

Procedures for the initial education and training of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in Great Britain and Northern Ireland

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About us

The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) is the regulator for pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and registered pharmacy premises in England, Scotland and Wales (the countries of Great Britain).

Introduction

This document sets out procedures relating to the initial education and training of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in England, Scotland and Wales and some aspects of initial education and training in Northern Ireland.

The document also sets out key education relationships between the GPhC and the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (PSNI).

The bulk of this document refers to the initial education and training of pharmacists but it does include information on the recognition of pharmacy technician courses and maximum time limits for completing them.

These procedures came into force on the 4th December 2013 and supercede previous versions.

[A] Accreditation and recognition

(1) Definitions and descriptions

- (a) *Accreditation* is the process in accordance with which a course of education and training for registrants or those in training to become registrants is assessed and approved by the GPhC. Courses for pharmacy support staff are accredited also.
- (b) *Recognition* is the process in accordance with which a qualification or a course for those in training to become pharmacy technicians is assessed and approved by the GPhC if
 - (i) it is already approved by one of the national education regulatory bodies, the Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator (Ofqual) or the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA); and
 - (ii) it is included in a national qualification framework (the *Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF)* or *Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)*).
- (c) *Future pharmacists: standards for the initial education and training of pharmacists in Great Britain* (GPhC, 2011) sets out the initial education and training standards for pharmacists training in Great Britain, *Standards for the education and training of non-EEA pharmacists wanting to register in Great Britain* (GPhC, 2011) is the companion document for non-EEA pharmacists wanting to register as a pharmacist in Great Britain and *Standards for the initial education and training of pharmacy technicians* (GPhC, 2010) sets out the initial education and training standards for pharmacy technicians training in Great Britain.
- (d) *The accreditation of pharmacy courses leading to registration and annotation in Great Britain* (GPhC, 2013) sets out the criteria and standards the GPhC will apply to providers who seek to offer an accredited course or an approved qualification or course.

(2) Scope

- (a) The GPhC accredits and recognises courses leading to registration and annotation in England, Scotland and Wales.
- (b) The GPhC and the PSNI jointly accredit courses leading to registration and annotation in Northern Ireland, but in doing so exercise separate legal powers.

- (c) The PSNI has adopted the GPhC's education standards (see *Future Pharmacists, Standards for the initial education and training of pharmacists in Great Britain* (GPhC, 2011)) and accreditation methodology (see *The accreditation of courses leading to registration and annotation in Great Britain* (GPhC, 2013)). The standards and accreditation methodology are, therefore, applicable across the UK.

(3) The status of accreditation or recognition

- (a) Accreditation or recognition may be
- (i) granted on a probationary basis, if concerns have been raised about a course or qualification;
 - (ii) granted on a provisional basis, if a course or qualification has not yet been fully accredited;
 - (iii) granted in full;
 - (iv) not granted;
 - (v) removed.
- (b) Where outcome (a)(iv) or (a)(v) above is being considered by a team of visitors (see 10 below), a team may exercise its discretion to advise a course provider to resubmit its application at a later date. If the course provider agrees, the accreditation or recognition event will be suspended and reconvened at a time agreed by the GPhC and the course provider. If the course provider does not accept the advice then the accreditation team will proceed to recommend one of the outcomes in (a) above.
- (c) (a)(i)-(a)(iii) are granted for a specified period.
- (d) Providers must ensure that any literature or website entries relating to a course or qualification clearly and accurately states the status of its accreditation or recognition.
- (e) If the status of accreditation or recognition of a course or qualification changes providers must notify all prospective and current students of that change immediately and the implications of that change for that student.
- (f) In the case of decisions made about courses accredited jointly by the GPhC and the PSNI, decisions will be valid once the procedures for agreeing decisions by both organisations are complete and both organisations have agreed the decision.

