GLOBAL HEALTHCARE ACADEMY

STEP-BY-STEP PROFESSIONAL GUIDE | EDITION OCTOBER 2026

Registering as a Pharmacist in Malta

The complete guide for EU and international graduates: registration, documents, costs, job hunting, immigration, the future of the profession and life in Malta.

Prepared by AS Global Healthcare Academy
www.asghca.com

Verified against official Maltese sources, October 2026.
General information only: confirm with the issuing authority.

Contents

. About this guide . . . 3

1. Malta's pharmacy landscape . . . 5

2. Your roadmap . . . 7

3. Registration, step by step . . . 9

Step 1: Identify your route: EU or non-EU qualification . . . 9

Step 2: Prove your English proficiency . . . 9

Step 3: Obtain your MQRIC recognition statement (non-EU) . . . 10

Step 4: Collect, certify and translate your documents . . . 10

Step 5: Request your Certificate of Current Professional Status . . . 10

Step 6: Submit your application and pay the fee . . . 10

Step 7: The Council's decision . . . 11

Step 8: Receive your licence to practise . . . 11

Step 9: After you are licensed . . . 12

4. Documents in detail . . . 13

5. What it costs . . . 15

6. Immigration and residence . . . 17

7. Finding a pharmacist job . . . 20

8. The future of the pharmacist in Malta . . . 22

9. Benefits of working in Malta . . . 24

10. Your action plan . . . 25

11. Forum claims versus official sources . . . 26

12. Official contacts and links . . . 27

About this guide

Read this first

This guide takes you, step by step, from a pharmacy degree to a licence to practise in Malta, and then to a job, a legal right to live and work there, and a long-term career. It is written for EU/EEA-trained and internationally trained (non-EU, or "third-country") pharmacists. It draws on the Malta Pharmacy Council, the Malta Further and Higher Education Authority (MFHEA/MQRIC), the Ministry for Health, the Medicines Authority, Identità and other Government of Malta publications, and is current to **October 2026**.

WHO IT IS FOR	REGULATOR	CURRENT TO
EU and non-EU pharmacists	**Pharmacy Council of Malta**	**October 2026**

How to read the boxes

NOTE | Official fact
A fact confirmed on a Maltese government or regulator document. Sources are listed at the end.

TIP | ASGHCA practical advice
Our practical suggestions. These are experience-based advice, not official requirements.

CAUTION
A common trap, an unresolved question, or something to confirm in writing before you commit money.

IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER
This guide is general information. It is **not** legal, immigration, financial or professional advice, and AS Global Healthcare Academy does not represent the Government of Malta or any of its authorities. Fees, forms and rules change, and the immigration rules were substantially reformed in 2025–2026. **Always confirm every fee, form and requirement with the issuing authority before you pay or submit.** Where official sources are silent or inconsistent, this guide says so rather than guessing.

The numbers that matter, at a glance

Item	What the official sources say
Who registers pharmacists	The **Pharmacy Council** enters you in the Register of Pharmacists and recommends you for a licence, which is issued by the **President of Malta** (Health Care Professions Act, Cap. 464).
Pharmacy Council application fee	**€64.10** (registration and licence application, non-EU route)
Qualification recognition (non-EU)	**MQRIC recognition statement**: €65 for a new foreign programme, €15 if already on the MQRIC database
English requirement	IELTS Academic average **6.5**, or TOEFL iBT **95**, or Cambridge level C
Decision time	Within **3 months** of a complete file (can be extended by 1 month in some cases)
Right to appeal a refusal	Within **20 days**; appeal fee €116.47

Item	What the official sources say
Work and residence (non-EU)	**Single Permit**, applied for by your employer: €600 first-time, plus €250 Pre-Departure Course; review can take up to 4 months
Government pharmacist pay (2026 call)	€29,595.68 per year, rising to €31,385 within the scale
Income tax (single rates, 2026)	0% up to €12,000; 15% to €16,000; 25% to €60,000; 35% above

Source: Pharmacy Council (pharmacycouncil.gov.mt); MFHEA (mfhea.mt); Identità; Government of Malta Gazette; PwC Tax Summaries. Details and links in the Sources section.

1 Malta's pharmacy landscape

Who regulates what, and where pharmacists work

Malta is a small EU member state with a compact, well-organised healthcare and pharmaceutical system. English and Maltese are both official languages, and public health care is provided free by the Ministry for Health, including acute care at Mater Dei Hospital, primary care and the Government formulary. For a pharmacist coming from abroad, the key point is that **several different authorities** each control one part of your journey.

