

Criteria for
registration as a
pharmacy
technician in
Great Britain

September 2019

**Please note that EEA routes to registration
change after 31 December 2020**

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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 qualifications and work experience requirements for registration as a pharmacy technician in Great Britain. There are three routes to registration:

1. Initial registration by UK- and non-EEA trained pharmacy technicians¹.
2. Initial registration by EEA-trained/registered pharmacy technicians (excluding UK-trained pharmacy technicians)².
3. Returning to registration as a pharmacy technician.

As well as education and training requirements, the registration process also includes checks on:

- health
- character
- knowledge of English language, and
- identity

You can find **further information about how to apply to join our register** in the application forms and guidance notes on how to apply for registration as a pharmacy technician in Great Britain.



¹ Persons who do not possess rights under Directive 2005/36/EC (as amended by Directive 2013/55/EU) or EC Treaty rights.

² Persons who possess rights under Directive 2005/36/EC (as amended by Directive 2013/55/EU) or EC Treaty rights.

Effective from September 2019

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Routes to registration as a pharmacy technician in Great Britain

Route 1: Criteria for initial registration for UK- and non-EEA-trained pharmacy technicians

Overview

- 1.1 This route applies to applicants who trained in the United Kingdom (UK) or outside the European Economic Area (EEA) and are making their initial application for registration as a pharmacy technician in Great Britain (GB) on or after 1 September 2019. Such applicants must have completed:
 - the integrated, or linked, knowledge and competence qualification(s)³ ⁴as set out on the GPhC website; and
 - a minimum of two years' work-based experience in the UK set out in paragraphs 1.5-1.7 or by meeting the alternative requirements set out in section in paragraphs 1.8-1.12
- 1.2 Applicants must apply for registration as a pharmacy technician within five calendar years of commencement on a recognised course, or within two years of completing the last recognised course, whichever is sooner. Extenuating circumstances will be considered where there are legitimate, documented grounds for exceeding these timeframes.

Qualifications


- 1.3 A list of all eligible qualifications can be found on the GPhC's website.
- 1.4 There are no exceptions to the qualification requirement for registration as a pharmacy technician. All UK and non-EEA applicants must have completed both competency-based and knowledge-based qualifications whilst completing work-based experience in the UK.

Work-based experience

- 1.5 Applicants must provide evidence they have completed a minimum of two years' relevant work-based experience in the UK under the supervision, direction or guidance of a pharmacist or pharmacy technician to whom the applicant was directly accountable for not less than 14

³ 'Qualifications' in this document means qualifications listed in national qualifications frameworks and other courses accredited by the GPhC which deliver the learning outcomes in *Standards for the initial education and training of pharmacy technicians* (GPhC, 2017).

⁴ Pharmacy technician apprentice trainees in England must pass the apprenticeship end point assessment (EPA) in order to apply to register as a pharmacy technician.



hours per week. A pre-registration trainee pharmacy technician must commence or register for the required qualifications (set out on the [***Approved pharmacy technician courses page***](#) in the 'Education' section of the GPhC website) within three months of commencing contracted, relevant work experience.

- 1.6 Within the two-year period of training and work experience a minimum of 1260 hours of work experience must be undertaken under the supervision, direction or guidance of a pharmacist or pharmacy technician to whom the applicant is directly accountable, excluding sickness absence, maternity or paternity leave and holidays. A minimum of 315 hours of work experience under the supervision, direction or guidance of a pharmacist or pharmacy technician to whom the applicant is directly accountable must be undertaken in each of the two years.
- 1.7 In certain circumstances (for example, prolonged serious ill health or maternity or paternity leave) an extension of the two-year qualifying period of work experience may be granted on application to the registrar if supported by cogent and sufficient evidence. The registrar has the discretion to grant such an extension up to a maximum of one year.

Exceptions related to the work-based experience requirement

Non-EEA applicants

- 1.8 The two years' relevant work-based experience requirement described above may be reduced in the case of applicants wishing to register as a pharmacy technician who already hold non-EEA pharmacist or pharmacy technician qualifications.
- 1.9 These applicants must have completed relevant qualifications whilst working in the UK under the supervision, direction or guidance of a pharmacist or pharmacy technician to whom the applicant was directly accountable for no less than 14 hours per week.
- 1.10 In addition to the relevant qualification(s), applicants must provide evidence of:
 - their non-EEA pharmacist or pharmacy technician qualification which entitles them to practise as a pharmacist or pharmacy technician in their original country of qualification; and
 - being registered or otherwise eligible to practise as a pharmacist or pharmacy technician in their country of qualification.

Pharmacist pre-registration training

- 1.11 A period of pharmacist preregistration training in the UK, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man that can be validated by the GPhC and has been completed within two years of commencing a recognised pharmacy technician training course may be offset against the work experience requirements for registration.

Effective from September 2019

1.12 The time limits for completing registration still apply. Applicants must apply for registration as a pharmacy technician within five calendar years of commencement of the validated period of pre-registration training or within two years of completing the last recognised qualification whichever is sooner. This may only be included if it is within five calendar years of the date of application for registration.

Transitional provisions

1.13 Qualifications leading to registration as a pharmacy technician accredited or recognised prior to 1 September 2019 remain accredited or recognised until the listed expiry date. Trainees registered on them currently may continue to study on them until the listed expiry date and, on successful completion, can use them as part of an application for initial registration as a pharmacy technician.

1.14 These **qualifications can be found on the *Approved pharmacy technician courses page*** in the 'Education' section of the GPhC website.



Route 2: Criteria for initial registration for EEA-trained pharmacy technicians (excluding UK-trained pharmacy technicians)

2.1 Applicants will have rights under Directive 2005/36/EC (as amended by Directive 2013/55/EU) or EC Treaty rights if:

- they hold a pharmacy qualification gained outside an EEA member state that entitled them to practise as a pharmacist or pharmacy technician in their country of qualification, and subsequently that qualification has been recognised by an EEA member state and they have been permitted to work as a pharmacy technician in that EEA member state; or
- they hold a pharmacy technician qualification from another EEA member state. The EEA member state of qualification may either regulate the profession of pharmacy technician or if the profession of pharmacy technician is not regulated in that Member State, the education and training to obtain the qualification is regulated.
- if neither the profession of pharmacy technician nor the education and training is regulated in the EEA member state of qualification then in addition to the pharmacy technician qualification they must also have completed one-year of full-time professional experience as a pharmacy technician, or an equivalent period on a part-time basis, during the previous 10 years.

2.2 An application for registration under Route 2 (EEA) will be subject to scrutiny and evaluation. This is a comparative assessment of the applicant's qualification and work experience against the GB requirements for registration. The applicant may be required to complete an adaptation period not exceeding three years or pass an aptitude test where either:

- the training the applicant has received covers substantially different matters from those covered by the GPhC-recognised pharmacy technician qualification(s); or
- the pharmacy technician profession in GB comprises one or more professional activities which are not part of the pharmacy technician profession in the applicant's home member state, and those professional activities require specific training which the applicant has not covered in their home member state.

Route 3: Criteria for returning to registration as a pharmacy technician

- 3.1 This applies to applicants who had been previously registered with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain or the GPhC, regardless of their initial route to registration.
- 3.2 Applicants wishing to return to registration must submit a portfolio of evidence demonstrating their professional competence against the scope of practice they propose to practise within once registered. Applications will be evaluated and assessed to determine their professional competence.



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