(4) Initial and full accreditation or recognition

- (a) Accreditation or recognition will initially be granted, if at all, on a provisional basis.
- (b) Full accreditation may be granted only once a cohort of students has completed a course.

(5) Re-accreditation and re-recognition

- (a) All accredited courses and approved qualifications and courses will be the subject of periodic re-accreditation or re-recognition. The period between each review will be determined by the GPhC.
- (b) A course or qualification may be granted probationary accreditation or recognition following review. If it is, the provider will be required to produce an action plan within twenty eight days of being notified of the decision to grant probationary accreditation or recognition. The GPhC will make probationary status known publicly.
- (c) The GPhC will determine the adequacy of the action plan stated in (5)(b) and the period of time (not exceeding one year) that the provider may have to successfully implement the action plan.
- (d) At the end of one year, or such shorter period as the GPhC may determine, the GPhC will decide whether the action plan has been satisfactorily and fully completed. If it has accreditation or recognition, as the case may be, will be restored. If it has not, accreditation or recognition will be removed. The GPhC will make removal public.

(6) Review of accreditation or recognition

- (a) The GPhC may review the accreditation of a course or the recognition of a qualification or a course at any time if it becomes aware of a potential concern. Any such review will be undertaken by an accreditation or recognition team and may involve the team attending meetings with the provider's staff, students, external examiners and other relevant parties and/or consideration of relevant written material.
- (b) A review may result in a change to the accreditation status of a course or the recognition of a qualification or course (see (3)(a) above).

(7) Delegation of authority

The GPhC's Council has delegated authority to the Registrar for all accreditation and recognition decisions in Great Britain except

- (i) not granting accreditation or recognition; and
- (ii) removal of accreditation or recognition.

(8) Information and assistance

- (a) In accordance with the *Pharmacy Order 2010*, providers must supply any information and/or assistance the GPhC may reasonably require within a timescale specified by the GPhC.
- (b) Failure to provide information and/or assistance as required may lead the GPhC to
 - (i) impose probationary status; or
 - (ii) not accredit a course or not recognise a qualification or course; or
 - (iii) remove accreditation or recognition.

(9) Appeals

- (a) A provider who wishes to appeal against any accreditation or recognition decision must submit a notice of appeal in the form and manner and within the timescale specified by the GPhC.
- (b) Appeals will be determined by the GPhC's Appeals Committee¹ in a form and manner specified by the Appeals Committee.
- (c) Appeals against accreditation decisions made in Northern Ireland by a joint GPhC/PSNI accreditation panel will be heard by the GPhC's Appeals Committee.
- (d) The PSNI has agreed to accept decisions of the GPhC's Appeals Committee in respect of accreditation appeal decisions made about course providers in Northern Ireland.

¹ The Appeals Committee is an independent body.

(10) Visitors

(a) Appointment of visitors

- (a) The GPhC will appoint visitors to its Accreditation and Recognition Panel for the purposes of (re)accrediting and (re)recognising courses.
- (b) Appointment will be for an initial period of three years and may be renewed on one occasion for a further three year period. Periods of appointment may be varied for operational reasons.
- (c) Visitors may not be appointed to an accreditation or recognition team in respect of any provider at which they regularly give instruction or in relation to which they have a significant connection.

(b) Standards of conduct

All visitors are associates of the GPhC and must abide by its:

- (i) *Code of conduct for Council members and GPhC associates;*
- (ii) *Standard of education and training for Council members and GPhC associates;*
and
- (iii) *Standard of attendance at meetings for Council members and GPhC associates.*

In addition all visitors must:

- (i) abide by the GPhC's *Code of Conduct for Accreditors and Recognisers;*
- (ii) maintain an up to date, full and accurate record in the GPhC's *Register of Interests for Accreditors and Recognisers;* and
- (iii) declare any conflict of interest as defined in the GPhC's *Conflicts of Interest for Accreditors and Recognisers.*

(c) Remuneration

Visitors will be entitled to be paid such expenses, fees and allowances (including allowances to their employer) as the GPhC may determine.