Authority	What it does for you	Website
Pharmacy Council (Public Health Regulation Department)	Keeps the Register of Pharmacists, assesses your application, recommends you for a licence. Also registers pharmacy technicians and Qualified Persons.	pharmacycouncil.gov.mt
MFHEA / MQRIC	Issues the **recognition statement** that compares your qualification to the Malta Qualifications Framework (MQF) and EQF.	mfhea.mt
Medicines Authority	Regulates medicines, licensed pharmacies, inspections, GMP and pharmacovigilance. Also a pharmacist employer.	medicinesauthority.gov.mt
Ministry for Health	Runs public health care and the Government pharmaceutical services; recruits government pharmacists.	health.gov.mt
Jobsplus	National employment agency; checks that employers advertised jobs before hiring non-EU workers.	jobsplus.gov.mt
Identità (Expatriates Unit)	Issues the **Single Permit**, long-stay visas and residence cards to non-EU nationals.	identita.gov.mt
Malta Chamber of Pharmacists	Professional body for pharmacists; posts vacancies and professional news.	spizjara.org

Where pharmacists work

Setting	What the work involves
Community pharmacy	Dispensing, counselling and medicines advice. The Medicines Authority reports **over 200 licensed retail community pharmacies** in Malta and Gozo.
Hospital and government pharmacy	Procurement, stock management (including controlled drugs), dispensing, aseptic and non-aseptic reconstitution, Government Formulary and medicines-entitlement work.
Regulatory authority	Medicine registration and life-cycle management, inspections in Malta and abroad, pharmacovigilance, advertising review, enforcement, and the regulation of cannabis for medicinal and research purposes.
Industry and life sciences	Manufacturing, wholesale, quality, regulatory affairs and Qualified Person roles. The Medicines Authority itself is based in the Malta Life Sciences Park.
Academia and research	Teaching and research, including at the University of Malta.

Source: Pharmacy Council; Medicines Authority (pharmacies page and 2023 call for pharmacists); Ministry for Health and Active Ageing 2026 call for pharmacists; health.gov.mt.

NOTE | The law behind your licence

Practising as a pharmacist is regulated by the Health Care Professions Act (Cap. 464). Article 13 says nobody may practise without a licence issued by the President of Malta, and that to qualify you must (a) be a Maltese or EU citizen or **otherwise legally entitled or authorised to work in Malta**, (b) be of good conduct, and (c) have your name in the Register of Pharmacists. Government job adverts call the licence a “warrant to practise”.

2 Your roadmap

Ten stages from degree to first day at work

1	**Identify your route** EU/EEA qualification or non-EU qualification? This decides your document list.	Day 1
2	**Prove your English** IELTS Academic 6.5 average, TOEFL iBT 95 or Cambridge level C.	Book early
3	**Get MQRIC recognition (non-EU)** Online application to the Malta Qualifications Recognition Information Centre.	€15 / €30 / €65
4	**Collect and certify documents** Originals, certified copies, certified English translations.	Weeks
5	**Request your Certificate of Current Professional Status** Your home regulator sends it **directly** to the Pharmacy Council.	Start early
6	**Submit to the Pharmacy Council** Post or visit by appointment; pay €64.10.	€64.10
7	**Council decision** Within 3 months of a complete file. Approval, compensatory measures or refusal.	3 months
8	**Licence to practise** Council recommends you; the licence is issued by the President of Malta.	After approval
9	**Find a job** Run in parallel with the steps above. Employers advertise on Jobsplus and EURES.	From Step 3
10	**Immigration (non-EU)** Employer files Single Permit, approval in principle, visa, biometrics, eResidence card.	Up to 4+ months

Indicative timeline (non-EU route)

Phase	Reported time	Can it overlap?
English test and results	Depends on test dates	Yes. Book first.
MQRIC recognition statement	Depends on how fast the awarding country replies to MQRIC	Yes. Start immediately.
Home-country certificates	Varies by country	Time the police certificate last: it must be **no more than 3 months old**.
Pharmacy Council decision	Within 3 months of a complete file (+1 month in some cases)	Overlaps with job search.
Single Permit review (Identità, Jobsplus, Police)	Up to 4 months	Starts only when an employer files.
Visa, biometrics, residence card	Add several weeks	Approval in principle is valid 180 days; apply for the visa within the first 60 days.

TIP | Planning figure

Allow roughly **9 to 12 months** from starting your documents to your first day at work if you need a Single Permit. This is an ASGHCA planning estimate; the stages overlap, and only the Council (3 months) and permit review (up to 4 months) timeframes are official.

3 Registration, step by step

The Pharmacy Council process in detail

STEP 1 Identify your route: EU or non-EU qualification

	EU / EEA qualification	Non-EU (third-country) qualification
Application	Online portal: pharmacycouncilregistration.gov.mt	Downloadable **third-country application form** from the Council website, sent by post or submitted in person by appointment
Recognition	Competent authority in your home state confirms your qualification meets **Directive 2005/36/EC** (or acquired rights)	**MQRIC recognition statement** plus Council assessment of transcripts, syllabus and experience
English proof	IELTS Academic 6.5 / TOEFL iBT 95 / Cambridge C, as stated in the Council's licence-eligibility document	Same: IELTS Academic 6.5 / TOEFL iBT 95 / Cambridge C
Fee	€64.10	€64.10 (plus €15–65 MQRIC)

EU nationals can also use the **European Professional Card (EPC)**, an online alternative route. The EPC is valid only for the member state you apply to, and does not replace the traditional route. Even with an EPC, access may still depend on other criteria such as language proficiency.

NOTE | Third-country nationals can apply

The Council's FAQ confirms: “Yes, you can apply for a license if you are a third country national.” Fees follow the Pharmacy Council (Fees) Regulations.

