EUROPE · IRELAND · THIRD COUNTRY QUALIFICATION RECOGNITION

IE How to register as a pharmacist in Ireland

To practise as a pharmacist in Ireland you need two separate steps with the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI): recognition of your non-EU qualification through the Third Country Qualification Recognition (TCQR) process, then registration. Licence or registration: **Registration as a pharmacist with the PSI**. Regulator: **Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI)**. Every fact was checked against official sources on **20 November 2026**.

TCQR EXAM IN DUBLIN If the holistic assessment finds gaps, you must pass the TCQR exam (MCQ, OSCE or both), run by RCSI in person in Dublin only. Published 2027 dates: 16–17 Feb, 28–29 Jul, 17–18 Sep, 19–20 Nov. Places are limited and you may not get your first choice. PSI quotes waits of 4–6 months at Stage 1 and 6 months at Stage 2.

Who decides what	
Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland	Runs TCQR, issues the certificate of qualification appropriate for practice, checks English and registers pharmacists.
External assessors and RCSI	Assessors carry out the Stage 2 holistic assessment. RCSI delivers the TCQR exam in Dublin for the PSI.
Department of Enterprise (DETE)	Decides employment permits such as the Critical Skills and General Employment Permits.
Immigration Service Delivery	Decides visas, residence permissions, Stamp 4 and family reunification. Separate from registration.
Employer	Decides hiring. A registration is not a job offer.

Who can apply

- A pharmacist qualification from outside the EU/EEA, with the full education and training needed to practise in that country completed.
- Written confirmation from that country's competent authority that you are eligible to practise there. You do not have to be currently registered or practising.
- An internship placement in your degree is not a mandatory prerequisite.
- Work experience and CPD are not required, but they are considered at Stage 2 if gaps are found, so send evidence with your application.
- UK-trained applicants who began training after 31 December 2020 also use TCQR. Earlier UK trainees and EU/EEA graduates use other routes.
- If your qualification is already recognised in another country, contact PSI before applying to check which route applies.

The steps, with approximate time and cost

1 Gather your documents
Get a NARIC Ireland statement, have the statutory declaration witnessed in Ireland or at an Irish embassy, and ask your university and regulator to send papers directly to PSI.
Time: 1–3 months (est.)

2 Submit the TCQR application
Email forms TCQR1, TCQR2 and TCQR3 with your documents to PSI. PSI checks eligibility and completeness. You have 6 months to complete the file.
Time: 4–6 months · Cost: €500

3 Holistic assessment
External assessors compare your degree, practical training and home regulatory system with the Irish standard. Experience and CPD count only if gaps are found.
Time: about 6 months · Cost: €1,000

4 Pass the TCQR exam if required
If gaps are found, you sit the MCQ, the OSCE or both, in person in Dublin. Each part must be passed on its own.
Time: up to 12 months · Cost: €2,250–3,000

5 Prove your English
Needed for registration, not for recognition. One sitting, every minimum met, result under 2 years old. Home-based tests are not accepted.
Time: 1–3 months (est.) · Cost: set by test provider

6 Apply for registration
With your certificate of qualification appropriate for practice and English evidence, apply through the PSI online registration portal.
Time: after certificate · Cost: €698

Typical total: About 1–2.5 years (est.)

Language requirements

- IELTS Academic: overall 7, with Speaking 7, Reading 7, Listening 7 and Writing 6.5.
- OET (Pharmacy): Listening 350, Reading 350, Speaking 350, Writing 300.
- TOEFL iBT: total 95 (Speaking 25, Writing 21, Reading 24, Listening 22). CAE: 180 in each part.
- Exempt only if trained in, or practised 3 of the last 5 years in, a country where English or Irish is the native first language.

Read this before you plan

- Licence ≠ visa ≠ job. PSI recognition and registration give no right to enter or live in Ireland. Permits and visas are decided by government departments.
- Anyone practising as a pharmacist in Ireland must be on the PSI register. A recognition certificate alone does not allow you to practise.
- Pharmacist being on the Critical Skills list does not create a job. An employer must offer you a qualifying role, and nothing in this process is guaranteed.

Exams, costs and documents

Checked 20 November 2026

Exam pattern and mode: online, test centre or onsite

TCQR exam Part 1: MCQ

ONSITE

- Part A: pharmaceutical calculations
- Part B: applied pharmacy practice
- Parts A and B passed independently
- Held in English
- Question count and duration not published
- Results about 4–6 weeks after the exam

In person in Dublin, delivered by RCSI for the PSI. Not offered online or at centres abroad, so it cannot be sat from Pakistan.

TCQR exam Part 2: OSCE

ONSITE

- Structured, practice-based scenarios
- Tests clinical and professional skills
- Passed independently of the MCQ
- No compensation between components
- Station count and duration not published

In person in Dublin, delivered by RCSI. Not offered online or abroad. You may need only the OSCE, only the MCQ, or both.

English language test

TEST CENTRE

- IELTS Academic, TOEFL iBT, CAE or OET
- All parts at one sitting
- Every minimum and the total must be met
- One-skill retakes not accepted
- Valid 2 years from the test date

Taken with the test provider. PSI does not accept home-based tests and does not list centres. Check the provider for centres in Pakistan.