(d) Former visitors

Former visitors may apply for re-appointment if they have not served as visitors in the three years immediately prior to their application.

(11) Accreditation/Recognition Teams

- (a) Accreditation/recognition teams undertake accreditation/recognition assessments on behalf of the GPhC and make recommendations to the GPhC about accreditation and recognition.
- (b) In Northern Ireland, joint accreditation teams undertake accreditation assessments on behalf of the GPhC and the PSNI and make recommendations to the GPhC and the PSNI about accreditation matters (see (d) below).
- (c) An accreditation/recognition team is composed of visitors as defined in article 45 of the *Pharmacy Order 2010*.
- (d) In Northern Ireland, an accreditation team is composed of visitors as defined in article 45 of the *Pharmacy Order 2010*, with (1) a team leader appointed jointly by the GPhC and the PSNI and (2) an additional member appointed by the PSNI and (3) other members are appointed by the GPhC.
- (e) Accreditation/recognition teams are supported by GPhC staff (and in NI by PSNI staff as well).
- (f) *The usual composition of teams.* Each team of visitors usually comprises, as a minimum
 - (i) a team leader;
 - (ii) either
 - (a) a pharmacy education expert who is a pharmacist; or
 - (b) a pharmacy technician education expert who is a pharmacy technician,whichever is most appropriate; and
 - (iii) one other member of the GPhC's Accreditation and Recognition Panel.
- (g) The team leader described in (d) is eligible to be an accreditation panel member (including a team leader) for accreditation events in Great Britain.
- (h) Both joint accreditation team members described in (d) may attend accreditation events in Great Britain as observers².

- (i) Teams may vary in size and composition, according to the requirements of an accreditation or recognition exercise.

(12) Accreditation/recognition decisions

- (a) The GPhC will place accreditation/recognition reports, including decisions, in the public domain.
- (b) Responses from providers to accreditation/recognition reports will be placed in the public domain.

(13) Reporting to the PSNI

The jointly-appointed team leader described in (11) (d) may report to the PSNI's Council on relevant accreditation matters in Great Britain.

[B] The Pharmacist Pre-Registration Scheme

(1) Components of the scheme

The pharmacist pre-registration training scheme – the ‘scheme’ - forms part of the education and training leading to initial registration as a pharmacist in Great Britain. The scheme comprises

- (i) 52 weeks of professional training, at the end of which pre-registration trainee pharmacists must have been signed off by their tutor(s) as having met the GPhC’s *Pre-registration Performance Standards*; and
- (ii) the Registration Assessment, which must be passed.

(2) The conduct and performance of trainees in the scheme

- (a) Pre-registration trainees in the scheme are bound by the GPhC’s *Standards of conduct, ethics and performance* (GPhC, 2012).

(3) Applications to become a pre-registration trainee pharmacist

Applicants may not commence pharmacist pre-registration training until they have

- (a) either
 - (i) passed an accredited MPharm degree or Overseas Pharmacists’ Assessment Programme (OSPAP – a postgraduate diploma); or
 - (ii) successfully completed all elements of an accredited course delivered prior to commencing pre-registration training (where a period of pre-registration training is undertaken before the end of an accredited course³); and
- (b) submitted an application form in the form and manner specified by the GPhC and by the date specified by the GPhC; and
- (c) agreed their pre-registration training plan with their prospective pre-registration tutor; and
- (d) submitted their agreed pre-registration plan, in the form and manner prescribed by the GPhC, to the GPhC for approval by the date specified before the proposed commencement of their pre-registration training; and

³ An accredited sandwich course.

- (e) paid the requisite fee.