CAUTION | UK and other special cases

Pharmacists qualified in the UK, or holding mixed EU/non-EU training, should email the Registrar to confirm which route and checklist applies before collecting documents.

STEP 2 Prove your English proficiency

ACCEPTED	COST	WHEN
IELTS Academic 6.5 average, TOEFL iBT 95, or Cambridge level C	**Set by the test provider**	**Book first; results take time**

The Council requires proof of English proficiency to “gain access and obtain a licence to practise”. Submit the original certificate result with your application.

MYTH CHECK | Is Maltese required?

A popular forum guide says international pharmacists must prove proficiency in both English and Maltese. The Council's own checklist asks for **English** only. However, **government posts** expect Maltese: successful candidates without it must pass the University of Malta's “Basic Medical Maltese for the Healthcare Profession” exam within one year of engagement. Private employers set their own expectations.

TIP | English-medium degrees

The Council checklist lists no exemption for degrees taught in English (government employers do accept that as proof for *their* English requirement). If your degree was taught in English, ask the Registrar in writing whether it is accepted before paying for a test.

STEP 3 Obtain your MQRIC recognition statement (non-EU)

FEE	WHERE	TIME
€65 new foreign programme €15 already on database	**Online only (services.mfhea.mt)**	**Depends on the awarding country's reply**

1. **Check the MQRIC list** of accredited institutions and recognised courses. If your programme is already listed, a statement is quick and cheaper (€15).
2. If not listed, complete the **online Application for the Recognition of Qualifications** (MQRIC no longer accepts applications face-to-face or by email).
3. Optionally tick the **fast-track** box. MQRIC limits how many fast-track applications it accepts, and you cannot be reimbursed if you start standard and later switch.
4. Pay online. MQRIC **does not refund** payments, except for duplicate payments for an identical qualification (a €15 charge applies).
5. Download the statement from the MQRIC system and include it in your Council file. An appeal against the MQRIC decision must be made within **10 days** of issue.

MQRIC does not set the level itself. It relies on the competent authorities in the country that issued your qualification, so processing speed depends on their replies. **Do this step first.**

Source: mfhea.mt/academic-qualifications. Enquiries: Freephone 153 or +356 2598 1450.

STEP 4 Collect, certify and translate your documents

Every document must be in English, translated by a **certified translator**. The full non-EU checklist is in **Section 4**. Start with the items that take longest: the Certificate of Current Professional Status, the police certificate and your transcripts.

STEP 5 Request your Certificate of Current Professional Status

This certificate combines **proof of registration** and a **certificate of good standing** from the competent authority of pharmacists in your home country. It must be **sent directly by that authority to the Pharmacy Council**, so you cannot upload it yourself.

TIP | Give your regulator the exact details

Ask them to send it to the Registrar, Pharmacy Council, quoting your full name and date of birth. Council contacts as published in its documents: pharmacy.council@gov.mt, tel. +356 2125 5538 or +356 2595 3361. Ask the Council to confirm receipt.

STEP 6 Submit your application and pay the fee

FEE	HOW	SEND TO
€64.10	**Post, or in person by appointment**	**The Registrar, Pharmacy Council**

Address (as published by the Council): The Registrar, Pharmacy Council, OPD Level 1, Public Health Regulation Department, St Luke's Hospital, Gwardamangia, Malta.

- **Fix an appointment** with the Registrar before submitting in person. Visiting is strictly by appointment.
- Pay the €64.10 by bank transfer to the Central Bank of Malta public account. **Use the bank details and reference printed on the Council's current checklist**, because they are the only safe source.
- Include proof of payment in your file. Submit the complete file at once: the 3-month decision clock starts only when it is complete.
- The Council confirms that **all requested documents are mandatory**.

> CAUTION | Office hours
> Council documents give weekday opening as 7:30–2:30 in one place and 8:30–2:30 in another. Phone ahead to confirm.

STEP 7 The Council's decision

The Council must give a duly substantiated decision **within three months** of receiving your complete file. This can be extended by one month in some cases governed by the Professional Qualifications Directive. There are three possible outcomes:

Outcome	What it means	What you do
Approved	Your name is entered in the Register of Pharmacists and the Council recommends you for a licence.	Move to Step 8.
Conditional refusal (compensatory measures)	The Council recommends you complete extra measures before registration.	Ask the Registrar exactly what is required, how it is assessed and the deadline.
Refusal	Your application is declined.	You may appeal within **20 days** of the decision (fee €116.47) to the Health Care Professions Appeals Committee.

What are compensatory measures? Under EU rules for pharmacists, where there are major differences between qualifications, the authority may ask you to **sit an aptitude test** or **complete an adaptation period** (supervised practice). Whether, and what, the Maltese Council requires from a non-EU graduate is decided case by case.

> MYTH CHECK | "Every international pharmacist must pass a licensing exam"
> That claim from a forum guide is **not on the Council's published checklist**. The Council's documents refer to possible compensatory measures instead. Do not buy exam-prep products on the assumption that an exam is certain. Ask the Registrar, then plan.

