

CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY RESOURCES

It is important when choosing a degree to do your research to ensure you are making an informed decision. To get you started we have pulled together some resources. This resource list contains a variety of links, books and podcasts, which you may find useful when considering your next steps. This is by no means an exhaustive list and you are not required to review all of these suggestions. Choose instead what you are drawn to, or interested by, to help you to consider your future pathway.

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WHERE TO START? INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE:

What is Clinical Pharmacology?

The British Pharmacological Society (BPS) describes clinical pharmacology as a discipline which:

"...Encompasses all aspects of the relationship between drugs and humans. It is the only medical specialty in the NHS focusing on the safe, effective, and economic use of medicines. It is a diverse discipline that both sustains and advances best healthcare."



Clinical pharmacology is the science of designing and testing medicines for use in humans. Clinical pharmacologists work as the meeting point between the laboratory and clinic, developing laboratory discoveries into medicines and identifying clinical problems that need investigation in the laboratory.

UCAS

UCAS (The University College and Admissions Service) have a wealth of information and guidance to get you started on considering whether university is the right choice for you and, if so, what you might want to study.

You can read more over on the UCAS website here:

- 'How to choose the right undergraduate course for you'
<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/how-choose-right-undergraduate-course-you>
- 'Explore Portal'
<https://www.ucas.com/explore>

Prospects

Prospects provide insight into a range of different careers. On the below link you can find out more about pharmacology and what you can do with a pharmacology. also shares details of surrounding the different areas of pharmacology, exploring what students can do with their pharmacology degree.

- Pharmacologist - <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/pharmacology>

The British Pharmacological Society

The British Pharmacological Society (BPS) have a host of helpful information on their website about studying clinical pharmacology, include resources, career opportunities and the chance to discover more about what makes pharmacology unique.

You can check out some links from BPS here:

- What is clinical pharmacology - <https://www.bps.ac.uk/about/about-pharmacology/what-is-clinical-pharmacology>
- Studying pharmacology at University - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=efsKa37cU2M>
- Where can pharmacology take me: Clinical Pharmacology - <https://www.bps.ac.uk/careers-development/where-can-pharmacology-take-me/clinical-pharmacology>
- Work experience in Clinical Pharmacology - <https://www.bps.ac.uk/careers-in-pharmacology/a-level-and-college-student/how-can-i-find-work-experience>

BOOKS:

Here are some suggested books which you may find interesting to read in relation to pharmacology as a discipline and area of study.

Bad Science

by Ben Goldacre (2008)

Each chapter explores a different aspect of science and dives deeper into unwrapping and interrogating it.

Bad Pharma: How Medicine is Broken, and How We Can Fix It

by Ben Goldacre (2013)

An investigation into the tricks and nuances used to distort science within the pharmaceutical industry.

I Think You'll Find it's a Bit More Complicated Than That

by Ben Goldacre (2014)

A collection of some of Ben Goldacre's weekly articles in the Guardian, this book focuses on debunking misinformation surrounding health and science.

Ten Drugs: How Plants, Powders, and Pills Have Shaped the History of Medicine

by Thomas Hager (2019)

An exploration of ten drugs which have supported and informed the evolution of our culture and the practice of medicine, ranging from opium to aspirin, and antibiotics to antipsychotics.

Drugs: A Very Short Introduction

by Les Iversen (2016)

This book gives a non-technical overview of how drugs work in the body, reviewing both legal and illegal drugs.

Chemistry for Breakfast: The Amazing Science of Everyday Life

by Mai Thi Nguyen-Kim (2022)

Provides insight into chemistry, and how it plays such a key role in our everyday lives, through relatable and realistic examples.

The Billion-Dollar Molecule: The Quest for the Perfect Drug

by Barry Werth (1995)

This book follows the exploration of finding a drug to cure AIDs in an American biotechnology company, Vertex Pharmaceuticals. Vertex Pharmaceuticals was the first of its kind to adopt an explicit strategy of rational drug design, rather than combinatorial chemistry.

PODCASTS:

Here are some suggested podcast which explore various scientific and health related topics.

BBC Inside Health

A series which explores health issues, including health advice and demystifies the myths and inaccuracies in health advice.

You can visit the Inside Health podcast webpage here:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b019dl1b>

BBC Inside Science

A programme which seeks to explore topical scientific issues including exploring how these are changing and affecting our world.

You can visit the Inside Science podcast webpage here:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b036f7w2>

Case Notes

In Case Notes, Dr Mark Porter takes deep dives into a different topic each week, speaking to medical professionals, patients and researchers.

You can visit the Case Notes webpage here:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006th1n>

The Lancet: In Conversation With

In this podcast editors and journal authors who contribute to The Lancet discuss their research in relation to areas such as the impact on healthcare, global health and individual's health.

You can visit The Lancet: In Conversation With podcast webpage here:

- <https://www.thelancet.com/in-conversation-with>

The Lancet Voice

A fortnightly podcast where The Lancet editors, alongside guests, explore key stories and journal highlights, around global health, policy, and clinical research stories. Episodes also include interviews with the authors of key articles, peer-reviewed research, and reviews to provide insight and context medical and health advances worldwide.

You can visit The Lancet Voice podcast webpage here:

- <https://www.thelancet.com/the-lancet-voice>

TV SHOWS:

Here are some suggested tv shows which explore various scientific and health related topics.

Horizon (BBC)

A BBC's series exploring science stories, unravelling mysteries, and exploring a variety of scientific topics in greater detail. The show can be accessed on the BBC webpage here:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006mgxf>

The Pharmacist (Netflix)

An American true crime documentary which explores the opioid and OxyContin epidemic in the USA, including the illegal production of the drug and its impact on communities.

ST GEORGE'S, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON:

Widening Participation:

Universities will often have a dedicated widening participation team who aim to support students who are typically underrepresented in higher education through running various sessions and activities, whilst being on hand to answer questions. There are also various organisations with similar widening participation goals who provide support to students. Due to the nature of widening participation, programmes will likely have

specific criteria you need to meet. It is worth researching what universities, and organisations, might have available.

At St George's we run a variety of information sessions, webinars, and virtual work experience programmes for eligible students. The best way to find out more about what we have available is by visiting our widening participation (WP) webpages and signing up to receive pre-application support.

- St Georges, University of London WP – <https://www.sgul.ac.uk/study/widening-participation>
- Pre-application support at St Georges* – <https://forms.office.com/r/y8yPLAuPFr>

*Please note, you need to meet certain eligibility criteria to be eligible to receive pre-application support. This is further detailed on our website and also in the pre-application support form.

Clinical Pharmacology BSc at St George's:

We also have a lots of information about our Clinical Pharmacology BSc course available via our website:

- Clinical Pharmacology BSc at St George's, University of London (Brochure) - <https://www.sgul.ac.uk/study/documents/Clinical-Pharmacology-careers-brochure.pdf>
- Clinical Pharmacology BSc at St George's, University of London <https://www.sgul.ac.uk/study/courses/clinical-pharmacology>

You can also find out more about the kind of content you can expect from our course by watching our recent taster lectures, which can be accessed via YouTube:

- Lifesaving drugs: 24 hours in A&E <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4t1PeFySh6E>

UniBuddy:

We know that sometimes the best person to answer your question is a current student. That's why you can chat to some of our students at St George's to ask them questions directly via Unibuddy here:

- Chat to our Students – <https://www.sgul.ac.uk/study/chat-to-our-students>

Please note, you need to be aged 16 or over to use this chat function.

