuable in the civilian world as they are in the RAF. Your Continual Professional Development will keep you abreast of change and up to date with your civilian counterparts – this means that whenever you decide to leave the RAF, you will be well placed to find employment in pharmacy.

## REWARDS FROM RAF LIFE

- Competitive pay and pension
- Training and lifelong learning
- Six weeks paid leave and public holidays
- Free medical and dental care
- Subsidised food and accommodation
- Free gym and sports facilities
- Adventurous training opportunities

## RECRUIT TRAINING

Your career will start with a 10-week Basic Recruit Training Course at RAF Halton in Buckinghamshire. The course is designed to help you adjust to a military environment. As well as fitness and military training, you will also learn about the RAF lifestyle.

## Pharmacy Technician

## REGULAR ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

**Age:** 16–47\*

\*Must attest before 48th birthday. (If you are under 18 years of age, you will need consent from a parent or guardian before you apply however you may commence your application from 15 years and 9 months).

## SPECIALIST TRAINING

If you are joining with no qualifications as a Pharmacy Technician, your training will commence with a short induction visit to the Department of Pharmacy and Medical Supply (DPMS) at Defence Medical Academy (DMAcad) (Whittington) near Birmingham. You will then be detached to an NHS hospital pharmacy department to undergo a two-year course leading to the award of BTEC Level 3 Diploma in the Principles and Practice for Pharmacy Technicians.

## Qualifications:

You need at least 4 GCSEs at Grade C (Grade 4 to 5 with effect from Aug 17) or equivalent, including English Language, Mathematics and 2 Science subjects; or at least 4 SCE Standard Grades at Grade 2/Scottish National 5 (Grade A – C), including English, Mathematics and 2 Science subjects. Qualified Pharmacy Technicians must be registered as a Pharmacy Technician with the GPhC.

## SPECIALIST TRAINING

On successful completion the course you will return to DMAcad for a Professional Topics and Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP – the computer system used in RAF Medical Centres) course, a Blood Supply and Storage course and a medical supply course, which involves both practical and written assessments: followed by a 6-week placement in a medical stores environment. Finally, you will complete a 12-week Defence Primary Healthcare (DPHC) placement under the supervision of Senior Pharmacy Technician; you will then be given your first assignment. You will be required to complete a minimum Return of Service (RoS) of 3 years from the date you start productive Service.

## ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATION OPPORTUNITIES

You will also be required to complete a First Aid course at DMAcad within 12 months. If you are joining as a General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) Registered Pharmacy Technician, you will complete the First Aid course, the Professional Topics, DMICP and the Medical Supply course. You will also undertake the placements; after which you will receive your first assignment.

## ONGOING TRAINING/DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

As a Pharmacy Technician, there are extensive opportunities for continuous professional development throughout your career, including the chance to gain higher civilian professional qualifications. You can apply for funding for courses through the RAF Medical Services. This will assist you in completing and recording of your CPD entries as part of the mandatory registration process with the professional regulator the GPhC.

## YOUR FIRST TOUR

After training your first tour will be to a unit where you can consolidate your initial training and broaden your specialist knowledge. This is usually at a RAF managed DPHC Medical Centre.

## YOUR FUTURE CAREER PROSPECTS AND PROGRESSION:

After completing one year's total service and graduating from your training course you will be eligible for promotion to Senior Aircraftman Technician. Those already qualified will be promoted to Senior Aircraft Technician backdated to their second day in service. Further promotion to the rank of Corporal and Sergeant is on a time promotion basis.

**Pay:** Visit

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment/roles/roles-finder/medical-and-medical-support/pharmacy-technician>

**Selection:** You will be assessed on physical fitness and medical eligibility. You will also have to perform well at a specialist interview.

**Residency:** Whether or not you were born in the United Kingdom, you should have resided there for the 5 years immediately preceding your application but candidates with a minimum of 3 years will be considered.

**Nationality:** You must be a citizen of the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland, holder of dual UK/other nationality or have been a Commonwealth citizen since birth.

**A Modern Force:** The RAF recognises the value of a person's ability no matter their ethnicity, social background, religion or belief, gender identity, sexual orientation or marital status/civil partnership.



**Register your interest in this role:**

**Online:**

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment/roles/roles-finder/medical-and-medical-support/pharmacy-technician>

**or**

**Telephone:** 0345 605 5555

**To access the Trade Ambassador Network (TAN) Scheme and connect with a specialist in your local area, please contact**  
Air-Health-SO2 Med Cap Pers

This information was last updated in 03 Aug 21, but may have changed since. If you have any queries, please check with RAF Staff at any Armed Forces Careers Office.

**Search online for other trades both Regular and Reserve**  
<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment>



**NO  
ORDINARY  
JOB**