



Australian Pharmacy Degree Holders Registering in Other Countries

Compiled by Stacey Gough, IPSF Chair 2010/11, on behalf of NAPSA.

The information presented below has been compiled for current Australian pharmacy students. Information regarding visas and the rules surrounding working in the respected countries will need to be investigated and is not covered here. All the information was current at the time of compilation and may have changed since. The National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association is not accountable for inaccuracy of information. Students must verify all information with the relevant registration authorities prior to initiating international registration procedures.

1. Great Britain

All information regarding registration with the RPSGB was obtained from www.rpsgb.org.uk

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (RPSGB) is the regulatory and professional body for pharmacists in Great Britain.

To be eligible to apply to the Committee you must have completed a pharmacy course that is comparable to those in the UK and must be registered or eligible to register as a pharmacist in your country of qualification, that is you must have graduated from university and be eligible to complete the intern year, or have completed the intern year and be registered with the Pharmacy Board of Australia.

If you have an Australian Pharmacy Degree you are not entitled to apply for registration with the Society, unless you have first:

- a) completed an Overseas Pharmacists Assessment Programme (OSPAP);
- b) subsequently completed preregistration training approved by the Society; and
- c) subsequently passed the registration examination set by the Society.

1.1 The OSPAP

To follow is a brief rundown on the OSPAP. For detailed information, read the [OSPAP Information Pack](#).

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Step One: | Attend an interview, where it will be determined if you are eligible for the OSPAP. |
| Step Two: | If eligible, you then complete an application. It is very detailed and all the information is in the above link. |
| Step Three: | Complete the OSPAP. The course starts in September/October each year and takes one academic year to complete. |



1.2 Preregistration

On completion of the OSPAP, you will be eligible to complete preregistration. Detailed information is available [here](#).

As per Australian standards, preregistration takes approximately 12 months to complete.

1.3 Examination

There is an examination at the end of the preregistration year. Passing this exam entitles you to register with the RPSGB and work as a pharmacist.

As this route is not suitable for anyone unless they intend to live in the UK long-term, you may wish to look into working as a [Pharmacy Technician](#).

2. Republic of Ireland

All information regarding registration with the PSI was obtained from www.pharmaceuticalsociety.ie

The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI) maintains registers of retail pharmacy businesses (pharmacies), pharmacists and pharmaceutical assistants.

The following information is relevant for nationals of a non European Union (EU)/EEA member state (that is, people not from Europe). If you have a European passport you may be eligible for direct registration with the PSI. Information is available [here](#). Detailed information regarding registration as a Third Country Pharmacist in Ireland is available [here](#).

The PSI must determine that the applicant's qualification is appropriate. This is achieved through a four stage process.

2.1 Stage One: Degree/training recognition equivalency

An appropriate degree with an appropriate registration period must have been completed.

2.2 Stage Two: Equivalence Examination

Determines if the applicant's training, education and qualifications are of an appropriate standard. If any shortcomings are identified, the applicant moves into stage three, if none are identified then the applicant moves onto stage four.

2.3 Stage Three: Adaptation Period

This stage lasts for a minimum of six months. It is a period of supervised work designed to allow time for the applicant to acquire any competencies that were lacking from stage two.

2.4 Stage Four

The applicant is required to sit and pass the Professional Registration Exam of the PSI. On completion of the exam the applicant is presented with a certificate confirming their qualification is 'appropriate for practice in the State'. Pharmacists can then apply to be registered with the PSI.



3. Canada

All information regarding registration with the PEBC was obtained from www.pebc.ca

The Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC) is the national certification body for the pharmacy profession in Canada.

There are two requirements for registration with the PEBC. Detailed information is available [here](#).

- a) Document Evaluation
- b) The Pharmacist Evaluating Examination

3.1 Document Evaluation

The PEBC determines whether your degree is acceptable.

3.2 The Pharmacist Evaluating Examination

A written examination is taken to determine if your knowledge content is comparable to that of a Canadian graduate pharmacist.

3.3 The Pharmacist Qualifying Examination

This examination is taken to assess the competencies required for safe and effective practice. It is held twice yearly and is made up of two parts.