Source: Pharmacy Council, "Eligibility for a licence to practise as pharmacist"; European Commission, recognition of professional qualifications (pharmacists).

STEP 8 Receive your licence to practise

After registration, the Council recommends you for a licence, which is issued by the President of Malta. Public employers refer to this as a **warrant to practise**. You can only work as a pharmacist once registered and licensed.

CAUTION | The "chicken and egg" question for non-EU applicants

The law lists being **legally entitled or authorised to work in Malta** as a condition for the licence, yet a Single Permit normally requires a job offer from an employer who needs a licensed pharmacist. In practice, applicants register first and employers hire subject to licence and permit.

Ask the Registrar and your prospective employer in writing how the sequence should work for your case before you spend money on relocation.

STEP 9 After you are licensed

- **Renewal:** the Council publishes a renewal circular for pharmacists. Diary your renewal and check requirements every year.
- **Continuing education:** government calls refer to a Continuing Pharmacy Education (CPE) scheme that can reimburse course costs. Ask your employer what support exists.
- **Career progression:** government pharmacists progress by scale (see Section 7). A Certificate of Completion of General Professional Training (CCGPT) is planned to feed into progression.

4 Documents in detail

The complete non-EU checklist, item by item

Use this table as your master checklist. It follows the Pharmacy Council's "Documents to be submitted for registration from applicants with a non-EU pharmacy qualification". **All documents must be translated into English by a certified translator.**

#	Document	Details and tips
1	Application form (third-country)	Download from the Council website. The form covers both **registration and the licence**.
2	Original birth certificate	Original required; certified English translation.
3	Police conduct certificate	**Original**, recent: **maximum 3 months old**. Request it last so it is still valid when the file is complete.
4	Certified true copy of pharmacy qualification	Plus certified English translation.
5	Evidence of nationality	A certified copy of your passport is enough.
6	Certificate of Current Professional Status	Proof of registration **and** certificate of good standing, issued by your home competent authority and **sent directly to the Pharmacy Council**.
7	Registration certificate and licence	Certified copy of your home-country registration certificate and licence to practise, if applicable.
8	Transcript of studies	Original or certified copy.
9	Prospectus of studies	The programme prospectus or syllabus describing what you studied. Ask your university early; older syllabi can be slow to retrieve.
10	Reference letters and proof of professional experience	Letters on employer letterhead covering role, dates and duties; include registration numbers where possible.
11	Certified true copy of a recent passport photo	Recent and certified.
12	MQRIC recognition statement	From the MFHEA online system (Step 3).
13	Proof of English proficiency	IELTS Academic 6.5 average, TOEFL iBT 95 or Cambridge level C (Step 2).
14	Proof of payment €64.10	Bank transfer receipt using the Council's current bank details and reference.

Source: Pharmacy Council, non-EU documents checklist (pharmacycouncil.gov.mt). EU applicants have a shorter list; the Council updated its EU checklist in April 2025.

EU/EEA applicants: what is different

- Application via the online portal (pharmacycouncilregistration.gov.mt).
- Original birth certificate, police conduct certificate (max 3 months old), certified qualification copy, passport copy, recent certified photo and the €64.10 fee.
- A certificate from your home authority confirming you are a pharmacist entitled to practise and of good standing, and that your qualification is in line with **Directive 2005/36/EC** (or benefits from acquired rights).
- No MQRIC statement is listed for EU applicants. Check the latest EU checklist on the Council site before you start.

TIP | Document discipline

1. Make a folder per document with the original, certified copy, translation and a scan.

2. Ask the Registrar whether documents from your country need an **apostille or legalisation**. The Council's checklist does not mention it, and requirements differ by country.

3. Do not send originals you cannot replace (degree certificates). Send certified copies unless an original is explicitly required.

4. Keep a copy of the complete file you submit.

5 What it costs

Official fees, plus the costs people forget

Official government fees are modest. The larger costs are usually translations, travel, accommodation and the first months of living in Malta. Tables below separate **official published fees** from **costs that vary** so you can build your own budget.

A. Registration stage (official fees)

Item	Amount	Notes
MQRIC recognition: new foreign programme	€65	€15 if already on the MQRIC database; €30 for a new Maltese programme. Non-refundable.
Pharmacy Council application	€64.10	Covers registration and the licence application.
Appeal against a refusal	€116.47	Only if needed; within 20 days of the decision.
English test (IELTS / TOEFL / Cambridge)	Varies	Paid to the test provider; fee differs by country.

B. Immigration stage, non-EU nationals (official fees)

Item	Amount	Notes
Pre-Departure Course (Skills Pass portal)	€250	Mandatory for first-time applicants applying from abroad from March 2026. Use the official portal only.
Single Permit: first-time application	€600	Filed by the employer. Law does not say who pays; negotiate it in your contract.
National long-stay (D) visa	€150 / €300	Standard / premium processing.
Single Permit renewal	€150 per year	No changes to employer or role.
Change of employer	€600	Treated as a new application.
Change of designation (same employer)	€300	

NOTE | Minimum official fees

Non-EU route: €65 + €64.10 + €250 + €600 + €150 = **€1,129.10** (€1,279.10 with premium visa), before the English test, translations and relocation costs. EU route: **€64.10**. EU/EEA/Swiss citizens need no permit.

