



Criteria for
registration as a
pharmacist in Great
Britain

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Contents

About the GPhC	4
Who we are.....	4
What we do.....	4
About this document	5
Section A	6
Criteria for initial registration as a pharmacist with the GPhC.....	6
Circumstances where the Registrar can require the applicant to meet additional education, training or experience requirements before initial registration	8
Section B	11
Criteria for return to registration as a pharmacist with the GPhC.....	11

About the GPhC

Who we are

We regulate pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacies in Great Britain.

We work to assure and improve standards of care for people using pharmacy services.

What we do

Our role is to protect the public and give them assurance that they will receive safe and effective care when using pharmacy services.

We set standards for pharmacy professionals and pharmacies to enter and remain on our register.

We ask pharmacy professionals and pharmacies for evidence that they are continuing to meet our standards, and this includes inspecting pharmacies.

We act to protect the public and to uphold public confidence in pharmacy if there are concerns about a pharmacy professional or pharmacy on our register.

Through our work we help to promote professionalism, support continuous improvement and assure the quality and safety of pharmacy.



About this document

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 7
- return to registration as a pharmacist with the GPhC. This is found in Section B – paragraph 8

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. Persons with a relevant European qualification need to meet the requirements of section 4.

The circumstances where the registrar can require persons to meet additional education, training or experience requirements before initial registration are set out in sections 5 to 12.

1. Qualifications

- 1.1 successful completion of a Great Britain or Northern Ireland accredited four-year MPharm degree, and
- 1.2 successful completion of a 52-week programme of pre-registration 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 eight calendar years of commencement on an accredited MPharm degree or within two years of passing a registration assessment, whichever is sooner. Extensions may be granted where there are legitimate, documented grounds for doing so

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

- 2.1 successful completion of a part-time two-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 pre-registration 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 nine calendar years of registration on an accredited foundation degree course or within two years of passing a registration assessment whichever is sooner. Extensions may be granted where there are legitimate, documented grounds for doing so.



3. Persons qualified in Northern Ireland

- 3.1 possession of a Great Britain or Northern Ireland accredited pharmacy qualification, and
- 3.2 successful completion of a 52-week programme of pre-registration 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. Persons who hold a relevant European qualification

- 4.1 possession of the relevant European qualification which is listed in Directive 2005/36/EC Annex V point 5.6.2. as of the 31 December 2020 and is a qualification started after the reference date for the member state in which it was awarded. It is therefore a qualification which complies with articles 21(1A), 21(1B)(a) and 21A of the Pharmacy Order;
- 4.2 current registration with the pharmacists' regulator in the relevant European state
- 4.3 evidence of English language skills which meets the requirements described in GPhC's published guidance.

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

- 5. Persons with a pharmacy qualification obtained outside Great Britain which is not a relevant European qualification as described in section 4 , where the level of qualification has been assessed by UK ENIC (the United Kingdom National Information Centre for the recognition and evaluation of international qualifications and skills) as being equivalent to at least British bachelor's degree standard.**
 - 5.1 possession of a pharmacy qualification which entitles the applicant to practise in the country in which it was obtained, and
 - 5.2 a minimum degree duration of three years of undergraduate study in pharmacy related subjects as evidenced by an academic transcript, and
 - 5.3 evidence of having passed an acceptable English Language test with the required scores as described in GPhC's guidance on evidence of English language skills, and
 - 5.4 successful completion of one-year accredited Overseas Pharmacists' Assessment Programme (OSPAP), and
 - 5.5 successful completion of a 52-week programme of pre-registration training in GB, and
 - 5.6 pass a registration assessment conducted by the GPhC.
 - 5.7 applicants are given two academic years in which to commence the OSPAP. If they fail to do so they must make a new application.



6. Persons with a pharmacy qualification obtained outside Great Britain which is not a relevant European qualification as described in section 4 where the level of qualification has been assessed by UK ENIC (the United Kingdom National Information Centre for the recognition and evaluation of international qualifications and skills) as being below British bachelor's 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.

- 6.1 possession of a pharmacy qualification which entitles the applicant to practise as a pharmacist in the country in which it was obtained, and
- 6.2 a minimum degree duration of three years of undergraduate study in pharmacy related subjects as evidenced by an academic transcript, and
- 6.3 evidence of having passed an acceptable English Language test with the required scores as described in GPhC's guidance on evidence of English language skills, and
- 6.4 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

- 6.5 successful completion of one-year accredited Overseas Pharmacists' Assessment Programme (OSPAP), and
- 6.6 successful completion of a 52-week programme of pre-registration training in Great Britain, and
- 6.7 pass a registration assessment conducted by the GPhC.
- 6.8 applicants are given two academic years in which to commence the OSPAP. If they fail to do so they must make a new application.

Effective from 1 January 2021

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

- 6.9 successful completion of a Great Britain accredited MPharm, and
- 6.10 successful completion of a 52-week programme of pre-registration training in Great Britain, and
- 6.11 pass a registration assessment conducted by the GPhC.
- 6.12 alternatively, an applicant can be directed to complete requirements to register as a pharmacy technician.

7 Other requirements

- 7.1 persons falling within sections 5 and 6 who are required to complete a one-year accredited OSPAP, 52-week pre-registration 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.



Section B

Criteria for return to registration as a pharmacist with the GPhC

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

- 8.1 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
- 8.2 paragraph 8.1 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.

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