OCEANIA · AUSTRALIA · KNOWLEDGE STREAM (OPRA) ROUTE

AU How to register as a pharmacist in Australia

Pharmacists are registered nationally by the Pharmacy Board of Australia through Ahpra. With a degree from outside Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the UK or the USA, you start with the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) Knowledge Stream and its OPRA exam. Licence or registration: **General registration as a pharmacist**. Regulator: **Pharmacy Board of Australia, with Ahpra**. Every fact was checked against official sources on **20 November 2026**.

OPRA DATES FOR 2027

OPRA, the Overseas Pharmacist Readiness Assessment, is the APC exam for the Knowledge Stream. 2027 sittings: 22 to 24 March (register 19 January to 22 February), 26 to 28 July and 8 to 10 November. Registration closes about a month before each exam and late entries are not accepted. The APC asks you to lodge the eligibility check at least 8 weeks before registration closes.

Who decides what	
Australian Pharmacy Council (APC)	Runs the eligibility check, OPRA and the Intern Written Exam, and issues the Skills Assessment Outcome for visa purposes.
Pharmacy Board of Australia and Ahpra	Grant provisional and general registration, set supervised practice and run the oral examination.
Intern training program provider	Delivers the accredited intern training program and its assessments. Accredited programs are listed by the APC.
Department of Home Affairs	Decides all visas. Separate from registration.
Employer	Decides hiring and any visa sponsorship. Registration is not a job offer.

Who can apply

- A pharmacy qualification from outside Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the UK and the USA places you in the Knowledge Stream.
- The qualification must equal 4 years of full-time study if completed after 1 January 2006, or 3 years if completed before then.
- Evidence of current registration is not required for the APC eligibility check.
- You must meet the Ahpra English language skills standard to register.
- You must hold approved provisional registration before starting supervised practice.
- If you passed OPRA more than 3 years ago, the Board asks for form APRO-60 before supervised practice.

The steps, with approximate time and cost

1. **Meet the English language standard**
   Ahpra's standard, for example IELTS Academic 7 overall and in each band, with 6.5 in writing. Results are generally valid for 2 years before you apply for registration.
   Time: 3–6 months (est.) · Cost: set by test provider

2. **Pass the APC eligibility check**
   Upload passport, ID, degree, full transcript and NAATI translations in the APC Candidate Portal. A 4-year degree is needed if completed after 1 January 2006.
   Time: up to 4 weeks · Cost: AU$810

3. **Pass the OPRA exam**
   120 multiple choice questions in 2.5 hours on biomedical, pharmaceutical and clinical sciences. Sat at test centres in many countries, including Pakistan.
   Time: results 4–6 weeks · Cost: AU$2,245

4. **Get provisional registration**
   Apply to the Pharmacy Board through Ahpra. It must be approved before supervised practice starts. If you passed OPRA over 3 years ago, form APRO-60 is also needed.
   Time: 1–3 months (est.) · Cost: AU$421

5. **Supervised practice and intern program**
   Complete 1,575 hours of Board-approved supervised practice, the current modified requirement, and an accredited intern training program with all its assessments.
   Time: about 10–12 months (est.) · Cost: set by provider

6. **Pass both exams, then general registration**
   After 75% of your hours, sit the APC Intern Written Exam and the Board's oral exam. Pass both within 18 months, then apply to Ahpra for general registration.
   Time: after both passes · Cost: AU$756

Typical total: About 2–3 years (est.)

Language requirements

- IELTS Academic: 7 overall, 7 in listening, reading and speaking, 6.5 in writing.
- PTE Academic (tests from 23 April 2026): 63 overall; listening 58, reading 59, writing 60, speaking 76.
- TOEFL iBT (from 23 April 2026): 91 total; 22, 22, 23, 24. OET and Cambridge are also accepted; check Ahpra's current table.
- One sitting, or two sittings within 12 months. Results generally valid for 2 years before you apply.

Read this before you plan

- Registration ≠ visa ≠ job. Ahpra registration gives no right to enter or stay in Australia. Visas are decided by the Department of Home Affairs.
- Supervised practice can start only after provisional registration is approved. Registration does not provide an internship place or an employer.
- The APC Skills Assessment Outcome supports a visa application. It is not registration, and nothing in this process is guaranteed.

Exams, costs and documents

Checked 20 November 2026

Exam pattern and mode: online, test centre or onsite

OPRA (APC)

TEST CENTRE

- 120 multiple choice questions
- 2.5 hours
- Biomedical, pharmaceutical and clinical sciences
- Result is Pass or Unsuccessful, no score released
- Unlimited re-sits, full fee each time

Computer-delivered at test centres in many countries, including Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi. No online or remote option is mentioned.

Intern Written Exam (APC)

TEST CENTRE

- 75 questions
- 2 hours
- Eligible after 75% of supervised hours
- Result is Pass or Unsuccessful
- Fee AU$790 per attempt

Only offered in Australia, at test centres in 11 cities. Not available from abroad or from Pakistan.

Oral examination, practice (Board)

ONSITE

- Run by Ahpra for the Pharmacy Board
- Duration not published by the Board
- Paper form APOE-60 in set windows
- Fee AU$510 per attempt
- Pass written and oral within 18 months

Face to face, run by Ahpra in Australian capital cities. Online only in exceptional cases, such as remote candidates.

