

# Criteria for registration as a pharmacist

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# Criteria for registration as a pharmacist with the GPhC

The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) is the regulator for pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and registered pharmacy premises in England, Scotland and Wales.

This document sets out the education, training and experience requirements for

- Initial registration as a pharmacist with the GPhC. This is found in Section A – paragraphs 1 to 11.
- Return to registration as a pharmacist with the GPhC. This is found in Section B – paragraph 12

The registration process also includes health, character and identity checks.

## **Section A**

# **Criteria for initial registration as a pharmacist with the GPhC**

The criteria for initial registration as a pharmacist are set out below. Persons qualified in Great Britain must meet all the requirements set out in section 1 or, if they have completed an accredited foundation degree, section 2. Persons qualified in Northern Ireland need to meet all the requirements in section 3. Exempt persons need to meet the requirements of sections 4, 5 or 6.

The circumstances where the Registrar can require persons to meet additional education, training or experience requirements before initial registration are set out in sections 7 to 12.

### **1. Persons qualified in Great Britain (MPharm degree)**

- 1.1 Successful completion of a Great Britain or Northern Ireland accredited 4 year MPharm degree, and
- 1.2 successful completion of a 52 week programme of preregistration training in Great Britain, and
- 1.3 pass a registration assessment conducted by the GPhC.
- 1.4 Persons educated and trained in Great Britain must complete stages 1.1 to 1.3 and apply for registration as a pharmacist within 8 calendar years of commencement on an accredited MPharm degree or within 2 years of passing a registration assessment whichever is sooner. Extensions may be granted where there are legitimate, documented grounds for doing so.
- 1.5 Paragraph 1.4 shall not apply to persons educated and trained in Great Britain entering or in preregistration training on the 12 November 2010.
- 1.6 Persons educated and trained in Great Britain entering or in preregistration training on or before the 12 November 2010 must make an application to register before noon on 20 December 2013.

### **2. Persons qualified in Great Britain (foundation degree in pharmacy and a MPharm degree)**

- 2.1 Successful completion of a part-time 2 year accredited foundation degree in pharmacy, and
- 2.2 successful completion of years 2 to 4 of an accredited MPharm course, and
- 2.3 successful completion of a 52 week programme of preregistration training in Great Britain, and
- 2.4 pass a registration assessment conducted by the GPhC.

- 2.5 Persons educated and trained in Great Britain must complete stages 2.1 to 2.4 and apply for registration as a pharmacist within 9 calendar years of registration on an accredited foundation degree course or within 2 years of passing a registration assessment whichever is sooner. Extensions may be granted where there are legitimate, documented grounds for doing so.
- 2.6 Paragraph 2.5 shall not apply to persons educated and trained in Great Britain entering or in preregistration training on the 12 November 2010.
- 2.7 Persons educated and trained in Great Britain entering or in preregistration training on or before the 12 November 2010 must make an application to register before noon on 20 December 2013.

### **3. Persons qualified in Northern Ireland**

- 3.1 Possession of a Great Britain or Northern Ireland accredited pharmacy qualifications, and
- 3.2 successful completion of a 52 week programme of preregistration training in Northern Ireland, and
- 3.3 pass a registration examination conducted by the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland, and
- 3.4 current registration with the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland.

### **4. Exempt persons as defined in the Pharmacy Order with a qualification designated in the Privy Council Order**

- 4.1 Possession of the qualification and work experience as described in the Order. Standards of proficiency are determined by home Member State and not by the GPhC.

### **5. Exempt persons as defined in the Pharmacy Order with a qualification and work experience covered by regulation 3(9)(a) or (e) of the European Communities (Recognition of Professional Qualifications) Regulations 2007 – the General Systems Regulations**

- 5.1 Possession of the qualification and work experience covered by regulation 3(9)(a) or (e) of the General Systems Regulations.
- 5.2 An application for registration will be subject to scrutiny and evaluation. This involves a comparison of all qualifications and work experience completed by the applicant against the current national standards for registration - the MPharm indicative syllabus & learning outcomes, preregistration performance standards and the registration assessment syllabus (or standards which supersede these).

5.3 Where the theoretical and/or practical matters covered by the education and training which the applicant has received do not differ substantially from those currently required for qualification in Great Britain, the applicant is to be regarded as 'appropriately qualified'.

**6. Exempt persons as defined in the Pharmacy Order with a Community element but not covered by regulation 3(9)(a) or (e) of the General Systems Regulations.**

6.1 Possession of a pharmacy qualification which entitles the applicant to practise in the country in which it was obtained.

6.2 Application considered according to EU Treaty rights and ECJ jurisprudence. The application for registration will be subject to scrutiny and evaluation. This involves comparison of all qualifications and work experience completed by the applicant against the current national standards for registration - the MPharm indicative syllabus & learning outcomes, preregistration performance standards and the registration assessment syllabus (or standards which supersede these). If no gaps are identified applicant is to be regarded as 'appropriately qualified'.

## **Circumstances where the Registrar can require the applicant to meet additional education, training or experience requirements before initial registration**

### **7. Exempt persons as defined in the Pharmacy Order with a qualification and work experience covered by regulation 3(9)(a) or (e) of the European Communities (Recognition of Professional Qualifications) Regulations 2007 – the General Systems Regulations.**

7.1 Possession of the qualification and work experience covered by regulation 3(9)(a) or (e) of the General Systems Regulations.

