



Pharmaceutical Officer

As an Army Pharmacist, you will conduct a range of pharmacy tasks in a variety of environments. In the field, you may deploy to support Army health units, Army personnel or deploy with maritime health capabilities.

Additional Information

IN BRIEF

Australian Army Pharmacists you would serve in a range of opportunities and health units. As a Pharmacist in the Army many of your duties will be familiar to civilian functions, such as dispensary services, stock control and the management of medical equipment, materiel and consumables. The location of your pharmacy could be anywhere from a well-resourced clinic to the site of a natural disaster overseas or supporting troops on exercise/operational deployments. During your career you may also serve on maritime health capabilities (maritime pharmacy capabilities). Part of your training will include familiarisation of the Army logistics system and components, enabling you to understand how supply of pharmaceuticals and other classes of supply are provided to ADF members.

LIFESTYLE

Life in the Army is rich and rewarding. Your work could take you across Australia and even overseas. You'll have memorable experiences such as joining disaster-relief missions and participating in combat operations. You will gain skills and confidence in a supportive team environment and make friends for life. You'll also have access to extensive sport and leisure facilities ensuring a good work/life balance.

Army also provides selected Pharmacy Officers to the Royal Australian Navy Landing Heavy Dock (LHD) ship capabilities. Army Pharmacists selected for these appointments would serve based out of Sydney (Garden Island). Pharmacy Officers selected for this type of appointment are experienced radiographers who normally have served time in Brisbane and gained experience and additional skills. Members posted to RAN capabilities may expect to be at sea for extended periods of time supporting exercises, regional activities and potential operational deployments.

TRAINING

You'll join the Army as an undergraduate or a qualified pharmacist. Either way you will go on to receive world-class leadership training plus opportunities for professional development. Fitness training will also be a part of your job, as you'll need to be in good physical shape to carry out your duties safely and effectively. Click on the Training links below for more detailed information.

WHAT YOU COULD EARN

In the Army you'll receive a competitive salary, generous Superannuation and an excellent range of benefits. You get paid from the day you start training and your salary will increase with rank and experience.

PHARMACEUTICAL OFFICERS

can earn over
\$73,300 p.a.

on completion of initial employment training. This salary includes Uniform and Service allowances and applies to full time Officer entry.

Job Details

Undergraduate, Graduate

The Australian Army employs male and female qualified pharmacists in clinical and medical logistics (administrative or staff) roles.

These officers form part of the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps (RAAMC).

Main Job Functions:

During your service you can expect a wide variety of employments, such as health centre or hospital dispensary duties, supervision of pharmaceutical accounts, ordering and stock policy management of pharmaceuticals, as well as management of medical equipment and related consumables.

Whilst posted to a field unit, Army Pharmacists are responsible for the Medical Logistics and may deploy with their units into remote areas. You may also be involved in general military duties such as Officers Mess appointments and Duty Officer tasks.

As an Army Pharmacist (full time) you may also be posted with other Army allied health personnel to work on board Royal Australian Navy ships. Your responsibilities would be similar to a shore based health clinic, but would have the added diversity of experiences at sea (for exercises and deployments).

Graduate (Reserve)

The Australian Army employs qualified pharmacists in clinical and medical logistics (administrative) roles. These officers form part of the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps (RAAMC).

During your service you can expect a wide variety of employments, such as hospital dispensary duties, supervision of pharmaceutical accounts, ordering and stock policy management of pharmaceuticals, as well as management of medical equipment and related consumables.

Entry

Graduate

If you are in your final year of study - or you are already a degree qualified professional - and you are looking for a job that offers satisfaction, excitement and a challenge, and the opportunity to utilise and further develop your management and leadership skills, then you may wish to consider a career as an Officer (Graduate Only) in the Australian Regular Army. On appointment as an Officer (Graduate Only) in the Army, you will complete the Specialist Service Officer First Appointment Course at the Royal Military College Duntroon, ACT. This initial officer course consists of two modules, Foundation Skills and Basic Officer Skills, completed as one block of training.

Undergraduate

The Australian Regular Army has a continuing need for undergraduates studying for professional and technical vocations. This need is partly met by the Undergraduate Scheme, and partly by the Graduate Entry Scheme.

The Undergraduate Scheme appoints selected tertiary students as Commissioned Officers and they are sponsored to complete their studies.

In addition to the payment of a salary while studying, the Undergraduate Scheme provides for tuition fees, Student Contribution Charges, library and examination fees and the provision of textbooks.

Note: Full-fee paying students can apply for Army Undergraduate Scheme and GMS entry; however sponsorship funding is limited to the equivalent of full time student contribution band rate for a Commonwealth Supported Place (HECS) only. The remainder of the cost of a full-fee degree is the member's responsibility.

