

Image

# Pharmaceutical Officer

As an Army Pharmacist, you'll handle a wide range of pharmaceutical tasks. In the field, you'll look after medical logistics and may deploy with your units into remote areas.

## Job Details

### Undergraduate, Graduate

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

#### Main Job Functions:

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.

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.

### Graduate (Reserve)

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

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 already a degree qualified professional, and 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) each of 16 days duration but 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 are not eligible for sponsorship under the Army Undergraduate Scheme.

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](mailto:healthjobs@dfr.com.au)

## **Graduate (Reserve)**

If you are already a degree qualified professional, and 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.

## **Pay & Allowances**

### **Graduate**

Salary on appointment will be \$56,953 per year (\$2,184 per fortnight).\*

Uniform Allowance at a rate of \$682 per year (\$26 per fortnight) 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 \$12,924 per year (\$496 per fortnight) 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: \$29,413 per year (\$1,129 per fortnight).\*

With 3 years to graduation: \$34,761 per year (\$1,334 per fortnight).\*

With 2 years to graduation: \$40,109 per year (\$1,539 per fortnight).\*

In final year: \$45,457 per year (\$1,744 per fortnight).\*

To assist you in maintaining your uniforms in good order and condition, you will receive a Uniform Allowance of \$419 per year (\$16 per fortnight). This increases to \$682 per year (\$26 per fortnight) after commissioning.

Salary (excluding allowances) on completion of military and employment training will be:

\$56,953 per year (\$2,184 per fortnight).\*

In addition to your salary, you will also receive Service Allowance of \$12,924 per year (\$496 per fortnight) 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 \$43,766 per year (\$1,679 per fortnight) while training. Conditions apply. Speak to your Careers Counselor for details.

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

### **Graduate (Reserve)**

While undergoing Initial Officer Training, degree qualified trainees receive \$108.35 per day.

On completion of Military Training, daily rates of pay for degree qualified Reserve Force Officers commence at \$140.44 per day.

In addition to your salary, a Reserve Allowance of \$13.15 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**

Must be aged between 17 and 56 years inclusive on date of entry.

#### **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).

#### **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.

More information on citizenship requirements and the citizenship waiver process is available from the [Recruitment Centre](#) and your local Defence Force Recruiting Centre.

## Security Requirement

- Full Time
- Reserve

The Department of Defence requires ADF entrants to obtain a security clearance appropriate to their avenue of entry.

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

Current policy requires applicants for this particular avenue of entry to have lived in Australia for the preceding 10 years, or have a checkable background for this period.

## Aptitude Requirement

The application process to join the Australian Defence Force requires you to complete a series of aptitude tests including 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 enlistment.

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](#).

In exceptional circumstances, based on Service needs, candidates for Army Reserve Specialist Service Officer (Professional Qualification) may be able to undertake the Basic Fitness Assessment (**BFA**). The BFA consists of a 2.4 km run/walk or 5km walk (only applicable to some members), push-ups and sit-ups. The standard required will be determined by your age.

## **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 plus an additional 365 days.

### **Graduate (Reserve)**

All candidates who are appointed or 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)**

#### **Specialist Service Officer First Appointment Course**

The Specialist Service Officer First Appointment Course (SSO FAC) aims to prepare specialist officers (both ARA and ARes) to perform their specialist role within the Army. The course currently consists of two modules: Foundation Skills and Basic Officer Skills.

All SSOs are required to complete the Foundation Skills Module (16 days) in order to graduate.

#### **Foundation Skills Module**

The aim of the Foundation Skills Module is to introduce SSOs to service life and individual foundation skills. The module is 16 days in duration and trainees are instructed in weapon handling, personal routine in the field, first aid, service communications equipment, drill, and military customs and ethics.

For ARes members, the Foundation Skills Module may also be delivered by agents external to [Royal Military College](#) (RMC-D), but within the RMC-A formation (ie: University Regiments).

## **Basic Officer Skills Module**

The aim of the Basic Officer Skills Module is to provide SSOs with the essential command, leadership and management skills required of an officer. The module is 16 days in duration and is conducted in barracks at RMC-D. Trainees are instructed in command, leadership and management theory, service discipline law, communications, the Defence organisation, personnel administration, risk management, customs and traditions, and basic operations.

One of the underpinning themes of this module is the development of the trainee's officer qualities. In order to best identify with the officer environment, the trainee needs to spend time living in the environment. Consequently, this module has been designed for delivery by RMC-D at Duntroon. It is not suitable for delivery at external locations.

### **Assessment**

Assessment of SSOs is conducted by practical and theory examinations plus observation reports. Some assessments are deemed critical and as such are barriers to progress to further training. A trainee must be competent in the critical assessments and have no more than one Not Yet Competent (NYC) recorded for the remaining assessments IOT progress to the next module of training. A Record of Attainment (ROA) is issued for each module of the course.

### **Physical Fitness Levels**

Physical fitness is an important part of SSO training. Trainees are to complete an Initial Fitness Assessment (IFA) on arrival at RMC-D. The purpose of the IFA is to confirm that the trainee is capable of undertaking field and related training during the course. Trainees failing this assessment will be required to undergo an immediate medical examination to determine if they should proceed in training.

Trainees undertaking the Basic Module are required to pass a Physical Fitness Assessment. Trainees failing this assessment will be recorded Not Yet Competent (NYC) on their Record Of Attainment and are required to pass a standard PFA in their posted unit within six months.

### **ARA and ARes Attendance**

ARA SSOs will be required to attend the Foundation and Basic Modules as one block of training. ARes SSOs must complete the Foundation Module, and may later attend the Basic Module if required.

The SSO FAC is undertaken on completion of academic studies and in your first year of posting. Currently the SSO FAC is scheduled to commence in April and September each year.

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

## **Employment Training**

### **Undergraduate, Graduate**

Regimental Officers Basic Course: 4 Weeks

After training at RMC, you will attend the Regimental 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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