7.2 The application for registration will be subject to scrutiny and evaluation. This involves comparison of all qualifications and work experience completed by the applicant against the current national standards for registration - the MPharm indicative syllabus & learning outcomes, preregistration performance standards and the registration assessment syllabus (or standards which supersede these). The applicant may be required to successfully complete a period of adaptation with assessment not exceeding three years where the theoretical and/or practical matters covered by the education and training which they have received differ substantially from those currently required for qualification in Great Britain.

7.3 'Substantially different matters' is defined in the legislation and means matters of which knowledge is essential for pursuing the profession and with regard to which the training received by the applicant shows important differences in terms of duration or content from the training required in the UK.

7.4 Applicants have 2 years from the date of decision to commence the period of adaptation training with assessment. If they fail to do so they will need to make a new application.

### **8. Exempt persons as defined in the Pharmacy Order with a Community element but not covered by regulation 3(9)(a) or (e) of the General Systems Regulations.**

8.1 Possession of a pharmacy qualification which entitles the applicant to practise in the country in which it was obtained.

8.2 Application considered according to EU Treaty rights and ECJ cases of jurisprudence. The application for registration will be subject to scrutiny and evaluation. This involves comparison of all qualifications and work experience completed by the applicant against the current national standards for registration - the MPharm indicative syllabus & learning outcomes, preregistration performance standards and the registration assessment syllabus. If gaps are identified, applicants can be required to successfully complete additional education and training proportionate to the gaps in knowledge identified. In these cases the additional education and training which can be required is not limited to a period of adaptation with assessment.

8.3 Applicants have 2 years from the date of decision to commence the additional education and training requirement with assessment. If they fail to do so will need to make a new application.

**9. Persons (who may or may not be exempt persons) with a pharmacy qualification obtained outside Great Britain (this includes non-exempt persons with EEA qualifications), where the level of qualification has been assessed by UKNARIC (the National Academic Recognition and Information Centre for the United Kingdom) as being equivalent to at least British bachelor degree standard.**

9.1 Possession of a pharmacy qualification which entitles the applicant to practise in the country in which it was obtained, and

9.2 a minimum degree duration of 3 years of undergraduate study in pharmacy related subjects as evidenced by an academic transcript, and

9.3 if non-exempt, a minimum score of 7 in each category of the academic level IELTS English language test at the same sitting of the test, and

9.4 successful completion of one year accredited Overseas Pharmacists' Assessment Programme (OSPAP),  
and

9.5 successful completion of a 52 week programme of preregistration training in GB,  
and

9.6 pass a registration assessment conducted by the GPhC.

9.7 Applicants are given 2 academic years in which to commence the OSPAP. If they fail to do so they must make a new application.

**10. Persons (who may or may not be exempt persons) with a pharmacy qualification obtained outside Great Britain, where the level of qualification has been assessed by UKNARIC (the National Academic Recognition and Information Centre for the United Kingdom) as being below British bachelor degree standard, or persons unable to comply with the application requirements to arrange requisite documents to be sent direct to the GPhC by the awarding institutions.**

10.1 Possession of a pharmacy qualification which entitles the applicant to practise in the country in which it was obtained, and

10.2 a minimum degree duration of 3 years of undergraduate study in pharmacy related subjects as evidenced by an academic transcript, and

- 10.3 if non-exempt, a minimum score of 7 in each category of the academic level IELTS English language test at the same sitting of the test , and
- 10.4 a pre-OSPAP assessment . Applicants must complete a pre-OSPAP assessment within 18 months of the decision that one is relevant to their case. If they fail to do so they will need to make a new application.

*If an applicant passes a pre-OSPAP assessment, the education and training requirements for registration are*

- 10.5 successful completion of one year accredited Overseas Pharmacists' Assessment Programme (OSPAP), and
- 10.6 successful completion of a 52 week programme of preregistration training in Great Britain, and
- 10.7 pass a registration assessment conducted by the GPhC.
- 10.8 Applicants are given 2 academic years in which to commence the OSPAP. If they fail to do so they must make a new application.

*If an applicant fails a pre-OSPAP assessment, the education and training requirements for registration are*

- 10.10 successful completion of a Great Britain accredited MPharm, and
- 10.11 successful completion of a 52 week programme of preregistration training in Great Britain, and
- 10.12 pass a registration assessment conducted by the GPhC.
- 10.13 Alternatively, an applicant can be directed to complete requirements to register as a pharmacy technician.

## **11. Other requirements**

- 11.1 Persons falling within sections 9 and 10 who are required to complete a one year accredited OSPAP, 52 week preregistration training and a registration assessment must complete all 3 stages and apply for registration as a pharmacist within 4 calendar years of commencement on an accredited OSPAP course. Extensions may be granted where there are legitimate, documented grounds for doing so.
- 11.2 Persons entering or in preregistration training on or before the 12 November 2010 must make an application to register before noon on 20 December 2013.



## **Section B**

### **Criteria for return to registration as a pharmacist with the GPhC**

#### **12. Persons previously registered as a pharmacist with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain or the GPhC.**

- 12.1 An application for return to registration will be subject to scrutiny and evaluation. This involves an assessment of applicants' professional competence. Applicants are required to submit a portfolio of evidence demonstrating their professional competence against the scope of practice they propose to practise within.
- 12.2 Paragraph 12.1 will apply to persons applying to return to registration on any date after 26 September 2012. It will apply to persons who would have previously registered as pharmacists including those with accredited MPharm, BPharm, BSc degrees or other accredited pharmacist qualifications and persons previously registered with non-GB pharmacist qualifications irrespective of their initial route to registration.