(4) Evidence of health and character

- (a) Applicants for the pre-registration training scheme must supply evidence of their health and character to the GPhC in the form and manner prescribed by the GPhC.
- (b) The GPhC will evaluate the health and character of applicants and may give the results of the evaluations to the applicant's pre-registration employer, who may determine the applicant's suitability to undergo pre-registration training in the light of the information supplied.
- (c) Making an application to enter pre-registration training will be considered as consent having been given to disclose evidence (see b above).

(5) Length of pharmacist pre-registration training

- (a) Pre-registration trainee pharmacists must undertake 52 weeks of pre-registration training (continuously or in such blocks of time as may be agreed with their pre-registration tutor and the GPhC).
- (b) Pre-registration trainee pharmacists must undertake a block of 26 weeks' training towards the end of their initial education and training either in a pharmacy open to the public or in a hospital pharmacy.
- (c) 13 weeks' training may take place outside the UK in another European Union member state in the first 26 weeks of pre-registration training. Any such training must be included in the pre-registration training plan as specified in [B](3)(d).

(6) Satisfactory completion of the scheme and registration as a pharmacist

- (a) During and at the conclusion of their 52 week pre-registration training, pre-registration trainee pharmacists must be signed off by their pre-registration tutor(s) as having met the GPhC's *Pre-Registration Performance Standards*.
- (b) All pre-registration trainee pharmacists must pass the Registration Assessment.
- (c) (a) and (b) must be satisfied before a trainee is eligible to be registered⁴.

⁴ In addition trainees must submit other specified evidence to the GPhC and pass specified checks.

(7) Transitional arrangements 2010-2013

- (a) Any person who joined the GPhC's pharmacist pre-registration training scheme, or who was eligible to join the scheme, on or before noon on 12/11/2010 and has not made an application to register on or before noon on 20/12/2013 will be required to comply with [B](1)-(5) of these procedures and with the GPhC's *Requirements for the Initial Education and Training of Pharmacists*.

(8) Persons holding accredited degrees from Northern Ireland institutions⁵

- (a) Persons who hold an accredited pharmacy degree from a Northern Ireland university are eligible to apply to join the GPhC's pharmacist pre-registration scheme in Great Britain, subject to relevant checks.
- (b) Persons defined in (a) who choose to join the scheme in Great Britain must
 - (i) successfully complete 52 weeks of pre-registration training in Great Britain (subject to the provisions in [B](4)(c)); and
 - (ii) pass the GPhC's Registration Assessmentin order to be eligible to apply to register as a pharmacist in Great Britain in accordance with article 21 (1) (d) (i) of the *Pharmacy Order 2010*.
- (c) Persons defined in (8)(b) who
 - (i) successfully complete 52 weeks of pre-registration training in Great Britain; and
 - (ii) pass the GPhC's Registration Assessmentare bound fully by these Procedures.
- (d) Persons defined in (8)(b) who
 - (i) successfully complete 52 weeks of pre-registration training in Great Britain; and
 - (ii) pass the Registration Assessment

⁵ Registrants of the PSNI are eligible to apply to register in Great Britain in accordance with article 21 (1) (d) (i) of the Pharmacy Order 2010.

must apply to register in Great Britain no later than eight calendar years after beginning their accredited degree in Northern Ireland and no later than two years after completing pre-registration training.

- (e) On a case by case basis and in accordance with legal requirements, the GPhC will consider requests for extensions to the maximum period for initial education and training in (8)(d). Extensions may be granted where there are legitimate, documented grounds for doing so.
- (f) On a case by case basis and in accordance with legal requirements, the GPhC will consider requests for initial registration in Great Britain after eight calendar years from the beginning of a person's accredited degree in Northern Ireland. Extensions may be granted where there are legitimate, documented grounds for doing so.
- (g) Subject to the provisions in (8)(b), the GPhC will not accept periods of pre-registration training in Northern Ireland in lieu of periods of pre-registration training in Great Britain.
- (h) Persons who undergo pre-registration training in Northern Ireland are not eligible to sit the GPhC's Registration Assessment, subject to the provisions in (8)(b).

