

FIND *your* FUTURE**Name:** Doyin Agbonin**Job title:** Medical Information Manager**Current employer:** Vertex Pharmaceuticals**Course studied at UCL:** Pharmacy, MPharm

What is the core purpose of your role and its typical activities? What are the goals of your organisation?

The core purpose of my role is to support the medical information (MI) team in order to deliver an efficient and effective MI service for the countries in the International region.

My typical activities include:

- Responding to MI enquiries
- Creating regional MI guidance documents, processes and working practices
- Creating and managing medical content
- Supporting product launches in the international region
- Writing reports on metrics and enquiry trends
- Co-ordinating medical field insights meetings within the medical affairs team
- Supporting with MI conference booth planning

Vertex is a global biotechnology company and their overall mission is to discover transformative medicines to help people with serious diseases like cystic fibrosis.

What sort of person would this role suit? (i.e. personal skills, qualities and values)

This role would best suit someone with good interpersonal skills and those that can work within a dynamic and team-based environment. Someone with excellent organisational and time management skills, as well

as those with good written and verbal communication skills, will excel in this role. If you are able to understand technical, scientific and medical information, this would also be ideal.

What are the best aspects of your work and what are the most challenging?

The best aspects of my work are liaising with a wide range of people across the organisation, as well as specialist healthcare professionals when necessary. Another great aspect of my job is knowing that I'm contributing positively to improve the lives of those with a serious and rare disease, with most sufferers being children.

As I was initially new to the pharmaceutical industry, the most challenging aspect was adapting to the new environment. However, everyone has been so helpful and I'm learning so much, so I see this more as a positive aspect.

What kind of people and clients do you work with?

Internally, I work and collaborate with various departments across the organisation, such as regulatory, clinical operations and corporate communications. Externally I liaise frequently with health care professionals and researchers who have medical information queries

How did you get to where you are now? Are there typical 'entry' routes into your profession for new graduates? Are additional qualifications desirable or required?

After completing my degree at UCL, I undertook pre-registration training at an NHS hospital, before then qualifying as a pharmacist. After qualifying, I worked briefly at my Trust and then decided to apply for a role in industry.

Those in my department often have a degree and/or background in life sciences or healthcare. Any additional qualifications in this field are desirable, but not always necessary.

On reflection, what aspects of your UCL degree do you feel were of particular benefit in securing graduate work and in carrying out your current responsibilities?

My UCL pharmacy degree provided me with foundational knowledge of the pharmaceutical industry and gave me an in-depth understanding of medicines and their use. This knowledge proved paramount in my pre-registration training as well as in my current role.

How should current students go about getting the necessary skills and practical experience to help them with their future applications to your sector (e.g. internships, training courses)?

I would recommend applying to internships within the pharmaceutical industry in order to gain insight into the field. Networking is a great way to find roles too! Using LinkedIn is good not just as a means to connect, but also as a way to be inspired- you see a variety of different people's career paths and are able to use this platform to connect and ask them more questions.

Also, undertaking free online courses is an excellent way to develop your understanding about the industry and shows employers that you have a genuine interest and a keen desire to learn more.

Do you have any final advice for current students?

Don't be afraid to apply for something new or a role that is out of your comfort zone; if it's something you really want to do, then pursue it and don't let the fear of rejection or failure hold you back. Be persistent and ask loads of questions - there's no such thing as a silly question!