Each stage of registration with the PEBC incurs fees. Once you are registered, you then need to register with the province you are intending to work in. Further information is available [here](#).

4. The USA

All information regarding registration with the NABP was obtained from www.nabp.net

The mission of the [member boards](#) of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) is to protect public health. NABP's members are the boards of pharmacy for all 50 states, District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, along with 9 associate members located in Canada and New Zealand.

All the states of the USA require graduates from non USA pharmacy schools to achieve Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Examination Committee (FPGEC) Certification before applying for a license from that state. That is to say, that once you achieve certification via the FPGEC you will be required to register separately in the state you wish to work in. Each state's [Pharmacy Board](#) has difference and specific requirements.

Detailed information about the FPGEC is available [here](#). The FPGEC Certification Program evaluates the qualifications of foreign pharmacy graduates in accordance with US standards for pharmacy education, reviewing your education and current registration.

The news for working in the USA isn't great. To be eligible to complete the FPBEC Certification Program, you have to have completed a five-year undergraduate degree. Australian undergraduate degrees are four years long and we are ineligible. There are provisions for other study and you may be eligible to apply if you have completed additional relevant study.



5. **Republic of South Africa**

All information regarding registration with the SAPC was obtained from www.pharmcouncil.co.za

The South African Pharmacy Council is the official registration body for pharmacists in South Africa. To register with the SAPC, you have to first complete one year of remunerated pharmaceutical community service in a public sector institution. The first point of contact is the [Department of Health](#) to arrange this placement. After the placement you can apply to the Council for admission to the professional examination.

A summary of the events required are as follows:

- 5.1 Obtain a job offer to perform community service from the Department of Health,
- 5.2 Submit all documentation required by the Examination and Adjudication Committee of the SAPC,
- 5.3 Await approval of the committee,
- 5.4 Once approval has been obtained, pass the professional examination and preregistration evaluation,
- 5.5 Submit to the Council the completed contract of employment obtained from Department of Health and applicable fees for registration as a community service pharmacist,
- 5.6 Assume duty as a community service pharmacist.

6. **Singapore**

All information regarding registration with the SPC was obtained from www.spc.gov.sg

The Singapore Pharmacy Council (SPC) maintains the list of persons legally qualified to practise pharmacy in Singapore (Register of Pharmacists) and also governs and regulates the professional conduct and ethics of registered pharmacists.

More detailed information about registration with the SPC is available [here](#).

6.1 Degree Acceptance

A list of degrees eligible to register with the SPC is available [here](#). Many Australian degree programmes are eligible.

6.2 Job Offer

The applicant has to include with their letter of application, a job offer from an [SPC-approved training centre](#).

6.3 Submission of Documentation

A detailed list of the documentation required is available from the abovementioned link.

6.4 Approval of Preregistration

Once all your documentation has been submitted and you have met with the SPC and your preregistration is approved, you can complete the training period. The preregistration period lasts between 3 and 12 months. The applicant must also complete two compulsory examinations, regarding pharmacy law in Singapore and competency respectively.



6.5 Registration

Upon passing both examinations and fulfilling the minimum pre-registration period, the applicant may then formally apply for conditional registration. Upon approval by Registrar, a Conditional Registration certificate will then be issued by the Council to the applicant and the applicant can then start work as a pharmacist under Conditional Registration with the approved institution/company. The conditionally registered pharmacist must work under the supervision of a fully registered pharmacist and subjected to periodic assessments during their 1 or 2 years of work before they can become Fully Registered Pharmacists.

7. Hong Kong

All information regarding registration with the PPB was obtained from http://www.drugnet.com.hk/pharmlink/lk_p&pboardcontact.htm

Any person who intends to practice as a pharmacist in Hong Kong must register with the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB). The applicant has to satisfy the Board as to their identity and good character and meet qualification, examination and training requirements.

To register with the PPB, an examination must be completed. As an overseas applicant should have preregistration and/or postregistration training of not less than one year. On passing the examination and acceptance for registration, the applicant is required to obtain a certificate of registration before their name will be added to the Register of Pharmacists.