

**Keele University, 5-year Master of Pharmacy
degree (MPharm) with integrated foundation
training, step 4 part 2 accreditation event report -
June 2023**



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Event summary and conclusions

Provider	Keele University
Course	5-year Master of Pharmacy degree (MPharm) with integrated foundation training
Event type	Accreditation
Step	4 (Part 2)
Event date	22 June 2023
Accreditation period	2023/24 (until the end of the teach out period)
Relevant standards	<u>Future pharmacists Standards for the initial education and training of pharmacists, May 2011</u>
Outcome	<p>Full accreditation confirmed (until the end of the agreed teach out period)</p> <p>Neither academic staff, nor the external examiners of the Keele University 5-Year MPharm degree, raised substantive issues that cast doubt on the academic standards of the course or the conduct of the assessment process for students on the course. Consequently, the accreditation Team Leader recommended to the Registrar of the GPhC, on behalf of the accreditation team, that he confirms the accreditation team's Step 4 Part 1 recommendation that Keele University should be fully accredited as a provider of a 5-year Master of Pharmacy degree (MPharm) with integrated foundation training, for the current students on the programme, to the 2011 IETP standards, via the agreed teach out arrangements.</p> <p>Keele University is not permitted to enrol any further students onto this programme. It is expected that the last student will graduate on this programme in 2023/24. Keele University should keep the GPhC updated on the progress and completion of the last student.</p> <p>The GPhC representative informed Keele University that they are permitted to send their student pass list to the GPhC by Keele University dated from 22 June 2023 which may be used to permit successful 5-year MPharm graduates on the list to enter the register of pharmacists, subject to successful completion of the registration assessment.</p>
Conditions	There were no conditions.
Standing conditions	The standing conditions of accreditation can be found here .
Recommendations	No recommendations were made.

Registrar decision	The Registrar approved the recommendation made by the accreditation Team Leader, on behalf of the accreditation team, that Keele University should be fully accredited as a provider of a 5-year Master of Pharmacy degree (MPharm) with integrated foundation training, for the current students on the programme, to the 2011 IETP standards, via the agreed teach out arrangements with the GPhC.
Key contact (provider)	Dr Rebecca Venables, Senior Lecturer in Clinical Pharmacy
Accreditation team	Dr Mathew Smith, Director of Learning and Teaching, School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences, Cardiff University
GPhC representative and rapporteur	Chris McKendrick, Senior Quality Assurance Officer (Education), General Pharmaceutical Council

Introduction

Role of the GPhC

The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) is the statutory regulator for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians and is the accrediting body for pharmacy education in Great Britain. The GPhC is responsible for setting standards and approving education and training courses which form part of the pathway towards registration for pharmacists. The UK qualification required as part of the pathway to registration as a pharmacist is a GPhC-accredited Master of Pharmacy degree course (MPharm). This accreditation event was carried out in accordance with the GPhC's 2011 MPharm Accreditation Methodology and the course was reviewed against the GPhC's 2011 education standards 'Future Pharmacists: Standards for the initial education and training of pharmacists'.

The GPhC's right to check the standards of pharmacy qualifications leading to annotation and registration as a pharmacist is the Pharmacy Order 2010. It requires the GPhC to 'approve' courses by appointing 'visitors' (accreditors) to report to the GPhC's Council on the 'nature, content and quality' of education as well as 'any other matters' the Council may require.

The powers and obligations of the GPhC in relation to the accreditation of pharmacy education are legislated in the Pharmacy Order 2010. For more information, visit:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/231/contents/made>

Step 4 accreditation event process

The 5-year integrated MPharm degree accreditation process involves four steps before full accreditation is granted. The final step (Step 4) is made up of two parts. The first part of the two-part Step 4 accreditation event involves a visit to the University by the accreditation team to review the suitability of the programme for full accreditation. In reaching its conclusion, the accreditation team must make two separate judgements: first, whether or not the University meets the criteria for a new provider delivering a new MPharm degree; and, second, whether or

not the University meets the criteria for an established provider delivering an existing MPharm degree.

The second part of the Step 4 accreditation event process involves a further event observing the University examination board by the team leader and the GPhC representative to confirm the appropriate conduct of the assessment process for the current academic year. At that meeting, the views of external examiners are sought.

Background

The 5-year MPharm programme offered by Keele University is delivered by the School of Pharmacy and Bioengineering, one of four Schools in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences. The 5-year MPharm programme in which pre-registration (foundation) training is integrated with the academic provision was introduced in 2019. The process for accrediting an integrated, five-year degree was built upon an established, accredited four-year programme, and comprises four steps, with steps 3 and 4 having taken place respectively in years 4 and 5 of the programme; the completion of step 4 requires a GPhC representative and Accreditation Panel Team Leader to attend the examination board at the end of year 5 (Step 4, Part 2).

As agreed with the GPhC, Keele University is no longer recruiting to the 5-year MPharm programme due to very low recruitment numbers. A teach-out plan was agreed with the GPhC and the Step 4, Part 1 accreditation team was told that the programme is being taught-out and resourced as planned.

A successful Step 4, Part 2 accreditation process enables eligibility for registration with the GPhC, subject to passing the registration assessment, for students currently enrolled on the 5-year programme.

