

**University of Bath in partnership with University of  
Plymouth, Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) degree  
with preparatory year Step 2 accreditation event  
report, November 2024**



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## Event summary and conclusions

<b>Provider</b>	University of Bath in partnership with University of Plymouth
<b>Course</b>	Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) degree with preparatory year (5-year)
<b>Event type</b>	Step 2 accreditation (bespoke methodology)
<b>Event date</b>	20-21 November 2024
<b>Approval period</b>	Working towards accreditation
<b>Relevant requirements</b>	<a href="#">Standards for the initial education and training of pharmacists, January 2021</a>
<b>Outcome</b>	<p>Approval to progress to next stage</p> <p>The accreditation team agreed to recommend to the Registrar of the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) that the proposed new MPharm degree with preparatory year to be delivered by University of Bath in partnership with University of Plymouth should be permitted to move from step 2 to the next stage of the bespoke accreditation process. There were no conditions.</p> <p>The team's recommendation includes approval for a maximum student intake of 10 students for entry to the MPharm with preparatory year. Approval for subsequent intakes is in line with numbers set out in the University's submission documentation. The University must not exceed its planned student numbers without prior approval from the GPhC.</p>
<b>Conditions</b>	There were no conditions.
<b>Standing conditions</b>	The standing conditions of accreditation can be found <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>Recommendations</b>	No recommendations were made.
<b>Registrar decision</b>	The Registrar <sup>1</sup> accepted the team's recommendation and granted permission for the University of Bath (delivered in partnership with the University of Plymouth) MPharm with preparatory year degree to progress to the next stage of the accreditation process.
<b>Key contact (provider)</b>	Professor Lyn Hanning, Professor of Pharmacy Education and Head of Pharmacy (Bath MPharm at Plymouth)

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<sup>1</sup> or appointed delegate

<b>Accreditation team</b>	<p>Professor Chris Langley (team leader), Professor of Pharmacy Law &amp; Practice and Deputy Dean of the College of Health and Life Sciences, Aston University *</p> <p>Parbir Jagpal (team member - academic), Director of Prescribing, School of Pharmacy, University of Birmingham</p> <p>Fiona Barber (team member - lay), Independent Member, Standards Committee, Leicester City Council</p> <p>Dafydd Rizzo (team member - pharmacist newly qualified), Clinical Pharmacist, Cardiff and Vale University and Post-Registration Foundation Pharmacist</p> <p>Dr Marisa van der Merwe (team member - academic), Associate Dean (Academic) Faculty of Science and Health, University of Portsmouth</p> <p>Dr Hayley Wickens (team member - pharmacist), Consultant Pharmacist, Genomics and Pharmacogenomics, Central and South Genomic Medicine Service Alliance</p>
<b>GPhC representative</b>	<p>Alex Ralston, Quality Assurance Officer, General Pharmaceutical Council</p>
<b>Rapporteur</b>	<p>Jane Smith (Rapporteur) Chief Executive Officer, European Association for Cancer Research</p>

\*Attended pre-event meeting

## 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).

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' (accreditation and recognitional panel members) 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 the [website](#).

The MPharm degree with preparatory was reviewed for accreditation against the GPhC [Standards for the initial education and training of pharmacists, January 2021](#).

## Background

### **MPharm degree with preparatory year**

The GPhC began accrediting MPharm degrees with a preparatory year as a separate course to the MPharm degree in 2020/21. Prior to this the accreditation of the MPharm degree component of the course was accepted to allow students entry to pre-registration training.

An MPharm degree with preparatory year is a single course that leads to a Master of Pharmacy award. It is recruited to separately from the accredited 4-year MPharm degree and is assigned a different UCAS code. For most schools this will be a 5-year course which includes a preparatory year followed by four further taught years that mirror that of the accredited MPharm degree.

An MPharm with preparatory year must meet all of the GPhC's initial education and training standards for pharmacists in all years of the course. All teaching and assessment of the learning outcomes is expected to take place in taught years 2-5, with the first taught year being set aside for foundation learning only. For the purpose of accreditation, it is assumed that the course content for the four taught years following the preparatory year will be identical for students on the MPharm degree and the MPharm degree with preparatory year.