C. Costs that vary (budget for these)

Cost	What to know
Certified translations and certified copies	Every document must be translated by a certified translator. Price depends on document length and country.
Police certificate, apostille, courier	Fees and timelines vary by country; courier to the Council or Identità if posting.
Health screening	Required for many first-time permit applicants (IDCU). From 4 May 2026 applications go through an online system; check whether your role and country are exempt.
Private health insurance	Identità requires proof of cover of at least **€100,000**. Premiums vary by provider and age.

Cost	What to know
Accommodation	Permit applications need a registered lease. Budget a deposit, one month's rent in advance and often an agency fee.
Flights and first weeks	Plan for arrival, the biometrics appointment in Msida and the wait for your residence card.

Source: MQRIC fee table (mfhea.mt); Pharmacy Council checklist and licence-eligibility document; Konnekt TCN guide (July 2026) citing Identità, Home Affairs and Skills Pass.

CAUTION | Never pay a "recruitment fee"

Maltese law prohibits local employers and licensed agencies from charging recruitment fees to candidates. The Pre-Departure Course costs €250 on the government portal only. Treat anyone asking for more as a red flag.

6 Immigration and residence

Living and working legally in Malta

Immigration rules changed substantially under Malta's 2025 Labour Migration Policy, with new fees from August 2025 and a mandatory Pre-Departure Course from March 2026. Treat third-party blog posts that quote older rules (including the forum guide) with care.

6.1 Who needs what

Your status	What you need
EU / EEA / Swiss citizen	Free movement. **No work permit or visa.** Register with the Pharmacy Council and you can take a job.
Non-EU citizen, still abroad	A **Single Permit** (combined work and residence), applied for by your employer, then a long-stay (D) visa if required.
Non-EU citizen with valid legal status in Malta	Employer applies for a Single Permit or change of employer. Tourist (Schengen C) visa holders generally cannot convert from within Malta.
Long-term resident or family member with rights	May take up employment (including government posts) subject to the relevant status.

6.2 The Single Permit, step by step (applying from abroad)

1. **Job offer and labour market test.** Your employer must advertise the role on Jobsplus and EURES for at least three weeks within the two months before applying. This is why your role must exist on those boards first.
2. **Pre-Departure Course (€250).** Complete it on the official Skills Pass portal. The certificate is attached to the application. It is mandatory for first-time applicants from March 2026.
3. **Employer files the application** on the Identità Single Permit portal. You receive a link to validate your data. **You cannot file it yourself.**
4. **Inter-agency review.** Identità, Jobsplus and the Police Immigration Office check the file. This can take **up to four months**.
5. **Approval in Principle (AIP).** Valid for 180 days; submit your visa application to the Central Visa Unit within the first 60 days.
6. **National long-stay (D) visa** (€150 standard / €300 premium) through the Central Visa Unit or a Visa Application Centre.
7. **Travel to Malta and attend biometrics** at the Identità Expatriates Unit in Msida with original documents.
8. **Interim receipt.** You may start work immediately **only if it states "Temporary Authorisation to Work"**. Otherwise wait for your residence card.
9. **Collect your eResidence card** in person when Identità sends the collection letter.

Source: Konnekt, "Working in Malta as a TCN" (updated 10 July 2026), citing Identità and Jobsplus; confirm on identita.gov.mt.

6.3 Documents for the Single Permit file

Group	Typical requirements
Identity	Full passport copy (every page) valid at least 8 months from application; original passport for biometrics.
Employment	Signed contract matching the role; proof of the job advert; employer's Declaration of Suitability; signed Europass CV.

Group	Typical requirements
Qualifications	MQRIC recognition statement where foreign academic credentials are relied on; your pharmacy licence or warrant.
Health	IDCU health approval certificate where required; chest X-ray if from a high TB-risk country; vaccination proof relevant to the sector (for example hepatitis B for health care).
Accommodation	Signed lease with landlord declaration and Housing Authority approval, or a keeper's declaration or host declaration.
Other	Pre-Departure Course certificate; health insurance covering at least €100,000.

6.4 Fast-track routes that may suit pharmacists

Route	Minimum gross salary	Who it is for
Specialist Employee Initiative (SEI)	**€30,000**/year	Highly skilled workers with an MQF Level 6+ qualification related to the job (or 3 years' relevant experience on a lower level). A pharmacy degree typically fits.
Key Employee Initiative (KEI)	**€45,000**/year	Managerial or highly technical roles; fast-track processing.
EU Blue Card	About 1.5× the average Maltese gross salary	Highly qualified workers; offers EU mobility. Threshold is updated annually: check Identità.

Source: Identità, "Working and Residing in Malta". Thresholds effective 1 August 2025.

TIP | Salary and permit route are linked

A job paying **below €30,000** goes through the standard Single Permit; at or above €30,000 the SEI may be available if your employer and role qualify. Ask the employer which route they intend to use and whether they have sponsored pharmacists before.