(9) Serious concerns raised about a pre-registration trainee pharmacist

- (a) If a serious concern is raised about a pre-registration trainee pharmacist, the GPhC will investigate the serious concern and may raise it with:
 - (i) the trainee; and
 - (ii) the trainee's pre-registration tutor; and
 - (iii) the trainee's employer and/or superintendent; and
 - (iv) other relevant individuals or agencies.
- (b) In order to ensure safe practice in a pharmacy and to protect patients and the public, the GPhC may require a trainee to sign undertakings which restricts their activity or working conditions in a specified way and for a specified period.
- (c) In order to ensure safe practice in a pharmacy and to protect patients and the public, the GPhC may require a trainee's tutor and/or superintendent to sign an undertaking which will specify how the tutor and/or superintendent will ensure that patients and the public are fully safeguarded if a trainee, in relation to whom a serious concern has been raised, continues to train in a particular pharmacy.

- (d) Trainees must share undertakings with their tutor. Tutors must share undertakings with their trainee and employers/superintendents. Employers/superintendents must share undertakings with the trainee and tutor concerned and other relevant people in their organization.
- (e) The GPhC will monitor the progress of cases and, in particular, the use of undertakings. If a serious concern persists then (a) will be repeated as many times as necessary to secure an outcome which adequately safeguards patients and the public.
- (f) The GPhC will inform trainees in relation to whom a serious concern has been made that the serious concern may be investigated again when the trainee makes an application to register as a pharmacist.
- (g) If an owner or superintendent fails to provide or comply with an undertaking reasonably required of him or her by the GPhC, the GPhC will consider whether further regulatory action is required.
- (h) If a pre-registration tutor fails to provide or comply with an undertaking reasonably required of him or her by the GPhC, the GPhC will consider whether further regulatory action is required.

(10) Removal from the pharmacist pre-registration scheme

If a pre-registration trainee pharmacist

- (i) resigns from the scheme; or
- (ii) is unable to complete the scheme for any reason; or
- (iii) fails to provide or comply with an undertaking reasonably required of him or her by the GPhC under (9) above; or
- (iii) cannot secure or ceases to have a pre-registration placement for any reason; or
- (iv) is not signed off as competent by their pre-registration tutor; or
- (v) was not eligible to be accepted onto the GPhC's pre-registration scheme on or before noon on 12/11/2010 and has failed the GPhC's Registration Assessment on three occasions; or

- (vi) exceeds the maximum period for completion of their training as set out in [G] below,

they will be removed from the scheme.

(11) Appeals against removal from the scheme and re-instatement to the scheme

- (a) Appeals against removal from the scheme must be submitted in the form and manner specified by the GPhC within 28 days of the trainee receiving notification of their removal.
- (b) Appeals against removal from the scheme on any ground other than 10 (i)-(vi) must be submitted in the form and manner specified by the GPhC within 28 days of the trainee receiving notification of their removal.
- (c) The Registrar will determine any appeal on the basis of the written information submitted.
- (d) If a pre-registration trainee pharmacist is re-instated to the scheme after successfully appealing against their removal they will have to comply with, and if necessary repeat, [B](2)–(5).

[C] Pharmacist Pre-Registration Tutors

- (a) The GPhC shall issue guidance for pharmacist pre-registration tutors about undertaking the role of a tutor.
- (b) The GPhC shall issue guidance on the content of training courses for pharmacist pre-registration tutors.
- (c) The GPhC shall maintain a list of pre-registration tutors.

[D] Pre-Registration Pharmacy Training Premises

- (a) The GPhC shall issue guidance for the premises at which pharmacist pre-registration training may be undertaken.
- (b) The GPhC shall establish, publish and maintain lists of premises that are to be used as pre-registration training establishments.