### **University of Bath in partnership with University of Plymouth**

The University of Bath approached the GPhC in 2022 with a proposal to offer its accredited Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) degree at the University of Plymouth. The University of Bath informed the GPhC that the proposed delivery model involved the University of Bath maintaining oversight and management of the MPharm variant and to deliver the teaching on-site at the partner University.

The proposal is driven by the need to attract pharmacists to the workforce in the partner University's region, as there is evidence that many students choose to remain in the location that they study in, after graduation. The University of Bath confirmed that it had engaged with Health Education England South West (HEE SW) who were supportive of the proposal. The University of Bath also confirmed that its selected partner for delivery was the University of Plymouth.

The methodology for accreditation of a new MPharm degree involves 7 steps, with one step taken per academic year. It was agreed that it would be disproportionate to apply the same methodology in this situation as the University of Bath offers a fully accredited MPharm degree. (The University of Bath undertook part 1 of the two-part reaccreditation process to the 2021 IETP standards in December 2022).

It was agreed that a bespoke methodology would be followed for the accreditation of this variant. The accreditation process involves three steps, including monitoring events to take place between steps 2 and 3 as the first cohort progresses through the programme (Years 1, 2 and 3). The accreditation process will be undertaken separately from the University of Bath's current MPharm degree programme.

A step 1 event took place on 24 February 2023 between the GPhC, the University of Bath, the University of Plymouth and HEE SW. Subsequently, the University of Bath confirmed to the GPhC that it intended to proceed with the accreditation process.

The step 2 event took place on 12-13 October 2023 on site at the University of Plymouth. The accreditation team agreed to recommend that the MPharm degree provided by the University of Bath

in partnership with the University of Plymouth should be permitted to move from Step 2 to the next step of the bespoke accreditation process (Year 1 monitoring event) and that students could be admitted onto the new programme in the 2024/25 academic year. There were no conditions.

### **MPharm degree with preparatory year**

At the step 2 event, the provider indicated its plans to seek accreditation for an MPharm degree with preparatory year, but noted that this required funding from NHS England and a new programme approval at Bath. The provider confirmed its intentions for a first intake in the 2025/26 academic year, and to accommodate this, it was agreed that the accreditation process for the MPharm degree with preparatory year would take place at the same event as the MPharm Part 2 Reaccreditation of the University of Bath MPharm degree in November 2024. If successful, the provider would be permitted to advertise the programme within the UCAS applications cycle for 2025/26 entry.

The methodology for reaccreditation of MPharm degrees to the 2021 standards has been applied to this event, particularly the use of 'met', 'likely to be met' and 'not met' decisions available to the accreditation team. It is intended this will help shape the focus of future monitoring and step events and submission documentation, as the provider moves through the process.

### **Documentation**

The provider submitted documentation to the GPhC to demonstrate on how the MPharm with preparatory year variant would meet the 2021 IETP Standards. As per the GPhC **Guidance on MPharm degrees with a preparatory year** this focused on key areas of the standards specific to this programme variant.

### **Pre-event**

In advance of the main event, a pre-event meeting took place via videoconference on 4 November 2024. The purpose of the pre-event meeting was to prepare for the event, allow the GPhC and the provider to ask any questions or seek clarification, and to finalise arrangements for the event. The provider was advised of areas that were likely to be explored further by the accreditation team during the event.

### **The event**

The event was held virtually on 20-21 November 2024 and comprised of a series of meetings between the GPhC accreditation team and representatives of the MPharm with Preparatory year course, including the partner University.

### **Declarations of interest**

Professor Chris Langley declared that he had acted as a referee for Professor Lyn Hanning's recent professorial application, in relation to Professor Hanning's work as a member of the GPhC Accreditation panel.

Dr Hayley Wickens declared that she is collaborating on a genomics project with Professor Lynn Hanning.

