

PHARMACIST

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Community pharmacists supply medicine a doctor has prescribed or that can be bought over the counter. They give advice and instructions for use, check and make up dosages and store supplies safely. They run the pharmacy as a business, selling over the counter medicines and remedies and other goods. They also supervise and train staff.

Hospital pharmacists prepare and supply medication. They also visit wards, give clinical advice to colleagues and supply them with current information on drugs. They are responsible for medicines purchase, storage, manufacture, quality testing and distribution within the hospital.

Industrial pharmacists research and develop new medicines, experiment, evaluate results and write reports – includes civil servants in scientific and administration posts within the Department of Health and the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

There are also agricultural and veterinary pharmacists

INDUSTRY REQUIREMENTS

To train to become a Pharmacist in the UK a worker will need to have the following:-

- (i) A-level chemistry plus other A/AS Levels such as biology and maths.
- (ii) A four-year Master of Pharmacy degree (MPharm) from a School of Pharmacy in the UK. Please note that Pharmacy degrees in The UK are approved by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (RPSGB).
- (iii) One year's practical training in a pharmacy after completing their degree, this is known as "pre-registration training".
- (IV) To pass an examination at the end of their year of pre-registration training in order to register with the RPSGB.

REGISTRATION WITH A PROFESSIONAL BODY

Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland): It is a statutory requirement that anyone wishing to practice as a Pharmacist in the UK must be registered with the RPSGB. This register is available on-line at <http://www.rpsgb.org.uk/register.html>. Alternatively, the RPSGB registration department can be contacted by e-mail at registration@rpsgb.org. All overseas workers who qualified outside of the UK need to apply to the RPSGB Adjudicating Committee for registration, to allow them to work in The UK. (Details are provided at Appendix One.)

Northern Ireland: In Northern Ireland it is a statutory requirement that any one wishing to practice as a Pharmacist must be registered with the Pharmaceutical Association of Northern Ireland (PSNI). <http://www.dotpharmacy.com/psni/>

- Registration of Employers businesses: Wholesalers of pharmaceutical products must be licensed by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency

(MHRA).

There are three categories for licensing of wholesalers:-

- A full licence to sell Prescription-only Medicine (POM) products.
- A restricted licence to sell General Sales Listed (GSL) products
- A licence permitting the import of pharmaceutical products.

All retail pharmacies in the UK must be registered with the RPSGB, in Northern Ireland the registration will be with the PSNI. To legally dispense NHS prescriptions, a retail pharmacy must obtain a contract from their local Primary Care Trust (PCT) or Health Board. If a pharmacy (or wholesaler) sell industrial methylated spirits they are required by law to have authorisation from Customs and Excise to do so.

Pharmacists who sell poisons that are regulated by the Poisons Act 1971: Only a registered pharmacist can sell poisons listed under Part 1 of the Act and anyone wishing to sell poisons listed under Part 2 of the Act must be included in a list of sellers kept by their local authority.

Voluntary Licensing: In addition to the various statutory registration requirements listed above, many employees and employers also choose to voluntarily register with the National Pharmaceutical Association or the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry.

CASEWORKER TREATMENT

B&C: The job meets the skills criteria when the worker has appropriate registration with either the RPSGB or PSNI. For applications from the independent sector, caseworkers should ensure that the worker would be a salaried employee as some pharmacists are self-employed. Caseworkers can request a copy of the workers contract of employment to confirm this.

Pharmacists from Australia or New Zealand who are required to undertake their four weeks of supervised practice in the UK, may be granted approval for the full period requested by the employer on condition that the employer supplies evidence to Work Permits (UK) once the worker has gained their RPSGB registration. Caseworkers should adapt paragraph P70H in their approval letter.

The same applies to overseas pharmacists from other countries, who wish to undertake their 12 months pre-registration training whilst being employed.

European Economic Area (EEA): Pharmacists who qualified in an EEA country are allowed to register as a pharmacist in The UK provided that they meet the criteria set out in Appendix One and:

- Have a degree in pharmacy from a Member State that complies with the Training Directive 85/432/EEC. Or have a Degree in Pharmacy from a Member State that was granted (or started) before the date the Training Directive was implemented; and who has worked in a regulated pharmacy activity in that Member State for a minimum of three consecutive years. The three years experience must have been gained during the five years preceding the award of their certificate.
- Any other country: Pharmacists who qualified in any other country than the above

are eligible to apply for registration when they have completed a pharmacy course that is comparable to those in the UK and the pharmacist is registered or eligible to register as a pharmacist overseas. The RPSGB Adjudicating Committee may require the overseas worker to undertake one of two courses of action, as mentioned in Appendix One.

TWES Training: This occupation is suitable for TWES training towards registration with RPSGB. Applications may be for up to 18 months where the post is additional to normal staffing requirements.

TWES Work Experience: This occupation is not suitable, however, caseworkers should check Appendix One for specific information on the training periods required for workers in order to gain their registration.

SALARY

Pharmacists that work for the NHS will be paid according to the new Agenda for Change program. This is based on Pharmacists working a 37, ½ hour week.

