



# Adapted methodology for reaccreditation of MPharm degrees to 2021 IETP standards

## Introduction

This document summarises the methodology that will be used for the reaccreditation of existing MPharm degrees to the **Standards for the initial education and training of pharmacists, January 2021**.

The methodology set out below will be used for the initial reaccreditation of courses to the 2021 standards, which will take place for all course providers in a staggered arrangement between the 2021-22 and 2023-24 academic years. The methodology is adapted from the standard methodology as set out in the **Accreditation of Pharmacy courses leading to registration and annotation in Great Britain**.

## Context

The 2021 IETP standards introduce a number of important changes to make sure pharmacists are equipped for their future roles. These changes include:

- introducing a new set of learning outcomes that cover the full five years of education and training, and which can link to their continued development after registration
- incorporating the skills, knowledge and attributes for prescribing, to enable pharmacists to independently prescribe from the point of registration
- emphasising the application of science in clinical practice and including a greater focus on the key skills needed for current and future roles – including professional judgement, management of risk, and diagnostic and consultation skills
- making the fifth year of initial education and training a foundation training year with strengthened supervision support, and collaborative working between higher education institutions, statutory education bodies and employers
- having a greater emphasis on equality, diversity and inclusion to combat discrimination and deal with health inequalities

We recognise the challenges that course providers face in developing courses to meet the new standards and learning outcomes, as well as the need for greater collaborative working between Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Statutory Education Bodies (SEBs). We are also aware of current challenges faced by course providers and the scale of change required between the 2011 and 2021 standards.

## Quality assurance of MPharm degrees

The adapted methodology aims to continue to provide robust quality assurance of MPharm degrees in a way that is supportive of the development work required by course providers.

The adapted methodology moves away from a single reaccreditation event, and instead will occur over a longer period of time as a two-part process. This approach aims to allow course providers sufficient time to design and implement a programme that delivers a high-quality teaching and learning experience that incorporates content relating to prescribing and enhanced clinical experience, in an integrated and meaningful way.

The approach aims to support the development process and allow course providers time to plan and implement changes, and to take on board feedback received at part 1. It also takes into account that course providers are yet to receive confirmation of funding arrangements for delivering enhanced clinical activities, and that this may well impact the approach that is taken, and that plans may adapt as this information becomes available over time.

The reaccreditation process will review:

- proposed course provision against the 2021 standards and learning outcomes
- plans for transferring cohorts who started in 2021/22 onwards from the 2011 to 2021 standards

## Methodology

Reaccreditation will take place in two parts, with part 1 taking place in line with the academic year selected by course providers (Diagram 1).

**Diagram 1:** Timing of reaccreditation part 1 and 2 event dependent on course provider's chosen year to start reaccreditation

2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Reaccreditation part 1		Reaccreditation part 2			
	Reaccreditation part 1		Reaccreditation part 2		
		Reaccreditation part 1	Reaccreditation part 2		

## Reaccreditation Part 1 event

**Timing:** To take place between 2021/22 and 2023/24 academic year, with course providers being able to put forward their preference.

**Length:** 2 days

**Location:** On site

**Focus:**

- Review of proposed course against the 2021 standards and learning outcomes
  - The accreditation team will make a judgement as to whether each criterion and learning outcome is 'met', 'likely to be met' by part 2 or, 'not met'.
  - The addition of a 'likely to be met' judgement will allow the accreditation team to review the plans in place and progress made to date, particularly where larger changes or developments are required.
  - A 'not met' judgment will reflect where there is insufficient evidence to provide assurance to the accreditation team that the criterion outcome will be met by part 2.
- Review of plans for transferring cohorts who started in 2021/22 onwards from the 2011 to 2021 standards
- To explore plans and arrangements in place with SEBs for delivery of experiential learning elements (representatives from SEB may wish to attend event)

**Outcome:**

- The outcome options available to the accreditation team remain unchanged, and are:
  - Approval
  - Approval with remediation (conditions)
  - Probation
  - Withdrawal
- Under the varied methodology a recommendation of approval will mean that the MPharm degree is reaccredited to the 2021 standards, subject to a satisfactory part 2 event. This recommendation for approval may also be subject to conditions. Following an outcome of approval or approval with remediation:
  - The MPharm degree may be delivered to the 2021 standards for the next student intake.
  - Students who started the MPharm in 2021/22 and onwards may be moved over to the 2021 standards.
  - The course provider will be given an indication of the focus, length and location of the part 2 event. Note: The accreditation team reserve the right to request an additional monitoring event to take place between part 1 and part 2 if it agrees that insufficient progress has been made at part 1.

## Reaccreditation Part 2 event

**Timing:** Within two academic years of the part 1 event, or before first students graduate to 2021 standards, whichever occurs sooner

**Length:** 1 - 1.5 days (as agreed by accreditation team at part 1)

**Location:** On site/remote (as agreed by accreditation team at part 1)

**Focus:**

- Updates and developments since the part 1 event
- Standards and outcomes judged to be 'likely to be met' or 'not met' at part 1
- Meeting with students undertaking the course to the 2021 standards
- Accreditation team will make a final judgement as to whether each criterion and learning outcome is 'met' or 'not met'

**Outcome:**

- Following a satisfactory part two event the recommendation made at part 1 will be confirmed, this may be subject to additional conditions.
- The accreditation team reserves the right to recommend probation or withdrawal if serious concerns arise.

## Submission documentation

Submission documentation will be required approximately 7 weeks before the event. The exact date will be specified when a mutually convenient event date is agreed.

Relevant templates will be made available in September 2021 at:

<https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/education/approval-courses/accreditation-guidance>

## Reference documents

**Standards for the initial education and training of pharmacists, Jan 2021**

**Guidance for the support the implementation of the 2021 IETP standards**

V1.4

GPhC, May 2023