If you have further questions about the sponsorship or about life as a Medical Officer in the ADF, get in touch with a member from the Specialist Health team via email: healthjobs@dfr.com.au

Graduate (Reserve)

If you are in your final year of study - or you are already a degree qualified professional - and you are looking for a job that offers satisfaction, excitement and a challenge, then you may wish to consider a career as a Specialist Service Officer (Graduate Only) in the Australian Army Reserve. The Army Reserve will also provide you with the opportunity to utilise and further develop your management and leadership skills.

Specialist Service Officers are enlisted direct to their unit and are required to complete the Specialist Service Officer First Appointment Course (SSO FAC) which is described in the 'Military Training' section.

Further information on part-time ADF careers can be found by accessing the [Defence Reserves Support Council website](#).

The Council promotes the benefits of Reserve service by establishing partnerships with the community and employers.

The following link has information on the [Army Reserve SSO Tier Matrix](#).

Pay & Allowances

Graduate

Salary on appointment will be \$60,443 per year.*

Uniform Allowance at a rate of \$682 per year is paid to assist members to maintain an approved scale of uniforms in good order and condition.

In addition to your salary, you will also receive Service Allowance of \$13,717 per year except while undertaking Academic, Military (Initial) or Employment training. This allowance compensates a member for the unique requirements that service life may impose on an individual and his or her family.

Salary will continue to increase based on rank and the number of years of service completed in that rank. Refer to the [Salary Scales](#) for further details.

* Please note that these figures do not include compulsory deductions for taxation; meals, accommodation and utilities (as applicable); or superannuation.

Undergraduate

With 4 years to graduation: \$31,215 per year.*

With 3 years to graduation: \$36,891 per year.*

With 2 years to graduation: \$42,566 per year.*

In final year: \$48,242 per year.*

To assist you in maintaining your uniforms in good order and condition, you will receive a Uniform Allowance of \$419 per year. This increases to \$682 per year after commissioning.

Salary (excluding allowances) on completion of military and employment training will be: \$60,443 per year.*

In addition to your salary, you will also receive Service Allowance of \$13,717 per year except while undertaking Academic, Military (Initial) or Employment training. This allowance compensates a member for the unique requirements that service life may impose on an individual and his or her family.

Your salary will continue to increase based on your rank and the number of years of service completed in that rank. Your pay grade may increase following the acquisition of additional skills and completion of further training. Refer to the [Salary Scales](#) for further details.

Trainees with dependants may be entitled to Trainee's Dependant Allowance which is paid to enable trainees with dependants to receive a salary not less than \$46,448 per year while training. Conditions apply. Speak to your Careers Counsellor for details.

* **Note:** These figures do not include compulsory deductions for taxation; meals, accommodation and utilities (as applicable); or superannuation.

Graduate (Reserve)

Fully qualified graduates are appointed as a LT and are paid a daily rate of \$165.60 tax free.

In addition to your salary, a Reserve Allowance of \$28.19 per day is payable to compensate for the unique demands of Reserve Service.

Your salary will continue to increase based on your rank and the number of years of service completed in that rank. Your pay grade may increase following the acquisition of additional skills and completion of further training.

Refer to the [Salary Scales](#) for further details.

General Requirements

Age Requirement

Graduate

The maximum age for entry is such that an applicant must be able to complete their Return of Service Obligation prior to compulsory retirement age (normally 60 years of age).

Undergraduate

The maximum age for entry is such that an applicant must be able to complete their degree and their Return of Service Obligation incurred under the Scheme prior to compulsory retirement age (normally 60 years of age).

Applicants are to have reached 18 years at the date of application for Undergraduate.

Graduate (Reserve)

Applicants must be aged between 17 and 60 years of age inclusive on entry.

Citizenship Requirement

Only Australian Citizens are permitted to serve in the ADF.

If you are a permanent resident of Australia, the ADF may consider a temporary waiver of the citizenship requirement if the position for which you are applying cannot be filled by an applicant who meets all the citizenship requirements, and then only in exceptional circumstances. You will be required to obtain Australian Citizenship as early as possible following enlistment or appointment.

Find out more in our [Recruitment Centre](#) or ask your local Defence Force Recruiting Centre.

Security Requirement

The Department of Defence requires ADF employees to have security clearances appropriate to their employment.

A process of background checks, collection of relevant information and, as required, interviews, enables the Australian Government Security Vetting Agency to make an informed assessment of an applicant's suitability for a security clearance.

The minimum security clearance level required is Negative Vetting Level 1, and current policy requires applicants to have a checkable background for the previous 10 years. Required information includes:

- Residence
- Employment

- Education
- Credit

Australian Citizenship is a requirement for a security clearance and a clearance will only be granted to a non-citizen in exceptional circumstances.

Aptitude Requirement

The application process to join the Australian Defence Force requires you to complete a series of aptitude tests which may include verbal, spatial and numerical ability and a general maths test. Some jobs may also require you to complete additional testing at a later date.