6.5 Changing jobs or losing your job

- A Single Permit is tied to **one employer and one role**. A move needs a new application (€600), a new labour market test and biometrics.
- If your employment ends, you get **30 days** automatically to find new work, extended to **60 days** with proof of financial self-sufficiency (rules in force from 1 August 2025).
- All wages must be paid by verifiable bank transfer; cash wage payment is prohibited under the 2025 policy.

6.6 Long-term residence and citizenship

Status	Main requirements	Notes
EU long-term resident	**5 years** of legal and continuous residence, stable and regular resources, own accommodation, and fulfilling integration measures.	Status is permanent; the card is valid for 5 years and renewable (Identità).
Naturalisation (citizenship)	Commonly summarised as about **5 years** of legal residence, including 12 months immediately before applying and 4 of the previous 6 years; good character; language.	Granted at the Minister's discretion, not automatic. Confirm current rules with the Community Malta Agency.

MYTH CHECK | "Citizenship after 10 years"

The forum guide quotes 10 years for citizenship and a separate residence permit after the work permit. Both are out of date: the Single Permit now combines work and residence, and official and legal sources describe the residence route to naturalisation as around five years.

SCAMS

Employers file Single Permit applications, never the worker. Anyone who asks you to submit it yourself is a red flag.

Be cautious of “guaranteed” jobs, permits or licences, payments to personal accounts, and agents offering the Pre-Departure Course outside the government portal.

7 Finding a pharmacist job

Where jobs are, what they pay, and how to land one

7.1 Government pharmacist posts: an official benchmark

The Ministry for Health and Active Ageing runs a rolling call for pharmacists (closing **18 December 2026**, with selection cut-offs on 24 April, 24 July, 23 October and 18 December 2026). It is the best published pay benchmark available.

Grade	Salary (2026)	How you progress
Pharmacist, Scale 9 (step 3)	€29,595.68 per year, rising by €447.33 a year to €31,385.00	Probation of 12 months; moves to Scale 8 after 2 years.
Pharmacist, Scale 8	€30,405.02 to €33,326.00	Promotion to Senior Pharmacist after 6 years in grade.
Senior Pharmacist, Scale 7	€32,158.00 to €35,345.02	CCGPT will shorten progression once launched.
Trainee Pharmacist (no warrant yet)	Scale 10	Moves to Pharmacist grade on obtaining the warrant.

CAUTION | Who can apply to government posts

The call is open to Maltese and EU citizens and to non-EU nationals with **long-term resident status** or a residence permit under the relevant regulations, plus eligible family members. Newly arriving non-EU pharmacists on a Single Permit are therefore **generally targeting private-sector employers first**.

Applicants also need: a warrant to practise in Malta; English proficiency (primary degree in English, or IELTS 6+, or 6 months' pharmacist work in an English-speaking country); and Maltese, or the basic medical Maltese exam within one year.

Source: Government Gazette, “Post of Pharmacist in the Ministry for Health and Active Ageing” (gov.mt); apply only via recruitment.gov.mt.

7.2 What other sources say about pay

Source	Figure	How far to trust it
Government of Malta, 2026 call	€29.6k–€35.3k (Scales 9 to 7)	**Official** for public service.
Medicines Authority, 2023 call (closed)	€22,193 + €4,000 market allowance + €1,102 cash allowance + up to €1,164.68 CPE	Official but dated; shows allowance structure.
Forum guide (2024)	Community €30k–40k; hospital €35k–45k	Unsourced.
Glassdoor (small sample)	About €25k–€37.5k	Only a handful of submissions.
Modelled salary sites	Averages near €59k–€62k	Modelled estimates; often well above typical offers.

TIP | How to negotiate sensibly

Use the official government scale as your floor reference, ask the employer for the offered gross annual salary in writing, and check which Single Permit route it triggers (SEI at €30,000; KEI at €45,000). Do not rely on salary-aggregator averages.

7.3 A step-by-step job search

1. **Prepare your pack:** Europass CV (you must sign one for the permit file), cover letter, MQRIC statement, transcripts, references, proof of English, and your registration status.
2. **Search these channels:** Jobsplus and EURES (employers must advertise there for non-EU hires); recruitment.gov.mt (government); Medicines Authority careers; Konnekt; Indeed Malta; LinkedIn; the Malta Chamber of Pharmacists website; and community pharmacy groups (for example Chemimart, Brown's Pharmacy, Smiths Pharmacy).
3. **Apply directly:** many community pharmacies recruit through direct applications and word of mouth. Keep a tracker of every application.
4. **Network:** attend professional events and join the Malta Chamber of Pharmacists to hear about vacancies.
5. **Interview:** explain your registration status, English ability, any compensatory measures required, and your earliest realistic start date given permit timing.
6. **Contract:** before signing, confirm the points in the checklist below.

CHECKLIST | Before you accept an offer

- Named employer, exact job title (your permit is tied to it) and gross annual salary
- Hours, probation, leave and overtime terms
- Who pays the Single Permit, Pre-Departure Course, visa and health screening
- Start date conditional on licence and permit; what happens if either is delayed or refused
- Support for relocation, accommodation and continuing education
- Wages by bank transfer; written contract in a language you understand

8 The future of the pharmacist in Malta

Demand signals, career paths and skills to build

This section separates **sourced facts** from **ASGHCA's outlook**, which is professional judgement and not a forecast.

