



THE SCHOOL of
HERBAL MEDICINE
'continuing a living tradition'

The School of Herbal Medicine

School Address:

28 Angel Crescent
Bridgwater
Somerset
TA6 3EW

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17 Washington Gardens
Bridgwater
Somerset
TA6 7AE



PROSPECTUS 2026/27

*For enquiries that are not covered on our website or prospectus
our Admissions Officer can be contacted at:*

info@schoolofherbalmedicine.co.uk

www.schoolofherbalmedicine.co.uk

Introduction to the School of Herbal Medicine

The School of Herbal Medicine opened in September 2015. Work began on creating the School 17 years ago, and each year saw us move closer to our goal. The School of Herbal Medicine was founded by dedicated professional herbalists to provide a high level of training. We aim to ensure the continuation of the venerable tradition of herbal medicine by combining the knowledge gained over the centuries with the best in modern science.

We are committed to creating a safe and inclusive learning environment, where both students and staff feel supported. We welcome enquiries from students from all backgrounds and circumstances, and we recognise that people have a variety of life experiences and needs. We aim to support each student to fulfil their potential and we will therefore strive to make reasonable adjustment to be fully inclusive.

Our mission is to deliver world-class teaching - educating our students to become safe, competent, confident Medical Herbalists always striving to extend their knowledge and practice.

What is Herbal Medicine?

Herbal medicine is the oldest form of healing known to humanity, using plant remedies to treat the whole person. There is a vast treasury of herbs available to us, from huge trees to delicate plants, fungi, lichen, and mosses. Depending on the requirements of a patient, herbs can be prescribed in several formats including fresh, dried, tinctured, powdered, as plasters etc. The skill of the Medical Herbalist is to select the right combination of herbs from the huge plethora available to support and boost their patient's healing mechanisms, strengthening the body, restoring harmony and health, and then maintaining well-being.

Modern herbal medicine utilizes both a scientific and traditional approach to the application of plant medicine in the treatment of ill health.

Today, over a quarter of current pharmaceutical drugs prescribed by GPs are derived from plants.

Why Train to be a Medical Herbalist?

A Herbalist is one of the oldest professions in the world and it is one of the most satisfying jobs you can have.

Your career will range from helping people with very serious illnesses to growing and making medicines. This range of activities span from continued academic learning to horticultural and ecology.

Herbalism is a system of medicine which is used by 80% of the world today and in this time of antibiotic resistance, Herbal Medicine is more relevant than ever.

Western Herbal Medicine has continued as a practice since classical times up to the present day.



The Herbal Medicine Course

The School endeavors to produce competent, knowledgeable, and confident herbal practitioners and will especially suit students who thrive in a classroom environment rather than online learning.

The course takes 6 years to complete because it consists of core medical modules plus knowledge about the herbs and herbal therapeutics.

The school is actively working towards course accreditation with the EHTPA. At the end of 6 years students will gain a Level 6 Advanced Diploma in Herbal Medicine.

This is a rigorous academic course which is equivalent to an undergraduate degree and requires the same amount of study time; Students need to realistically assess their available time and have a strong sense of commitment for the hard work that it will involve. Full-time commitment is assessed at least 20 hours of study a week.

The academic year runs from September to July. Compulsory seminars are held one weekend a month together with a 5-day Spring school, held around the Easter period. Exams are held in July.

Students can take up to 6 modules per year. It is appreciated that not everyone will want to study 6 modules in a year; these students can therefore choose to take between 3 and 6 modules annually and thus work at their own pace.

All the modules are carefully and fully integrated to build and reinforce learning in a logical and coherent manner. The course is built around the blended learning model whereby students receive comprehensive study guides for each module that they are taking along with 4 seminars per year per module taken - this means that those studying the full 6 modules will be timetabled for 24 seminars per academic year. Seminars are held in Bridgwater, Somerset and **attendance at all taught sessions is compulsory.**

One of our strengths is that none of our content is delivered online. Face-to-face learning fosters direct interaction, immediate feedback, and personal engagement, which enhance comprehension and retention. It cultivates social skills through collaborative activities and discussions. The presence of instructors and fellow students provides a structured environment, promotes a focused, supportive learning atmosphere.

The Syllabus

By the end of the course, successful students should be able to conduct professional consultations with patients taking case histories and conducting relevant physical examinations, to give a differential diagnosis, to prescribe effective herbal treatment and offer suitable dietary and lifestyle advice. Furthermore, they will be able to recognise and wildcraft the plants they need, and to grow and harvest their own herbs, using their pharmacy skills to prepare them for use by their patients. Qualifying herbalists will, in addition, possess the necessary tools to further their clinical, botanical, and practical studies to enhance their own knowledge and to develop themselves within this vocation.

Level 4	
Year 1 Pharmacy 1 Anatomy & Physiology 1 Materia Medica 1 Pharmacognosy Botany Cell Biology	Year 2 Pharmacy 2 Anatomy & Physiology 2 Materia Medica 2 History of Herbal Medicine Nutrition Phytochemistry
Level 5	
Year 3 Clinical Medicine 1 Clinical Practice 1 Clinical Skills 1 Humoral Medicine Herbal Therapeutics 1 Immunology	Year 4 Clinical Medicine 2 Clinical Practice 2 Clinical Skills 2 Infectious Diseases Herbal Therapeutics 2 Life cycle
Level 6	
Year 5 Clinical Medicine 3 Clinical Practice 3 Clinical Skills 3 Integrated Medicine Schedule 20s Dissertation	Year 6 Clinical Medicine 4 Clinical Practice 4 Clinical Skills 4 Mushrooms & Seaweeds Public Health & Hygiene Gemmotherapy

Attendance for taught sessions is two days a month for 11 months of the year and a five-day school around Springtime with exams in July. Students are required to follow our comprehensive study guides and complete written assignments. During their final 4 years students also need to complete a minimum of 500 hours of clinical training. All students complete a dissertation in year 5 and pass a Final Clinical Examination (FCE) in their final year.