Psychology support staff will explain what is involved with each test.

The aptitude tests provide information about your suitability for the Defence Force and for particular jobs. Defence Force Recruiting can then help you identify jobs that best match your abilities.

Further information on the aptitude testing requirements can be found [here](#).

Education & Experience

Graduate, Graduate (Reserve)

Applicants must possess the appropriate degree in pharmacy from a recognised tertiary institution and be registered with any of the Australian Pharmacy Registration Boards or undergoing pre-registration training.

Undergraduate

Undergraduate sponsorship applicants must have completed at least 1 year of a 3 or 4 year degree; at least 2 years of a 5 year degree majoring in Pharmacy from a recognised tertiary institution which will enable registration with any of the Australian Pharmacy Registration Boards.

You may apply for undergraduate sponsorship after successfully completing the first semester of your first year of university studies. However, entry will be conditional upon successfully completing your first year of tertiary studies.

Medical & Fitness Requirements

Undergraduate, Graduate

To be enlisted or appointed, you must be medically and physically fit for entry to your chosen occupation. This is partially assessed from the completion of an extensive questionnaire covering your medical history, followed by a physical examination.

You will also be required to successfully pass a physical fitness test before appointment.

For further details on medical and physical fitness standards refer to [Physical Fitness Standards for Entry into the ADF](#) and [Medical Process for Entry into the ADF](#).

Graduate (Reserve)

To be appointed, you must be medically and physically fit for entry to your chosen occupation. This is partially assessed from the completion of an extensive questionnaire covering your medical history, followed by a physical examination.

You will also be required to successfully pass a physical fitness test before your appointment.

For further details on medical and physical fitness standards refer to [Physical Fitness Standards for Entry into the](#)

ADF and Medical Process for Entry into the ADF.

Period of Service

Graduate

You will be appointed for an Initial Minimum Period of Service (IMPS) of three years. Subsequent periods of service may be offered subject to the requirements of the ADF and your suitability for further service. You may tender your resignation at any time provided you do not have an outstanding Initial Minimum Period of Service obligation.

Your Careers Counsellor can advise on how IMPS will relate to your chosen occupation.

Undergraduate

Undergraduates will be appointed for an Initial Minimum Period of Service equalling the length of sponsorship, times two, plus an additional 365 days.

Graduate (Reserve)

Pharmaceutical Officers enlisted into the Army Reserve may undertake volunteer service until the age of 65 (Compulsory Retiring Age), subject to the requirements of the Army and suitability for further service. Members may transfer out of the active Army Reserve at any time.

Military Training

Graduate, Undergraduate, Graduate (Reserve)

The Specialist Service Officer Course is conducted at the Royal Military College - Duntroon and provides Regular and Reserve Force Specialist Service Officers with fundamental knowledge of leadership, command and control, unit and personnel administration, basic military skills and the ideals of officer behaviour and attitudes necessary for future employment.

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The ARA course is 42 days of training and currently conducted in the first half of the training year. The ARES course is conducted in the latter half of the year and consists of three modules. Module One is 9 days, Module Two is 16 days and Module Three is 16 days. Depending on your tiering you may only be required to complete one, two or all three modules before being deemed competent for employment as an SSO.

ARES SSO Tiering Matrix.

During RMC (Military Training) members may be required to pay a contribution towards meals, accommodation and utilities.

Physical Fitness Levels

All trainees attending training at RMC are required to participate in an Initial Fitness Assessment (IFA) on arrival at RMC.

Ares SSOs must complete IFA for both modules. This is an entry level requirement for all courses conducted at RMC. The IFA is based on a shuttle run, push ups and sit ups and is designed to determine whether trainees are at the minimum required standard to complete training at RMC. Due to the unique nature of training at RMC, trainees who do not demonstrate the base line levels of the assessment may be withdrawn from training and RTU. If you do not pass the IFA, you will be medically reviewed by the RMC Medical Officer and you will be advised if you are able to continue with training.

For further details on physical fitness standards refer to **Physical Fitness Standards for Entry into the ADF.**

Employment Training

Undergraduate, Graduate

Logistic Officers Basic Course: 3 Weeks

After training at RMC, you will attend the Logistic Officers Basic course at the School of Army Health, ALTC Bonegilla, Victoria. This course will provide you with the necessary training and information to apply your professional skills in a military environment.

Further Training

Graduate

A career as a Pharmacist offers variety and challenges in employment and travel not always available in the normal hospital or pharmacy environment. You will gain experience and skills that will be in high demand in your profession.

Employment Location

Undergraduate, Graduate

On appointment as a Pharmacist you will usually be posted to a Military or Field (Mobile) hospital in the commissioned rank of Lieutenant. Other areas of initial employment may include Medical Companies and Medical Supply Depots.

You could expect to remain in this posting for one to four years.

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