Official fees	Amount
TCQR Stage 1 application Paid by card through a PSI payment link after you apply. No refunds at any stage.	**€500**
TCQR Stage 2 holistic assessment Requested when your file is due to go to the assessors.	**€1,000**
TCQR exam (Path B only) MCQ €2,250 · OSCE €2,750 · MCQ and OSCE €3,000. A place is held only once paid.	**€2,250–3,000**
Appeal of Stage 2 outcome Optional, only if you appeal the holistic assessment.	**€300**
First registration as pharmacist From 1 May 2026. Rises to €732 from 1 May 2027 and €765 from 1 May 2028.	**€698**
Continued registration From 1 May 2026. Rises to €515 from 1 May 2027 and €539 from 1 May 2028.	**€491**

PSI fees in euro. English tests, translations, NARIC, embassy witnessing, travel to Dublin and living costs are extra.

Documents usually required

- TCQR1 application form
- TCQR2 statutory declaration, witnessed in Ireland or at an Irish embassy
- TCQR3 certificate of identity, witnessed by a health or legal professional
- NARIC Ireland statement of comparability
- Copy of birth certificate and all pages of a valid passport
- CV and copy of your pharmacy degree
- Transcript and syllabus sent directly by your university
- Certificate of professional status sent by your regulator, valid 3 months
- Regulatory Data Form TCQR4 and certified English translations

Expected time

- PSI's current approximate processing times: Stage 1 about 4–6 months, Stage 2 about 6 months, Stage 3B exams up to 12 months. Applications are queued at Stages 1 and 2.
- Your file must be complete within 6 months of applying, or it is closed and you must apply again.
- Certificates of professional status are valid for 3 months from issue, and English results for 2 years, so time them carefully.

Typical total: About 1–2.5 years (est.)

Path A or Path B

- Path A: if your degree, training and home regulatory system match the Irish standard, you receive the certificate without an exam.
- Path B: if gaps are found, you must pass the MCQ, the OSCE or both as a compensation measure.
- Stage 2 is judged only on the evidence in your file. Planning to send more papers after the outcome is not grounds for appeal.
- Just before your file goes to assessment, PSI invites you to send any new evidence, such as an updated CV.

Visas, pay and next steps

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Immigration route (separate from registration)	What official sources say	Status
Critical Skills Employment Permit	Pharmacist/Industrial Pharmacist (SOC 2213) is on the Critical Skills Occupations List. Needs a job offer of at least 2 years and, for degree-required roles, pay of at least €40,904. Permit fee €1,000. No labour market test. Thresholds are rising in phases.	Open
General Employment Permit	All Critical Skills occupations are eligible and exempt from the labour market test. Standard minimum pay €36,605. Initial permit up to 24 months, renewable for up to 3 years.	Open
Stamp 4 after Critical Skills	When the permit and registration card expire, holders can apply directly to the Department of Justice for Stamp 4, granted for 2 years and renewable.	Open
Visit visa to sit the exam	PSI gives no visa advice and refers exam candidates to irishimmigration.ie. No route for exam visits is described on PSI pages, so confirm with Irish immigration.	Confirm

If you are applying from Pakistan

- The Embassy of Ireland in Islamabad (Serena Business Complex, G-5/1) accepts documents from residents in Pakistan. Confirm by email whether to post or attend.
- The TCQR2 statutory declaration must be made in Ireland or before an Irish consular official. The Embassy fee for receiving a declaration is PKR 17,500.
- Visa applicants living in Pakistan must give fingerprints at an Ireland visa application centre run by VFS Global each time they apply.
- The Embassy refers visa questions to irishimmigration.ie.
- Your university and regulator must send documents to PSI from an official email address. Documents sent by you or an agent are not accepted.

Pay and funding

- HSE consolidated pay scales, 1 June 2026 (public health service): Pharmacist grade €50,485 to €80,758 a year over 10 points, plus long service increment.
- HSE scale for Senior Pharmacist from 1 June 2026: €77,045 to €89,345. Private and community pharmacy pay is set by employers. No official figure was found.

Avoid these common mistakes

- Getting the statutory declaration witnessed by a local notary in Pakistan. It must be done in Ireland or by an Irish consular official.
- Sending transcripts or good standing letters yourself. They must come directly from the university or regulator.
- Leaving out evidence of work experience and CPD. Stage 2 decides on what is in your file.
- Taking an English test too early or at home. Results last 2 years and home-based tests are refused.
- Assuming the Critical Skills listing or PSI registration brings a visa or a job.

How ASGHCA supports you

- PSI TCQR exam preparation
- 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: PSI: TCQR Information Guide v4 (July 2026), TCQR FAQ v2.2 (June 2026), Qualification obtained outside the EU, Language requirements, Registration fees (psi.ie) · DETE: Critical Skills Occupations List, Critical Skills Employment Permit, General Employment Permit (enterprise.gov.ie) · Immigration Service Delivery: Biometrics (irishimmigration.ie) · Embassy of Ireland Pakistan: Visas, Consular fees (ireland.ie/en/pakistan) · HSE pay scales 1 June 2026 (healthservice.hse.ie).

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