Official fees	Amount
APC eligibility check Per request, non-refundable	**AU$810**
OPRA exam, per attempt Full fee again for each re-sit	**AU$2,245**
APC Skills Assessment Outcome Optional, after passing OPRA, to support a visa application	**AU$300**
Provisional registration (Ahpra) Application fee 169 plus registration fee 252 (NSW registration fee 228)	**AU$421**
Registration exams, per attempt APC Intern Written Exam 790 plus Board oral examination (practice) 510	**AU$1,300**
General registration (Ahpra) Application fee 252 plus annual registration fee 504 (NSW 531)	**AU$756**

APC fees as published in November 2026; Board fees effective 1 October 2026. Tests, intern program and living costs are extra.

Documents usually required

- Passport, uncropped, showing top and bottom pages
- Second official photo ID
- Birth certificate, or another photo document
- Pharmacy degree certificate or completion letter with issue date
- Full academic transcript, all semesters, in one file
- NAATI translations of any non-English document, with originals
- English language test result
- Evidence of registration (optional for the APC)
- Evidence of any name change

Expected time

- Eligibility check: the APC aims to reply within 5 working days, but allows up to 4 weeks. Lodge at least 8 weeks before OPRA registration closes.
- OPRA results come 4 to 6 weeks after the exam (for example, exam 23 to 25 November 2026, results 22 December 2026).
- Supervised practice: 1,575 hours. You may sit both registration exams after 1,181 hours, and must pass both within 18 months.

Typical total: About 2–3 years (est.)

Internship and registration exams

- Current requirement: 1,575 hours of Board-approved supervised practice. The usual standard of 1,824 hours returns when a revised standard is approved.
- You must also complete an accredited intern training program, including all its assessments.
- Exams open after 75% of hours: the APC Intern Written Exam in Australia and the Board oral exam, face to face.
- Competency Stream (UK, Ireland, USA, Canada): from 13 November 2026, CAOP passers apply for provisional registration; 152 hours and an oral exam if recent practice.

Visas, pay and next steps

Checked 20 November 2026

Immigration route (separate from registration)	What official sources say	Status
Skills in Demand visa (subclass 482)	Hospital, Industrial and Retail Pharmacist appear on the Core Skills Occupation List published by Home Affairs. This employer-sponsored visa needs an approved sponsoring employer and a job offer. Check the live Home Affairs page before applying.	Open
Skilled Independent (subclass 189)	Points-tested visa by invitation. We could not open the current Home Affairs occupation list for pharmacists, so eligibility must be confirmed on immi.homeaffairs.gov.au.	Confirm
State-nominated (subclass 190 and 491)	Need nomination by a state or territory, whose occupation lists and criteria change through the year. Confirm with Home Affairs and the state.	Changes yearly
APC skills assessment for visas	The APC issues a Skills Assessment Outcome (AU$300) after OPRA to support a visa application. It does not decide the visa.	Open

If you are applying from Pakistan

- The APC lists OPRA test centres in Pakistan: Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi and surrounding areas.
- The APC Intern Written Exam and the Board oral exam are held in Australia, not in Pakistan.
- Most Australian visas are applied for online through ImmiAccount, the Home Affairs portal.
- Biometrics in Pakistan need no appointment; bring passport, photo ID and the Home Affairs letter. VFS Global lists centres.
- The High Commission in Islamabad does not answer visa enquiries and says you do not need a visa agent.
- Non-English documents need NAATI-accredited translations for the APC.

Pay and funding

- Pharmacy Industry Award 2020, Fair Work Ombudsman pay guide effective 1 December 2026: Pharmacist minimum AU$1,586.30 per week full-time (AU$41.74 per hour).
- Same guide: Experienced Pharmacist AU$1,737.40 and Pharmacist Manager AU$1,981.60 per week. These are award minimums; actual pay depends on employer and role.
- Pharmacy intern rates are set in the same award. Check the current Fair Work pay guide.

Avoid these common mistakes

- Missing the OPRA registration window. Lodge the eligibility check at least 8 weeks before it closes; no late entries.
- Starting supervised practice before provisional registration is approved.
- Using an English test result older than 2 years when applying to Ahpra.
- Expecting to sit the Intern Written Exam or the oral exam from Pakistan. Both are in Australia.
- Treating the Skills Assessment Outcome or registration as a visa or a job offer.

How ASGHCA supports you

- OPRA exam preparation course
- International Career Mapping: consult, assess, roadmap, prepare
- Documentation and registration guidance
- English test preparation: IELTS, PTE and OET
- 1-on-1 mentorship, CV and interview support
- Webinars, CPD sessions and a lifetime community

ASGHCA offers education and guidance. Regulated immigration advice is referred to authorised professionals.

Official sources, all checked 20 November 2026: pharmacycouncil.org.au: Knowledge Stream (OPRA), Intern Written Exam, skills assessment fees, Competency Stream · pharmacyboard.gov.au: Overseas practitioner registration, Internships, Registration examination, Fees (from 1 Oct 2026), news 13 Nov 2026 · ahpra.gov.au: Accepted English language tests (reviewed 23 Apr 2026) · immi.homeaffairs.gov.au: Core Skills Occupation List, biometrics · pakistan.embassy.gov.au: Visas and Citizenship · fairwork.gov.au: Pharmacy Industry Award pay guide MA000012.

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