[E] The Registration Assessment

(1) The Registration Assessment

- (a) The Registration Assessment is set and moderated by the GPhC's Board of Assessors.
- (b) The Registration Assessment is governed by the *Registration Assessment Regulations*.
- (c) The regulations, syllabus and all other governance documents for the Registration Assessment are made by the GPhC's Board of Assessors.

(2) Sitting the Registration Assessment

- (a) A pre-registration trainee pharmacist may, if the overall length of their education and training is within the timescales set out in [G] below, attempt the Registration Assessment a maximum of three times⁶.
- (b) The Registration Assessment must be passed at one sitting on one day.
- (c) Marks from one sitting cannot be transferred to another sitting.

(3) Requesting a reasonable adjustment to accommodate a specific need

- (a) The Board of Assessors may make reasonable adjustments on behalf of any pre-registration trainee pharmacists with specific needs in relation to the manner and conditions in which the Registration Assessment is sat. Reasonable adjustments will be agreed on behalf of the Board by the Board's Adjustments Panel.
- (b) A reasonable adjustment is any adjustment made to the manner and conditions in which the Registration Assessment is sat for a given candidate.
- (c) A pre-registration trainee pharmacist may appeal to the Registrar against a reasonable adjustment provision decided by the Board of Assessors, in a form and manner specified by the GPhC and by a specified date.

⁶ This includes sittings taken when the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain was the pharmacy regulator, i.e. prior to 27 September 2010.

(4) Appeals against failure of the Registration Assessment

- (a) A pre-registration trainee pharmacist may appeal against their failure of the Registration Assessment only on the grounds of
 - (i) procedural irregularities in the conduct of the Assessment; or
 - (ii) procedural irregularities in the marking of the Assessment.
- (b) Any appeal must be submitted to the Registrar on or by a date specified by the GPhC and in a manner specified by the GPhC.
- (c) The Registrar will determine the appeal on the basis of the written information submitted.

(5) Transitional arrangements 2010-2013

- (a) Pre-registration trainee pharmacists who joined the pre-registration training scheme before noon on 12/11/2010 may make a request for an exceptional fourth attempt at the Registration Assessment, subject to (b) below.
- (b) The only grounds for an exceptional fourth attempt are circumstances that
 - (i) were not and could not have been known to a candidate when sitting the Registration Assessment for a third time; and
 - (ii) could not have formed the basis of an appeal against a third attempt fail in accordance with the *Registration Assessment Regulations*.
- (c) Circumstances relevant to a first or second attempt at the Registration Assessment are not relevant to, and therefore not admissible in, a request for an exceptional fourth attempt.
- (d) Pre-registration trainee pharmacists who request and are granted an exceptional fourth attempt are bound by the provisions in [B](6)(a).
- (e) The final sitting at which a fourth attempt can be made is September 2013.
- (f) The right to make a request for an exceptional fourth attempt is removed at noon on 20/12/2013.

[F] The Board of Assessors

(1) Appointment

The GPhC will appoint members of the Board of Assessors for a term of four years. At the expiry of the four- year term, members of the Board may have their appointment renewed on one occasion, for a period of up to two years. Terms of office may be varied for operational reasons.

(2) Composition of the Board of Assessors

- (a) The Board of Assessors must comprise a minimum of 10 members including:
 - (i) pharmacists,
 - (a) one of whom must practise wholly or mainly in England;
 - (b) one of whom must practise wholly or mainly in Wales;
 - (c) one of whom must practise wholly or mainly in Scotland.
 - (ii) pharmacist academics/professional practitioners from schools of pharmacy running an accredited MPharm degree;
 - (iii) non-registrants with relevant expertise.
- (b) Members of the Board may simultaneously fulfil some and/or all of the criteria of [F](2)(a)(i) –(iii)
- (c) Pharmacists currently acting as pharmacist pre-registration tutors may not be members of the Board of Assessors.