Dr Marisa van der Merwe declared that she had been involved in meetings organised by Health Education England (HEE) as a representative of the University of Portsmouth to consider the coordination of experiential learning provision alongside the University of Reading and the University of Bath respectively, to ensure that universities were not asking for placements in the same weeks.

Dr Marisa van der Merwe also declared that a family member of Professor Hanning was a student on the MPharm course at her University.

None of these declarations were found to be material.

## Schedule

**Day 1: Bath MPharm part 2 reaccreditation (see separate report)**

**Day 2: University of Bath (Plymouth) MPharm – Accreditation of Preparatory Year**

- Private meeting of the accreditation team
- Deliver outcome to programme provider

## Attendees

### Course provider

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

Name	Designation at the time of accreditation event
Professor Lyn Hanning *	Head of Pharmacy (Plymouth)
Dr Philip Rogers *	Director of Pharmacy, year 2 & 4 convenor
Sarah Crawshaw *	Director of Practice Based Learning
Sarah Paine *	Implementation Manager (SW MPharm) UoB
David Howells	Head of Undergraduate Admissions UoB
Professor Susan Barker	Academic Consultant SW MPharm Project
Dr Robin Groleau	Lecturer (Med Chem) and Director of Studies UoB
Dr Isabel Hamshaw	Lecturer (Pharmacology) and Admissions Tutor UoB
Dr Chris Martin	Lecturer (Pharmaceutics) and Senior Academic Advisor UoB
Lindsay Woodford	Lecturer (Pharmacy Practice) UoB
Andrew Bastin	Lecturer (Pharmacy Practice) and EDI Lead UoB
Dr Hanne Bown	Lecturer (Pharmaceutics) and Year 0 Programme Lead UoB
Rachel Luff	Student Support Officer UoB
Dr Maysa Falah	Lecturer in Biomedical Science and Module Lead FMD004 UoP
Dr Gail Rees	Acting Head of Biomedical School UoP
Dr Kris Jeremey	Deputy Head of Biomedical School and Module Lead FMD001 UoP
Dr Tracey Madgett	Associate Professor and Module Lead FMD002 UoP

\* Attended the pre-event meeting

The accreditation team also met a group of MPharm students (three in year 1, three in year 2, three in year 3 and two in year 4).

## Key findings - Part 2 Standards for the initial education and training of pharmacists

The criteria that sit beneath each standard are detailed within the [Standards for the initial education and training of pharmacists, January 2021](#).

For the purpose of accreditation, it is assumed that the course content for the four taught years following the preparatory year will be identical for students on the MPharm degree and the MPharm degree with preparatory year. The review of the MPharm with preparatory year therefore focuses on key criteria relevant to the preparatory year provision. Other criteria have been greyed out. All criteria will be considered at the next event of the bespoke accreditation process.

### Standard 1: Selection and admission

Students must be selected for and admitted onto MPharm degrees on the basis that they are being prepared to practise as a pharmacist

Criterion 1.1 is:	Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 1.2 is:	Met <input type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 1.3 is:	Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 1.4 is:	Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 1.5 is:	Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 1.6 is:	Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 1.7 is:	Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 1.8 is:	Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 1.9 is:	Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>

The MPharm with Preparatory Year is intended to allow access to the Bath (Plymouth) MPharm for students who do not have sufficient academic standing to warrant Year 1 entry to the MPharm or who are considering a career change into a science-based profession. The course will have a separate UCAS code which clearly states that it is for Year 0 entry.

The same general admissions processes will be applied for the Year 0 applicants as for the Year 1 applicants. If they meet the initial screening requirements, Year 0 applicants will be invited to an Applicant Visit Day for Plymouth and subsequently invited to an online interview with a member of pharmacy academic staff. If they pass the interview, they will be made an offer of a place (unconditional or conditional dependent on whether they already have the relevant academic qualifications or are currently studying for them). The interview for the Year 0 applicants will follow that for the Year 1 applicants, in that it will assess knowledge of and suitability for the pharmacy profession, personal values related to the NHS values, facility with calculations and suitability for study. The team asked how the provider would ensure that calculations questions were at an appropriate level for the applicant pool and was told that, to some extent, this is a work in progress. However, the Maths and Numeracy unit for the course is already written so that will be used as a starting point. The provider will be looking for evidence of an ability to develop mathematical skills, rather than for evidence that they are already in place. Furthermore, the provider acknowledged that,



with only 10 places available, there will be a need to select students, so applicants will be scored on all aspects of the application process, not just on calculations.