What the evidence shows

- **A dense community network.** The Medicines Authority reports over 200 licensed retail community pharmacies, plus national hospital pharmacies, private in-patient pharmacies and an NGO pharmacy.
- **High pharmacist density but a perceived shortage.** Malta had 147 pharmacists per 100,000 people in 2021, the highest in the EU in the data cited, yet a leading Maltese pharmacy academic said demand exceeds supply, with only about 20–30 pharmacists graduating a year (TVM News, 2023).
- **A growing regulatory role.** The same report notes that more than 40 manufacturers in third countries were being certified from Malta, which creates demand for inspectors and regulatory pharmacists. The Medicines Authority's duties now include medicinal cannabis regulation and advanced scientific initiatives.
- **Care shifting to the community.** Malta has explored “Pharmacy of Your Choice”, under which patients could register with a community pharmacy of their choice, and the Pharmacy Council issues directives for pharmacies providing services through digital sites.
- **A structured public-sector ladder.** Pharmacist → Scale 8 → Senior Pharmacist, with a planned CCGPT to link progression to completed general professional training.
- **Policy now favours skills and retention.** The 2025 Labour Migration Policy moves away from high-volume recruitment towards skills verification and long-term retention, which favours regulated professionals.

Source: Medicines Authority; TVM News (2023); Ministry for Health and Active Ageing call (2026); Pharmacy Council; Konnekt (2026). Some items are older; check for updates.

ASGHCA outlook: where the opportunity is likely to grow

Area	Why it is likely to matter	How to prepare
Clinical and community services	The Ministry's remit includes active ageing; more medicine reviews, vaccination and long-term-condition support fit community pharmacy.	Clinical practice skills, communication, Maltese language basics.
Regulatory affairs and pharmacovigilance	Malta is a hub for EU medicine regulation and third-country GMP certification.	Regulatory affairs certificates; GMP and inspection training.
Industry and Qualified Person roles	The Pharmacy Council registers Qualified Persons for the pharmaceutical industry.	GMP experience and the QP route. Ask the Council about the QP application.
Digital pharmacy and e-health	Digital pharmacy services already fall under a Pharmacy Council directive; the Ministry works with eHealth.	Health informatics, e-prescribing and telepharmacy competence.
Leadership and management	Managing pharmacist and pharmacist-in-charge roles exist; Medicines Authority tracks changes in managing pharmacists.	Operations, compliance and people management.

TIP | Build your Malta career in three horizons

Year 1: secure registration and a first role, learn local regulation and the Maltese medicines market.

Years 2–4: specialise (clinical, regulatory or industry), complete CPE and consider the CCGPT or postgraduate study.

Year 5+: consider long-term residence status (which also opens government posts) and leadership or Qualified Person roles.

9 Benefits of working in Malta

Why pharmacists choose the island, and what to weigh up

The advantages

Benefit	Detail
Work in English	English and Maltese are both official languages, and English is widely used in business, health care and daily life.
EU membership	Malta is an EU member state in Schengen using the euro. EU/EEA/Swiss pharmacists have free movement, and non-EU pharmacists can later hold an EU long-term resident status.
Free public health care	The Ministry for Health provides free public health services, including acute care at Mater Dei Hospital and primary and mental health services.
Moderate income tax	Progressive tax from 0% to 35%, with the first €12,000 tax-free for single people (2026).
Compact, connected island	Short distances between home, work, beaches and historic sites; Valletta is a UNESCO World Heritage city.
Mediterranean climate and culture	Warm climate, strong expatriate community and a multicultural environment.
Specialised, regulated sector	A concentrated pharma, regulatory and community ecosystem where professionals can move between settings.

What your pay looks like after tax (illustration)

Gross annual salary	Income tax (single rates, 2026)	Effective tax rate
€30,000	€4,100	13.7%
€35,000	€5,350	15.3%
€40,000	€6,600	16.5%
€50,000	€9,100	18.2%

Source: Single rates 2026: 0% to €12,000; 15% to €16,000 (deduct €1,800); 25% to €60,000 (deduct €3,400); 35% above (PwC Tax Summaries). Income tax only: social security contributions are extra, and family tax tables differ.

Things to weigh up honestly

Consideration	What to know
Housing costs	Rent, utilities and groceries can be expensive, especially in urban areas. Budget before accepting an offer.
Salary levels	Published public-sector pharmacist pay is around €30k to €35k. Compare against cost of living, not only against your home salary.
Permit ties you to one employer	A Single Permit is employer- and role-specific; changing jobs requires a new application and €600 fee.
Processing time	Allow several months for the permit and the Council decision before you can start.
Language	English works in most professional settings, but Maltese helps with patients and is expected for government posts.

10 Your action plan

A practical checklist to work through

Work through the four phases in order. Phases 2 and 3 run side by side. Tick each box as you go.