(3) Chair and Deputy Chair

- (a) A Chair and Deputy Chair will be appointed from the membership of the Board.
- (b) The Chair and Deputy Chair must be pharmacists with appropriate experience.
- (c) The Chair and Deputy Chair will be appointed for a period of four years. This term of office may be in addition to the terms in [F](1). Terms of office may be varied for operational reasons.

(4) Quoracy

- (a) Quoracy for a full meeting of the Board will be:
 - (i) the Chair or Deputy Chair, who will chair the meeting;
 - (ii) four other members of the Board (which can include the Chair or Deputy Chair).
- (b) Members may attend in person or by an audio-visual or audio link.

(5) Remuneration

- (a) The GPhC will set the remuneration rate for the Chair, Deputy Chair and members of the Board;
- (b) Members are entitled to reimbursement of expenses reasonably and necessarily incurred in the course of their work for the Board.

[G] Maximum time limits for completing initial education and training

- (a) Pharmacist students/trainees taking (1) an MPharm degree followed by (2) pre-registration training and (3) the Registration Assessment (Examination) must complete and pass the three components in 8 years from the date they commenced an MPharm degree. This assumes continuous, full-time study.
- (b) Pharmacist students/trainees taking (1) an MPharm Foundation degree followed by (2) pre-registration training and (3) the Registration Assessment (Examination) must complete and pass the three components in 9 years from the date they commenced an MPharm degree. This assumes continuous, full-time study.
- (c) Pharmacist students/trainees taking (1) an OSPAP postgraduate diploma, or postgraduate master's degree including an OSPAP, followed by (2) pre-registration training and (3) the Registration Assessment (Examination) must complete and pass the three components in 4 years from the date they commenced an OSPAP postgraduate diploma, or postgraduate master's degree including an OSPAP. This assumes continuous, full-time study.
- (d) Pharmacy technician trainees take two courses – (1) a knowledge-based course and (2) a competence-based course. Pharmacy technician trainees must complete and pass both courses within 5 calendar years of starting the first course or within 2 years of completing and passing the last course, whichever is the sooner. In addition, pharmacy technicians must satisfactorily complete two years of part-time employment in a pharmacy.
- (e) A time limit may be extended to accommodate:
 - part-time study;
 - reasonable adjustments to accommodate a specific need;
 - maternity/paternity leave;
 - serious illness;
 - serving in the Territorial Army/national service.

This list is not exhaustive.

- (r) Extensions will be granted on the basis of written evidence only.

[H] EEA-qualified pharmacists wanting to register with PSNI under the EC's general system for the recognition of evidence of training [Directive 2005/36]

- (a) EEA-qualified pharmacists who wish to register with PSNI under the General System must undergo the GPhC's comparative assessment process in the form and manner specified by the GPhC. The GPhC undertakes these assessments on behalf of the PSNI.
- (b) After assessing an applicant in accordance with (a), the GPhC will recommend a compensation measure to the PSNI.
- (c) The PSNI has agreed to accept the recommendation as to the compensation measure to apply to an application.
- (d) An applicant can appeal the compensation measure to the GPhC's Appeals Committee.
- (e) The PSNI has agreed to accept decisions of the GPhC's Appeals Committee in respect of decisions regarding compensation measures.
- (f) In the case of a compensation measure which consists of a period of adaptation training with assessments, this can be completed wholly in either Northern Ireland or Great Britain but not a combination of the two. It must be completed in accordance with all of the requirements for pre-registration training applicable in the particular jurisdiction.
- (g) The GPhC will not accept periods of adaptation training with assessments undertaken in Northern Ireland imposed as part of a compensation measure required for registration in Great Britain, unless the applicant successfully completes the full compensation measure in Northern Ireland and first registers in Northern Ireland.
- (h) In the case of a compensation measure which consists of a 52-week period of pre-registration training with assessments, including a registration assessment (examination), persons must complete the registration assessment (examination) in the same jurisdiction in which they have undertaken their pre-registration training. This can be completed in either Northern Ireland or Great Britain.