The entry requirements are significantly below the Year 1 entry requirements for the University of Bath MPharm, to allow for a differential intake and to meet the widening participation demographic, but are also stringent enough to ensure that students will be competent to proceed to Year 1 and complete the full degree. Generally, science subjects are required, but there is also a route for career change students with qualifications in other subjects. The entry requirements are as follows:

- A levels
  - Science subjects: CCC including Chemistry, one other defined science and one other academic subject
  - Non-science subjects: ABB for three academic subjects
  - Students with only one science subject: BCC
- BTEC National Extended Diploma
  - Science subjects: DMM, or Non-science subjects: DDD
- Access to HE
  - Science subjects: 30 Merits, or non-science subjects: 30 Distinctions
- International Baccalaureate
  - Science subjects: Overall 28 points, with 4 in Higher Level Chemistry and one other defined Higher Level Maths or Science subject, or non-science subjects: Overall 35 points with 6, 5, 5 at Higher Level

It is anticipated that applicants may have non-conventional mixtures of qualifications, and these applicants will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

The team asked how these entry requirements compare to those for students intending to enter other healthcare courses at Plymouth, considering that students will be studying the same modules for half of the year. The provider explained that entry criteria depend on the course students are intending to join in Year 1. For the MPharm with Preparatory Year, entry criteria are in the top quartile. The course is unlikely to enter clearing, but if it does, the provider does not anticipate making offers below the stated entry criteria.

The only entry point to the MPharm with Preparatory Year is day 1 of year 0 and there will be no deviation from the prescribed course of study, even if a student has undertaken higher level study in a specific topic.

Students will have a limited amount of exposure to professional pharmacy environments in Year 0, but they will have the same placement teaching in Years 1 to 4 as the Year 1 entrants. Applicants will be given the relevant information concerning professional placements and requirements for DBS and health checks as Year 1 applicants.

The team noted that the first applicant data set will be available in early 2026 for the cohort starting their study in the academic year 2025-2026. This will be analysed by relevant characteristics. Therefore criterion 1.2 (Higher-education institutions must actively aim to identify and reduce discrimination in selection and admission processes. As a minimum, every year, the MPharm degree admissions profile must be analysed by protected characteristics, as defined in the Equality Act 2010. Documented action must be taken if that analysis shows that the admissions process may be disadvantaging students) is likely to be met and will be reviewed at the next event.

## Standard 2: Equality, diversity and fairness

**MPharm degrees must be based on, and promote, the principles of equality, diversity and fairness; meet all relevant legal requirements; and be delivered in such a way that the diverse needs of all students are met**

Criterion 2.1 is:	Met <input type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 2.2 is:	Met <input type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 2.3 is:	Met <input type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 2.4 is:	Met <input type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 2.5 is:	Met <input type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 2.6 is:	Met <input type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>

The criteria for standard 2 are not relevant to the preparatory year and have not been considered at this event. All criteria will be considered at the next event of the bespoke accreditation process.

## Standard 3: Resources and capacity

**Resources and capacity must be sufficient to deliver the learning outcomes in these standards**

Criterion 3.1 is:	Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 3.2 is:	Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 3.3 is:	Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>

A Legal Agreement has been signed by the University of Bath and the University of Plymouth, relating to the Bath (Plymouth) MPharm and including the financial arrangements between the two universities. An update to the Legal Agreement relating specifically to Year 0 provision and finances has been drafted and should be signed by the end of December 2024. The provider must let the GPhC know if the agreement is not signed by this date.