Years 3 and 4 have an extra 9 days a year, and Years 5 & 6 an extra 16 days a year to cover clinical training. Please be aware that this course involves a **significant time commitment**.

Course Fees

The cost of each module is £535, meaning the full-time study option of 6 modules per year costs £3180 or pro-rata if fewer modules are taken. This covers all costs including study guides, lectures, the Spring School, clinic hours and exam fees, there are no hidden additional costs. This is payable in advance or monthly by standing order.

Benefits of accepting a place at the School of Herbal Medicine

A place on this course will enable you to pursue the time-honoured vocation of a medical herbalist. You will be following in the footsteps of some of the greatest of our ancestors; Hippocrates, Dioscorides, Avicenna, Galen, St Luke, and Hildegard, were all herbalists. You will be contributing to the well-being of humanity and nature within the context of our modern world, in a practice which is sustainable and ethical. We aim to provide a nurturing and supportive atmosphere, as we understand that you will be embarking upon an arduous yet rewarding journey. We take the task of teaching extremely seriously, and students will not be left to struggle by themselves if they encounter difficulties.

This course offers the benefits of regular seminars, yet you will not be required to be on campus every day, which will be helpful for those working or caring for dependents. The study guides have been developed as stand-alone modules to enable effective home study, and our aim is to make your experience of studying and practicing herbal medicine joyful and inspirational.

Entrance Requirements

Our Advanced Diploma course contains a great deal of science, and you will therefore be required to have obtained at least 5 GCSEs. In addition, successful candidates should have studies at A level or equivalent or complete a Science Access Course. Each student will be assessed on a case-by-case basis for their suitability. We require a high level of commitment from our students as our course involves hard work as the content is academically rigorous.

Fitness to practice and disability – The School welcomes applications from all students, including those with disabilities or long-term physical or mental health conditions. No diagnosis or disability prevents admission. However, students must be able to meet the core requirements of training with appropriate support and management in place. Our current building has some physical limitations, including stair access, which may present challenges for certain mobility-related needs. We recommend that prospective students visit the School before applying to assess whether the environment is suitable for them, and where barriers exist, we will work with applicants to identify reasonable adjustments or alternative arrangements to ensure safe and equitable participation.

Fitness to practice and the use of the English Language – Students must be able to communicate effectively in the English language. It is particularly vital for patient safety that students can speak English to a level whereby they can take a detailed case history, understand, and respond to patients and communicate with colleagues clearly. (Written English is noted in assessing written course work, case notes and journals)



Pharmacognosy

Seminars

Seminar days start at 9am and end at 5pm. During the Seminars there will be an hour's lunchtime. We consider this to be a key time as this provides ample opportunity for our students and staff to talk over any issues they may have, to continue interesting discussions begun during tutorials, or just to get to know each other better. The location is in the centre of Bridgwater, with cafés and shops within easy walking distance. Accommodation can be found at HOST Sedgemoor Campus and this is an easy walk to Angel Crescent with free parking. We can supply a map of other free parking in the town. The School has a growing library with books available for the students to borrow.



Making Herbaria in Pharmacognosy

Training Clinic

The school has a training clinic located in the same building as the Seminars and is run as a service to the local community. The clinic is always supervised by fully qualified medical herbalists. The School Training Clinic offers the opportunity to observe and take patients, practice physical examinations, learn and practice dispensing with the aim of allowing students to learn all aspects of running a successful Herbal Medicine Practice after passing their Final Clinical Examination.



The training clinic has its own pharmacy, and whilst some medicines will be bought from herbal suppliers, the focus of the pharmacy is to get students to make the school's own medicines. In addition, our vision is to stock the pharmacy with local wild crafted medicinal herbs which have been dried or used fresh, made into tinctures, infused in oil, made into creams and ointments and any other medicinal compound you can imagine. Students will be encouraged to research old ways of making medicines, from pills to poultices, and be allowed to have a go at making and using them. We anticipate that our students will want to know how herbal medicines were constructed and how they were expected to work. We will expect students to do research in this area and come up with some interesting results.

The Dispensary



Using ceramic alembics in Pharmacy



The Staff

Maggie Pope

Principal

Halina Przydatek

Vice-Principal

Materia Medica Year 1

Clinical Practice 4

Christina Stapley

History of Herbal Medicine Materia

Humoral Medicine

Integrated Medicine

Sara Hills

Clinical Practice 3

Clinical Skills 3

Ile Ashcroft

Herbal Therapeutics 1 & 2

Peter Neumann

Phytochemistry

Schedule 20s

Katie Riley

Anatomy & Physiology 1 & 2

Pharmacognosy

Julie Bruggeman

Pharmacy 1

Clinical Practice 1

Clinical Skills 1

Jonas Brab

Pharmacy 2

Clinical Practice 2

Clinical Skills 2

Elizabeth Baughman

Cell Biology

Infectious Diseases

Immunology

Dissertation

Julia Richards

Jo Batacanin

Clinical Medicine 1

Clinical Medicine 2

Alice Martin

Materia Medica 2



Location

The location of the school is 28 Angel Crescent, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 3EW. The premises are in the centre of Bridgwater near shops and cafes. If you require parking details a map can be sent to you. The School is a 20 minute walk from the Railway Station, there is a National Bus Station and if travelling by car coming from the North you leave the M5 at Junction 23 and from the South at Junction 24.