- (l) The GPhC will not accept 52-weeks of pre-registration training in Northern Ireland or sittings of the PSNI's Registration Examination imposed as part of a compensation measure required for registration in Great Britain, unless the applicant successfully completes the full compensation measure in Northern Ireland and first registers in Northern Ireland.
- (j) Applicants must pay the requisite fee for a comparative assessment.

[I] Fees

All fees payable to the GPhC in respect of [A]–[H] of these procedures will be in accordance with a Fees Schedule.

[J] Education decisions made by the previous pharmacy regulator in Great Britain

- (a) Through provisions in the *Pharmacy Order* 2010, the GPhC accepts education decision made by the previous pharmacy regulator, the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (the ‘Society’).
- (b) The relevant provision is ‘Schedule 5 Transitional Provisions’:

Education and training

9.—(1) Anything determined, approved or accredited by the Society under articles 14, 15, 25 and 26 of the 2007 Order immediately before the appointed day, except the approval or accreditation of providers of continuing professional development, is to be treated as having been set or approved by the Council under, as the case may be, article 42(1)(b)(ii), (4) or (5) as from the appointed day.

(2) An appeal as provided for in rules under article 16(3)(c)(iii) or (d) or (4) or 27(3)(c)(iii) or (d) or (4) of the 2007 Order which is pending or proceeding immediately before the day the 2007 Order is revoked must be dealt with as if those articles remained in force.

(3) In this paragraph, “the appointed day” means the day appointed for the coming into force of Part 5.

[K] Related documents

(1) Conduct, ethics and performance

- Code of conduct for pharmacy students* (GPhC, 2010;
<http://www.pharmacyregulation.org/education/pharmacist/student-code-conduct>)
- Code of conduct for pre-registration trainee pharmacy technicians* (GPhC, 2011;
<http://www.pharmacyregulation.org/education/pharmacy-technician/student-code>)
- Guidance on consent* (GPhC, 2012;
<http://www.pharmacyregulation.org/standards/guidance>)
- Guidance on maintaining clear sexual boundaries* (GPhC, 2012;
<http://www.pharmacyregulation.org/standards/guidance>)
- Guidance on raising concerns* (GPhC, 2012;
<http://www.pharmacyregulation.org/standards/guidance>)
- Guidance on tutoring for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians* (GPhC, in press)
- Standards of conduct, ethics and performance* (GPhC, 2012;
<http://www.pharmacyregulation.org/standards/conduct-ethics-and-performance>)

(2) Education and training standards/accreditation and recognition

- Future pharmacists, standards for the initial education and training of pharmacists* (GPhC, 2011; <http://www.pharmacyregulation.org/education/education-standards>)
- Pre-registration training manual* (GPhC, updated annually;
<http://www.pharmacyregulation.org/preregmanual>)
- Standards for the education and training of non-EEA pharmacists wanting to register in Great Britain* (GPhC, 2011;
<http://www.pharmacyregulation.org/education/education-standards>)
- Standards for the initial education and training of pharmacy technicians* (GPhC, 2010;
<http://www.pharmacyregulation.org/education/education-standards>)

Accreditation/recognition documents are at
<http://www.pharmacyregulation.org/education/approval-courses/accreditation-guidance>

A list of accredited courses is at <http://www.pharmacyregulation.org/education/approval-courses/accreditation-and-recognition-reports>

(3) Registration

- Criteria for registering as a pharmacist* (GPhC, 2012;
<http://www.pharmacyregulation.org/registration/registering-pharmacist>)
- Criteria for registering as a pharmacy technician* (GPhC, 2013;
<http://www.pharmacyregulation.org/registration/registering-pharmacy-technician>)

[L] Further information

For further information on pharmacy education and training in Great Britain goto:
<http://www.pharmacyregulation.org/education>

For further information on pharmacy education in Northern Ireland goto:
<http://www.psni.org.uk/>

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