OCEANIA · NEW ZEALAND · NON-REQR OVERSEAS PHARMACIST ROUTE

NZ Pharmacist registration in New Zealand

Pharmacists are registered by the Pharmacy Council of New Zealand under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003. If you trained outside Australia, Canada, the USA, the UK and Ireland, you use the non-REQR route: preliminary review, two exams, an intern year, then registration. Facts checked against official sources on **20 November 2026**.

INTERN ENTRY: 2028 The Council says applicants still awaiting a preliminary review decision, or applying from 2 July 2026 onwards, cannot meet all requirements in time for the 2027 intern programme and should plan for 2028. A 2026 Council consultation also proposes changes to this route, so check the Council page before applying.

1	2	3	4	5	6
English test	**Prelim review**	**OPRA**	**NZPL course**	**Intern year**	**Registration**
IELTS or OET	Pharmacy Council	run by APC	University of Auckland	ITP + OSCE	Pharmacist scope
2–6 months (est.)	about 8 weeks	within 2 years	12 weeks	about 1 year (est.)	after passing

The route, step by step

1 Pass a Council-approved English test
IELTS Academic 7.0 in every band, or OET grade A or B in every sub-test, within 2 years of applying. It is needed before the preliminary review.
Time: 2–6 months (est.) · Cost: set by test provider

2 Apply for the preliminary review
Online application with degree, registration, work history and self-assessment. Transcripts must arrive from the issuer within 90 working days. No other step starts until you are approved.
Time: about 8 weeks · Cost: NZ$950

3 Pass the OPRA exam
Overseas Pharmacist Readiness Assessment, run by the Australian Pharmacy Council at test centres, including in Pakistan. Two attempts. Pass OPRA and NZPL within 2 years of approval.
Time: within 2 years · Cost: A$2,245 per attempt

4 Pass the NZ Pharmacy Legislation course
A 12-week online course on New Zealand law, ethics and professional duties, with a final assessment in week 12. You need Council approval before enrolling.
Time: 12 weeks · Cost: fee to be confirmed

5 Register as an intern and train
Needs a paid job at an approved pharmacy with a preceptor. Complete the PSNZ Intern Training Programme (at least 1,450 hours) and pass the Assessment Centre OSCE within 2 years.
Time: about 1 year (est.) · Cost: NZ$909

6 Register as a pharmacist
Apply to change scope from Intern to Pharmacist once training and the Assessment Centre are done and no practice concerns are raised.
Time: after passing · Cost: NZ$371.30–1,055

Official fees	Amount
Preliminary review (non-comparable) Initial consideration of registration, non-refundable	**NZ$950**
OPRA, per attempt Paid to the Australian Pharmacy Council at registration	**A$2,245**
Intern registration and APC Initial registration and annual practising certificate, intern scope	**NZ$909**
Intern APC renewal, second year Only if you need a second intern year	**NZ$669**
Change of scope, Intern to Pharmacist NZ$1,055 after the May Assessment Centre; NZ$371.30 after the November one	**NZ$371.30–1,055**

Exam pattern: online or onsite?

OPRA (Overseas Pharmacist Readiness) TEST CENTRE
120 questions, 2.5 hours · Biomedical, pharmaceutical and clinical sciences · Result is pass or unsuccessful, no score · 2 attempts; more only at Council discretion

NZ Pharmacy Legislation course (NZPL) ONLINE
12 weeks, 10 online modules · Compulsory weekly Zoom class · Final assessment in week 12, 100% · All module activities must be completed

Assessment Centre (OSCE) ONSITE
Objective structured clinical exam · 10 stations testing clinical skills · Usually held in May and November · Only after completing intern training

Timelines

- Preliminary review usually takes about 8 weeks after all documents arrive; the Council says high volumes can make it longer. Documents must arrive within 90 working days.
- OPRA and NZPL must both be passed within 2 years of approval. OPRA sittings are listed for March, July and November 2027.
- The intern programme runs from 10 January to 7 November each year. Training and the Assessment Centre must be finished within 2 years of intern registration.

Typical total: About 2.5–4 years (est.)

Keep these separate

- Licence ≠ visa ≠ job. Council approval or registration gives no right to enter, stay or work. Visas are decided by Immigration New Zealand.
- The intern year needs a paid job at an approved pharmacy with a preceptor. Finding that job is your task, and nothing in this process is guaranteed.
- Before intern registration, approved applicants already in New Zealand may work only as a supervised Pharmacy Graduate, and only with a valid visa.

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

www.asghca.com
Book a free career-mapping consultation · LEARN | GROW | GO GLOBAL

inquiry@asghca.com
WhatsApp +92 335 0051800 · +61 491 787 335 · UK +44 7587 013834
Instagram & TikTok @asghcaofficial · facebook.com/asghca

Sources (checked 20 November 2026): pharmacycouncil.org.nz: Pharmacists qualified in other countries, English language requirements, Fees (Fees Notice 2025), Intern pharmacists, Intern Policy · pharmacycouncil.org.au: New Zealand OPRA exam · publicprogrammes.ac.nz: NZ Pharmacy Legislation · psnz.org.nz: ITP information for overseas pharmacists · immigration.govt.nz: Appendix 13 Green List (09/03/2026), Straight to Residence, AEWV, Skilled Migrant Category, health and police requirements. **Important:** general information prepared from official sources, not legal or immigration advice. Fees, rules and dates change; always confirm with the competent authority before paying or applying. Durations marked (est.) are ASGHCA planning estimates, not official figures. ASGHCA provides education and career guidance and is not a regulator, law firm or licensed immigration adviser. ASGHCA does not guarantee exam success, registration, employment, sponsorship, visas or residence. For visa matters consult the official mission or an authorised adviser.