

Pharmacy Education Policy – Fit for the Future

Preregistration training

1. Routes to registration

All applicants must possess a degree in pharmacy, prove their identity, pay the appropriate fees, sign declarations of good health and good conduct and affirm that they will abide by the Society's Code of Ethics. UK graduates holding a Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) degree move straight into the preregistration year.

Overseas pharmacy graduates must enter the scheme via the Adjudicating Committee which refers all but a few exceptional cases to the Overseas Pharmacists' Assessment Programme (OSPAP). Upon successful completion of the OSPAP the overseas graduates enter the preregistration year on the same basis as UK graduates. The OSPAP, therefore, behaves like another School of Pharmacy for entry to the preregistration year.

Pharmacists holding a qualification listed in the Pharmacy Directive awarded in another European Economic Area (EEA)¹ state have an automatic right of entry to the register provided they can also prove their identity, pay the appropriate fees, sign declarations of good health and good conduct and affirm that they will abide by the Code of Ethics.

All trainees must then complete 52 weeks of supervised and assessed training in employment. There are staged assessments every 13 weeks and a final assessment at 52 weeks, all of which must be satisfactory for admission to the register. Trainees are eligible to sit the Registration Examination after a satisfactory 39 week assessment and after completing 45 weeks of training. Once the Registration Examination has been passed, and the 52 weeks (or more in some cases) of satisfactory training have been completed and the other requirements met, then applicants can be entered on the register.

Entry on the register confers the award of Member of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (MRPharmS).

2. Performance standards for preregistration training

The Society's Performance Standards fall under the following headings, that in order to achieve them the trainee must have demonstrated being able to:

- Meet the knowledge requirements laid down by the Society;
- Manage themselves and their behaviour (including attitude);
- Manage their work;

¹ the 25 European Union states together with Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland

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- Comply with Medicines Ethics and Practice;
- Manage problems;
- Demonstrate a commitment to quality in performance;
- Demonstrate ongoing learning and development;
- Communicate effectively;
- Work effectively with others;
- Manage the dispensing process; and
- Provide additional clinical and pharmaceutical services.

The standards are implemented in the preregistration placement through the mechanism of a learning contract between the trainee and tutor. The trainee undertakes to comply with the standards as part of their ethical and professional responsibilities and the tutor undertakes to support them in this.

The tutor also acts as an assessor for compliance with the standards in a series of staged assessments leading up to a final assessment at the 52 week point. This last assessment is a specific part of the eligibility for admission to the register. The Preregistration Year is designed to develop and test competence in practice against these standards and specifically:

- application of knowledge and experience to the practice situation, learning at every opportunity;
- development of new skills and knowledge fundamental to professional practice; and
- development of a sufficiently professional attitude to demonstrate these behaviours in practice.

3. Registration Examination

The registration examination is an assessment of knowledge and understanding of topics that form the core of knowledge required for effective professional practice. In the examination, candidates are required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding by analysing and evaluating practice-based problems. The knowledge is examinable in its own right i.e. irrespective of whether, at the time of sitting the examination, candidates have had an opportunity to undertake activities that are supported by the knowledge. The examination syllabus may therefore be wider than the placement experience. The Registration Examination complements the testing of skills in practice by tutors during the preregistration year. It tests:

- knowledge;
- the application of knowledge;
- calculation;
- time management;
- managing stress;
- comprehension;
- recall;

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- interpretation; and
- evaluation.

Questions are based on scenarios and are designed to test the thinking and knowledge which lie behind any action. Candidates must demonstrate either that they have the necessary knowledge or that they are able to find it in set books, and they must be able to demonstrate that they can evaluate situations in order to apply their knowledge effectively. The examination is not designed to replicate the exact clinical environment of the practice of pharmacy. Candidates who fail are given a breakdown of their marks. Candidates who fail on two attempts must then complete a further six months training before entering for their final examination sitting.

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