The event

The event took place virtually by Microsoft Team's on the 22 June 2023 and comprised of an observation of the examination board and private meetings with the programme's external examiners.

Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest

Schedule (key parts relevant to event)

- Welcome and Introductions – This will include representatives from the GPhC, who are attending in relation to the Stage 5 Students.
- Private discussion to take place between the GPhC and External Examiners. Both parties will return to the main Exam Board afterwards.
- Apologies for absence.
- Minutes of previous meetings.
- Matters arising (not elsewhere on the agenda).

- Confidentiality statement and declarations of interest.
- GPhC Team Leader to provide a quick introduction to the process prior to the discussion of module results for 5-Year MPharm students.
- Consideration of module results and individual student marks and degree award in relation to 5- year MPharm Students.
- Further discussions to take place privately between the GPhC and External Examiners.
- Representatives from the GPhC will meet privately with the Registrar.
- GPhC Team Leader to provide conclusions and feedback.

Attendees

Course provider

The accreditation team met with the following representatives of the provider:

Name	Designation at the time of accreditation event
Academic - Keele University	
Katie Maddock	Head of School (Chair of Examination Board)
Jihong Han	Lecturer in Pharmaceutics
Gary Moss	Senior Lecturer in Pharmaceutics
David Morgan	Reader in Pharmaceutical Sciences & Technology
Russell Pearson	Senior Lecturer in Organic & Medicinal Chemistry
Karen Gunnell	Senior Lecturer in Pharmacy Practice
Maria Allinson	Senior Lecturer in Pharmacy Practice
Simon Jacklin	Lecturer in Pharmacy Practice
Matthew Stibbs	Lecturer in Pharmacy Practice
Rebecca Venables	Senior Lecturer in Clinical Pharmacy
Kalpesh Thakrar	Academic Clinical Educator
David Mottershead	Lecturer in Biochemistry and Cell Biology
External Examiners	
Tania Webb	De Montfort University
Mark Green	University of Bradford
Stephanie Myers	University of Sunderland
Maria Delgado Charro	University of Bath
Professional Services - Keele University	
Dorothea Ross-Simpson	Head of Academic Quality and Student Conduct
Charlotte Clements	Undergraduate programme administrator
Amanda Salt	Undergraduate programme administrator
Carl Ward	Undergraduate programme administrator
Jo Flackett	Undergraduate programme administrator
Emma Harvey	Undergraduate programme administrator

Key findings

- The examination board was conducted in accordance with a set university agenda. It was established that the examination board was quorate, and members were asked if they had any relevant special interests/declarations. There were none.
- The Chair of the Examination Board explained that because of the presence of the GPhC representatives they would consider the 5-year MPharm degree students before they considered other years of the MPharm degree.
- The University requirements for the classification of the 5-year MPharm honours degrees were articulated.
- The mark and degree classification awarding proceeded according to the University assessment regulations.
- Two students were considered for the 5-year MPharm degree with the academic element pass marks and associated degree classifications predicted.
- The pass/fail portfolio could not be considered as part of this examination board and will be considered as part of chairs action at the 49-week sign off.
- The students being considered are on track and no issues were identified at the 39 weeks sign off stage.
- At the end of the meeting, members were asked if they agreed the provisional marks awarded. There was unanimous agreement with members of the exam board, subject to the passing of the 49-week portfolio sign off.

Confirmation and ratification meetings

After the 5-year examination board meeting, but prior to the formal conclusion, the Team Leader and the GPhC representative met privately with all the external examiners to discuss the conduct of the examination processes. The external examiners were asked a set of questions, responses which are as follows:

1. Whether all graduating students had met all the learning outcomes of the MPharm degree?

External examiners response: **Yes, subject to 49-week portfolio ratification by chairs action – the external examiners were confident that their individual areas are secure insofar of the 39-week sign off**

2. Whether the MPharm degree had been taught securely as master's level, as defined in the Quality Assurance Agency's Framework for Higher Education Qualifications?

External examiners response: **Yes**

3. Whether the assessment of the MPharm degree was conducted in accordance with relevant academic regulations?

External examiners response: **Yes**

4. Whether there were any issues likely to adversely affect the delivery of the MPharm degree in the future (insofar as they were able to gauge this)?

External examiners response: **No**

Conclusion

On the basis of the satisfactory Step 4 Part 1 process, the Team Leader recommended to the Registrar of the GPhC, on behalf of the accreditation team, that he confirms the accreditation team's Step 4 Part 1 recommendation that Keele University should be fully accredited as a provider of a 5-year Master of Pharmacy degree (MPharm) with integrated foundation training, for the current students on the programme, to the 2011 IETP standards, via the agreed teach out arrangements.

This recommendation was communicated to the Registrar of the GPhC, by the GPhC representative, for confirmation which was subsequently accepted.

The GPhC representative informed Keele University that they are permitted to send their student pass list to the GPhC the 5-year MPharm degree pass lists to be sent to the GPhC by Keele University dated **from 22 June 2023** and may be used to permit successful 5-year MPharm graduates on the list to enter the register of pharmacists, subject to successful completion of the registration assessment.