A business case for a small amount of financial resource and rearrangement of existing budget was submitted to NHSE and approved. Support from NHSE will allow for preparation of teaching materials for the Year 0 course in advance of the first cohort beginning their studies in the academic year 2025-2026. NHSE funding is for seven years, up to and including the academic year 2030-2031. This support is ring-fenced for the MPharm and MPharm with Preparatory Year. After this seven-year period, the financial responsibility for the course will revert in totality to the two universities. At this point, it is expected that the course will be self-sustaining.

A Head of Pharmacy for Bath at Plymouth has been appointed. Six academic staff have also been appointed, equivalent to 1.0 FTE in each of the four major areas of pharmacy: Pharmacy Practice, Pharmaceutics, Chemistry and Biological Science. These staff are employed by the University of Bath but based in Plymouth. Further academic staff will be recruited over the next few years, according to the current plan. While interest in the academic posts was high, it has not been possible to recruit a pharmacy technician nor an IT specialist. Contingency plans were in place for both of these posts.

University of Bath staff based at the University of Plymouth will teach on all aspects of the pharmacy programme, from Year 0 to Year 4, depending on their expertise. This will ensure continuity of

approach throughout the five years of the MPharm with Preparatory Year and ensure that the material taught in Year 0 is effectively contextualised.

Students will be taught alongside the University of Plymouth Year 0 healthcare students in University of Plymouth facilities for the three University of Plymouth units. For the three University of Bath units, the Year 0 students will be taught in the newly created pharmacy teaching suite at the University of Plymouth, again giving pharmacy context to the course from day 1. Although simulation equipment has not yet been purchased, there is budget to do so. This is not needed until semester 2, and the provider is delaying until the pharmacy technician role has been filled.

As half of the modules in Year 0 are owned and delivered by the University of Plymouth and half by the University of Bath, students will have access to the Moodle sites of both universities; to Plymouth as visitors and to Bath as students. Pastoral support will be provided by Bath staff who will liaise with Plymouth staff as needed.

## Standard 4: Managing, developing and evaluating MPharm degrees

The quality of the MPharm degree must be managed, developed and evaluated in a systematic way

Criterion 4.1 is: Met  Likely to be met  Not met

Criterion 4.2 is: Met  Likely to be met  Not met

Criterion 4.3 is: Met  Likely to be met  Not met

Criterion 4.4 is: Met  Likely to be met  Not met

Criterion 4.5 is: Met  Likely to be met  Not met

Criterion 4.6 is: Met  Likely to be met  Not met

The team asked specifically how patients and the public had been involved in the design of Year 0 of the course. The provider stated that they had taken advice from the Educational Advisory Group involved in planning the MPharm, which has patient representatives, and also from the Practice Based Learning Board, which had offered experiential learning visits to students in Year 0. When the University of Plymouth modules were developed, albeit some time ago, patient involvement was sought via a Biomedical Sciences group.

A Bath (Plymouth) MPharm Staff-Student Liaison Committee will be established with representation from students on Year 0.

The team asked how the provider will ensure that the three University of Plymouth modules are relevant to pharmacy. The provider said that they have already made some suggestions about pharmacy-relevant examples that could be used in the Plymouth modules. An annual review of content is covered in the draft legal agreement referred to at Standard 3. The pharmacy-specific modules are designed and delivered by Bath staff, while the Plymouth modules focus on skills relevant to all healthcare courses such as teamwork, communication, and applying basic biomedical knowledge.

## Standard 5: Curriculum design and delivery

The MPharm degree curriculum must use a coherent teaching and learning strategy to develop the required skills, knowledge, understanding and professional behaviours to meet the outcomes in part 1 of these standards. The design and delivery of MPharm degrees must ensure that student pharmacists practise safely and effectively

Criterion 5.1 is:	Met <input type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 5.2 is:	Met <input type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Criterion 5.3 is:</b>	<b>Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></b>	<b>Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/></b>	<b>Not met <input type="checkbox"/></b>
Criterion 5.4 is:	Met <input type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 5.5 is:	Met <input type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 5.6 is:	Met <input type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 5.7 is:	Met <input type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Criterion 5.8 is:</b>	<b>Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></b>	<b>Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/></b>	<b>Not met <input type="checkbox"/></b>
<b>Criterion 5.9 is:</b>	<b>Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></b>	<b>Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/></b>	<b>Not met <input type="checkbox"/></b>
<b>Criterion 5.10 is:</b>	<b>Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></b>	<b>Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/></b>	<b>Not met <input type="checkbox"/></b>
<b>Criterion 5.11 is:</b>	<b>Met <input type="checkbox"/></b>	<b>Likely to be met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></b>	<b>Not met <input type="checkbox"/></b>
Criterion 5.12 is:	Met <input type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 5.13 is:	Met <input type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>

