

Criteria for
registration as a
pharmacy
technician 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: criteria for initial registration as a pharmacy technician for all applicants.....	6
1. Overall requirements	6
2. Courses and qualifications.....	6
3. Work-based experience	7
Section B: criteria for returning to registration as a pharmacy technician with the GPhC	8
4. Overall requirements	8

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 two routes to registration:

1. Initial registration by UK and internationally qualified pharmacy technicians.
2. 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** on our website.

We may refer to the United Kingdom (UK) in parts of this criteria for registration in Great Britain, as pharmacy technicians can complete relevant initial education and training in Northern Ireland.



Section A: criteria for initial registration as a pharmacy technician for all applicants

1. Overall requirements

- 1.1 Applicants must have completed, at the same time:
 - a. a GPhC-approved pharmacy technician course/qualification, and
 - b. a minimum of two years' 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 no less than 14 hours per week
- 1.2 Applicants must apply for registration with the GPhC within five calendar years of the start of their course or qualification, or within two years of completing the course or qualification, whichever is sooner.
- 1.3 Extensions to the time limit for registration may be granted where there are legitimate, documented grounds – such as prolonged serious ill health or maternity, paternity or adoption leave- which are supported by evidence.

2. Courses and qualifications

- 2.1 Applicants must have completed a GPhC-accredited or recognised pharmacy technician course or qualification that is delivered at a minimum of:
 - a. level 3 in the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) (in England, Wales and Northern Ireland), or
 - b. level 6 in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) (in Scotland), or
 - c. an equivalent.
- 2.2 In addition to 2.1, apprentices in England must pass the pharmacy technician apprenticeship end point assessment (EPA).
- 2.3 Applicants must have completed the pharmacy technician course or qualification at the same time as undertaking work-based experience in the UK.
- 2.4 trainee pharmacy technician must start on an approved course/qualification within three months of commencing contracted, relevant work-based experience.



3. Work-based experience

3.1 Work-based experience must have been:

- a. under the supervision, direction or guidance of a pharmacist or pharmacy technician to whom the applicant was directly accountable
- b. for a minimum of 14 hours per week over a two-year period, excluding justified absence such as sickness, maternity, paternity or adoption leave and holidays

Section B: criteria for returning to registration as a pharmacy technician with the GPhC

4. Overall requirements

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 Applicants must:
 - a. 4.1 complete an application form through myGPhC
 - b. 4.2 provide a portfolio of evidence demonstrating professional competence against set criteria and English language requirement,
 - c. 4.3 be evaluated and assessed to determine their professional competence and may be required to undergo additional education, training and/or work-based experience.



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