Job Title	Agenda for Change
Pharmacy Support worker (Band 2)	12,577- 15,523
Pharmacy Support worker Higher (Band 3)	14,437- 17,257
Pre-registration pharmacists working for the NHS (Band 5)	19,683- 25,424
Pharmacy Entry Level (Band 5)	19,683- 25,424
Pharmacist (Band 6)	23,458- 31,779
Pharmacist Specialist (Band 7)	28,313- 37,326
Pharmacist Advanced (Band 8a-b)	36,112- 52,002
Pharmacist Consultant (Band 8b-d)	42,064- 75,114

ADVERTISING

There is currently a recognised shortage of Pharmacists and all applications should be treated under the shortage occupation category.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, 1 Lambeth High Street, London, SE1 7JN

Tel: 0207 735 9141, Fax: 0207 572 2499, E-Mail: enquiries@rspgb.org, registration@rspgb.org or overseas@rspgb.org, Website: www.rpsgb.org.uk.

Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry, 12 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2DY,

Tel: 0207 930 3477, Fax: 0207 747 1417, E-Mail: careers@abpi.org.uk, Website: www.abpi.org.uk.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland, 73 University Street, Belfast, BT7 1HL

Tel: 028 9032 6927, Further information can be found at <http://www.dotpharmacy.co.uk/psni/>.

The National Pharmaceutical Association, Mallinson House, 38-42 St Peter's Street, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 3NP. Tel: 01727 832161, Fax: 01727 840858. E-Mail: npa@npa.co.uk, Website: www.npa.co.uk.

APPENDIX ONE

RPSGB Registration Criteria for Northern Ireland and Overseas Trained Pharmacists

Northern Ireland: Pharmacists who have qualified in Northern Ireland must supply an original letter from the Register of the PSNI to the RPSGB, that confirms they are registered with the PSNI, of good standing and have current registration. Letters are considered to be valid for six months. The worker should also supply a birth and marriage certificate where appropriate and complete a RPSGB health declaration form that has been certified by a doctor registered in The UK or Northern Ireland. The worker is then required to attend a meeting at the RPSGB in London in order to gain formal registration.

Australia and New Zealand: In all cases Pharmacists who qualified in Australia and New Zealand must make their application for RPSGB registration whilst residing at an address in the UK. Additionally prior to gaining registration with RPSGB, different criteria apply to applications, depending upon the date when the worker gained their registration in either Australia or New Zealand. This reciprocal agreement applies only to workers who possess a degree or diploma in pharmacy obtained in either country.

Workers who obtained registration on or before 31/03/1968, are required to provide the RPSGB with a Certificate of Identity from the Registrar in New Zealand or from the Registrar in the Australian State where the worker obtained their degree or diploma in pharmacy.

The certificate should confirm they are of good standing in that state and have obtained a degree or diploma in pharmacy. The worker should also supply a birth and marriage certificate where appropriate and complete a RPSGB health declaration form that has been certified by a doctor registered in the UK, New Zealand or Australia.

Workers who obtained registration after 31/03/1968, are required to provide a Certificate of Identity from the Registrar in New Zealand or from the Registrar in the Australian State where they gained their degree or diploma in pharmacy. This should confirm the worker is of good standing in that state, has attained their degree or diploma in pharmacy from that state and has completed at least one year employment in pharmacy subsequent to registration as a pharmacist normally within the jurisdiction of that state. Applicants must provide a CV that must state that they have completed the one year employment in pharmacy, as normally certificates do not provide this information. The worker should also supply a birth and marriage certificate where appropriate and complete an RPSGB health declaration form that has been certified by a doctor registered in the UK, New Zealand or Australia.

In all of the above the Certificate of Identity is classed as being valid for six months and all certificates provided should be originals.

Once the worker has provided the required information, the worker is required to undertake four weeks supervised practice in the practice of pharmacy in the UK. This practice is normally with a community pharmacy or in the pharmacy department of a hospital and under the direct control of an RPSGB registered pharmacist. Following this the worker must attend a meeting at the RPSGB in order to formally gain their registration to practice in The UK.

European Economic Area (EEA): Pharmacists who qualified in an EEA country are allowed to register as a pharmacist in The UK provided that they are:-

- A national of a member state of the EEA, or are entitled to be treated no less favourably than an EEA national by virtue of a right conferred by article 11 of Council Regulation 1612/68, or any other enforceable Community right.
- In good standing with their professional authority in their Member State.
- Have a degree in pharmacy from a Member State that complies with the Training Directive 85/432/EEC or have a degree in pharmacy from a Member State that was granted (or started) before the date the Training Directive was implemented and who has worked in a regulated pharmacy activity in that Member State for at least three consecutive years during the five years preceding the award of their certificate.

Any other country: Pharmacists who qualified in any other country than the above are eligible to apply for registration when they have completed a pharmacy course that is comparable to those in the UK and the pharmacist is registered or eligible to register as a pharmacist overseas. The RPSGB Adjudicating Committee may require the overseas worker to undertake one of two courses of action, as follows:-

The Committee may require the worker to:

- Undertake the one year Overseas Pharmacists Assessment Programme that includes passing all parts of the Overseas Pharmacists (OSP) Assessments.
- Complete 12 months of Pre-Registration Training immediately after they have passed their OSP Assessments. This training should be completed under the same terms and conditions that are required of MPharm graduates in the UK.
- Pass the RPSGB's registration exams.

The Committee may require the worker to:

Attend a formal interview with them and following this, the committee will decide the most appropriate route for the worker to gain their registration, this may be either:-

- To complete a four year MPharm in the UK, undertake 12 months pre-registration training and to take the registration examination, in order to gain their RPSGB registration; or

- To complete the one year OSP Assessment Programme and 12 months of Pre-Registration Training, followed by taking the registration examination in order to gain their RPSGB registration.

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