Students will be registered as University of Bath students throughout the five years of study and subject to University of Bath regulations. This includes Fitness to Practise policies and procedures. The legal agreement will outline additional University of Plymouth campus-based regulations that students will be required to abide by.

For the three University of Plymouth units in Year 0, students will study and be assessed alongside other University of Plymouth healthcare Year 0 students. These units are managed under standard University of Plymouth regulations and procedures, including annual review and update. Assessment results for the MPharm students will be confirmed at the appropriate University of Plymouth examination board meetings and then communicated officially to the University of Bath. The University of Bath units will be managed according to standard University of Bath processes, including annual review and update.

A bespoke set of University of Bath assessment regulations has been written for the Year 0 component of the course. These regulations are based on the University of Bath Undergraduate Assessment Regulations, which are applicable to all other years of the MPharm (delivered at both locations), but have been amended to account for the specific issues about Year 0, such as the increased progression mark compared to the pass mark. There will be a University of Bath committee charged with reviewing the assessment results of the Year 0 students across all six units and to investigate any disparities between units or between the University of Plymouth units and the University of Bath units. Although not typically required by University of Bath regulations or University of Plymouth regulations, external examiners will be appointed for the Year 0 component of the course.

Regular meetings will take place between the module leads for Year 0 and the course lead. The Head of Pharmacy at Plymouth meets regularly with the Head of Biomedical Science / Academic Link for

MPharm provision, who was present at the event. The approved academic regulations for the course include reference to a pre-board where unit convenors and module leads from Bath and Plymouth units will meet to review marks and work together to ensure academic quality standards are met.

In terms of presentation to students, although there will be two separate Moodle sites for Year 0, there will be an over-arching course webpage to provide cohesiveness. Students will also be briefed on the course structure and key contacts in an introductory session.

As the legal agreement for the course, which addresses processes for course closure, has not yet been signed, criterion 5.11 (In the event of programme closure or withdrawal, higher-education institutions must have a documented process in place to manage the programme closure or withdrawal) is likely to be met and will be reviewed at the next event.

## Standard 6: Assessment

Higher-education institutions must demonstrate that they have a coherent assessment strategy which assesses the required skills, knowledge, understanding and behaviours to meet the learning outcomes in part 1 of these standards. The assessment strategy must assess whether a student pharmacist's practice is safe

Criterion 6.1 is:	Met ✓	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 6.2 is:	Met ✓	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 6.3 is:	Met <input type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 6.4 is:	Met ✓	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 6.5 is:	Met <input type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 6.6 is:	Met <input type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 6.7 is:	Met ✓	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 6.8 is:	Met <input type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 6.9 is:	Met ✓	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 6.10 is:	Met <input type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 6.11 is:	Met ✓	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 6.12 is:	Met ✓	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 6.13 is:	Met ✓	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 6.14 is:	Met <input type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>

Upon successful completion of the Year 0, students will move into Year 1 of the MPharm. From this point forward, until the end of Year 4 of the MPharm, they will be indistinguishable from the Year 1 direct entrants, in terms of teaching and assessment (although their progress will be tracked and analysed separately). The Year 0 entrants will therefore meet the learning outcomes specified in the GPhC's 2021 Standards for the initial education and training of pharmacists in the same way as the Year 1 direct entrants.

Teaching and assessments within the Year 0 units have been designed to ensure that students have sufficient knowledge and skills in order to succeed in Year 1 and beyond. A range of assessments are

utilised in Year 0, reflecting how the students will be assessed in the later years of the programme. This includes a professional portfolio, oral presentations, written reports, formal exams with MCQs and longer answer questions, and group working with peer assessment.