Phase 1: Foundations

Weeks 1–4

- [ ] Confirm your route (EU or non-EU) and email the Registrar to check your checklist: **pharmacy.council@gov.mt**
- [ ] Book your English test (IELTS Academic 6.5, TOEFL iBT 95 or Cambridge C)
- [ ] Start your MQRIC recognition application (non-EU)
- [ ] Ask your university, employers and home regulator for your transcripts, syllabus, references and Certificate of Current Professional Status

Phase 2: Documents and submission

Weeks 4–12

- [ ] Get certified copies and certified English translations of every document
- [ ] Order your police certificate **last** (maximum 3 months old when you submit)
- [ ] Pay **€64.10** using the Council's current bank details, then submit your complete file and diarise the 3-month decision deadline

Phase 3: Job search

From week 4

- [ ] Prepare a Europass CV and set up alerts on Jobsplus, EURES, Konnekt, Indeed Malta and LinkedIn; apply to pharmacies directly
- [ ] Get a written contract that names your job title, start date and who pays the permit costs

Phase 4: Immigration and arrival (non-EU)

After job offer

- [ ] Complete the Pre-Departure Course (**€250**) on the Skills Pass portal; your employer files the Single Permit and you validate your data
- [ ] Arrange private health insurance (minimum €100,000 cover) and a registered lease
- [ ] After Approval in Principle, apply for your visa within 60 days; attend biometrics in Msida, then collect your eResidence card and diarise renewal dates

TIP | Three rules to remember

1. Submit one **complete** file: the 3-month decision clock starts only then.
2. Order the police certificate last so it is still valid at submission.
3. Employers file the Single Permit, never you. Pay only through official portals.

11 Forum claims versus official sources

Corrections to widely repeated advice

Common claim (forum guide, 2024)	What official sources say
International pharmacists must prove English and Maltese.	Council checklist requires **English** (IELTS 6.5 / TOEFL 95 / Cambridge C). Maltese is expected only for government posts.
International graduates must pass a licensing exam.	No fixed exam is on the Council's checklist. Compensatory measures may be recommended case by case.
Apply for the visa first, then the work permit, then a residence permit.	The employer applies for a **Single Permit**; after Approval in Principle you apply for the visa; the eResidence card is issued after biometrics.
Citizenship needs 10 years' residence.	Official and legal summaries describe a residence route of around 5 years, at ministerial discretion. Long-term residence needs 5 years.
Registration forms are on deputyprimeminister.gov.mt.	The Council's pages are now at **pharmacycouncil.gov.mt**, and EU applicants use an online portal.
Fees are on the Council website (not stated).	Application fee is **€64.10**; appeal fee €116.47.

12 Official contacts and links

Bookmark these and verify before you pay

Organisation	Contact / link
Pharmacy Council	pharmacycouncil.gov.mt | pharmacy.council@gov.mt | +356 2125 5538 / +356 2595 3361 | OPD Level 1, St Luke's Hospital, Gwardamangia
EU online registration portal	pharmacycouncilregistration.gov.mt
MFHEA / MQRIC (recognition)	mfhea.mt/academic-qualifications | Freephone 153 | +356 2598 1450
Medicines Authority	medicinesauthority.gov.mt | +356 2343 9000 | Malta Life Sciences Park, San Ġwann
Ministry for Health	health.gov.mt | Government jobs: recruitment.gov.mt
Identità (Single Permit, visas, residence)	identita.gov.mt
Jobsplus (employment agency)	jobsplus.gov.mt
Skills Pass (Pre-Departure Course)	skillspass.org.mt
Malta Chamber of Pharmacists	spizjara.org
Tax (Commissioner for Revenue)	cfr.gov.mt

Sources used

- Pharmacy Council of Malta: Registration page; Documents for non-EU qualification applicants (PDF); Eligibility for a licence to practise (PDF); FAQ. pharmacycouncil.gov.mt
- MFHEA / MQRIC: Academic Qualifications, recognition process and fees. mfhea.mt/academic-qualifications
- Government of Malta Gazette: Post of Pharmacist in the Ministry for Health and Active Ageing (closing 18/12/2026). gov.mt
- Medicines Authority: Post of Pharmacists (2023); Pharmacies. medicinesauthority.gov.mt
- Identità: Working and Residing in Malta; Key Employee Initiative eligibility; Long-Term Residence. identita.gov.mt
- Konnekt: Working in Malta as a TCN (updated 10 July 2026), citing Identità, Home Affairs and Skills Pass. about.konnekt.com
- PwC Tax Summaries: Malta, individual taxes on personal income (2026). taxsummaries.pwc.com
- European Commission: Automatic and non-automatic recognition (pharmacists). employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu
- TVM News: shortage of pharmacists in Malta (2023). tvmnews.mt
- Ministry for Health: health.gov.mt. Starting reference: “How to Work as a Pharmacist in Malta”, Faculty of Medicine forum (July 2024), cross-checked against official sources above.

About AS Global Healthcare Academy

Questions about your pathway to practise in Malta? Visit **www.asghca.com**. This guide is general information only; AS Global Healthcare Academy is not a government body, and nothing in it replaces the instructions of the Pharmacy Council, MQRIC, Identità or any other authority.