Students will be made aware of the assessment criteria for all assessments and given extensive opportunities for formative attempts. Students must pass all modules and achieve an average mark of 60% in order to progress to Year 1 of the course. As resit marks are capped at the pass mark for the module, the provider acknowledged that some students may not reach this threshold. The team asked if other courses were available for students who do not meet the 60% criteria and was told that Plymouth has a range of non-regulated healthcare courses with an entry criterion of 55%. However, as Bath students, students from this course will need to apply to Plymouth through UCAS. The provider will give full support to any students who are unable to progress.

## Standard 7: Support and development for student pharmacists and everyone involved in the delivery of the MPharm degree

Student pharmacists must be supported in all learning and training environments to develop as learners and professionals during their MPharm degrees. Everyone involved in the delivery of the MPharm degree should be supported to develop in their professional role

### Support for student pharmacists

Criterion 7.1 is:	Met <input type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 7.2 is:	Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 7.3 is:	Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 7.4 is:	Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>

### Support for everyone involved in the delivery of the MPharm degree

Criterion 7.5 is:	Met <input type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 7.6 is:	Met <input type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 7.7 is:	Met <input type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 7.8 is:	Met <input type="checkbox"/>	Likely to be met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not met <input type="checkbox"/>

The team asked how the provider will ensure that students feel supported and part of the University of Bath while studying at Plymouth alongside other University of Plymouth students. The University of Bath will be responsible for providing support to students. There will be a dedicated Bath (Plymouth) email box for students to raise concerns or ask questions. There will also be a single academic staff point of contact through the Preparatory Year Programme Lead. The University of Plymouth will provide emergency, on-site support for students in a crisis, as described in the Legal Agreement.

Students in Year 0 will be indistinguishable from the University of Plymouth Year 0 students at the point of teaching and assessment in the three University of Plymouth Year 0 units. They will receive the same academic support in these units from the University of Plymouth staff as their University of Plymouth student colleagues. Some other healthcare courses involved in the Preparatory Year have cohorts of a similar size to pharmacy. This can be used positively to foster interprofessional learning from the start. The pharmacy students will be taught as a cohort for the three pharmacy modules, and teaching will be in pharmacy-specific facilities.

Part of the purpose of the MPharm with Preparatory Year is widening participation to the pharmacy profession and to allow a Year 0 point of entry for students with non-conventional educational backgrounds. Year 0 entrants are therefore expected to have a wider range of qualifications and experiences than typical Year 1 entrants. Year 0 MPharm students are required to keep a personal development portfolio as part of the University of Bath module "Introduction to Pharmacy and Professional Skills". This portfolio is compiled under the guidance of the student's University of Bath personal tutor, identifying specific areas for development, which will vary between students. The personal tutor will subsequently provide advice and guidance to the student throughout the Year 0 academic year and beyond into subsequent academic years.

The three University of Bath Year 0 units (Introduction to Pharmacy and Professional Skills, Introduction to Chemistry, Mathematics and Numeracy for Pharmacy) have been deliberately designed to include a large number of workshops and problem classes, to allow students to apply the knowledge and practice the skills they have learnt in the lectures. Such classes are relatively informal and allow the staff to assess any issues with the material that the students may have and intervene in a timely manner.

## Decision descriptors

Decision	Descriptor
Met	The accreditation team is assured after reviewing the available evidence that this criterion/learning outcome is met (or will be met at the point of delivery).
Likely to be met	The progress to date, and any plans that have been set out, provide confidence that this criterion/learning outcome is likely to be met by step 7. However, the accreditation team does not have assurance after reviewing the available evidence that it is met at this point (or will be met at the point of delivery).
Not met	The accreditation team does not have assurance after reviewing the available evidence that this criterion or learning outcome is met. The evidence presented does not demonstrate sufficient progress towards meeting this criterion/outcome. Any plans presented either do not appear realistic or achievable or they lack detail or sufficient clarity to provide confidence that it will be met by step 7 without remedial measures (condition/s).



