EUROPE · UNITED KINGDOM · OSPAP ROUTE FOR NON-EEA DEGREES

GB Pharmacist registration in United Kingdom

To practise in England, Scotland or Wales you must be on the register of the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC). With a degree from outside the EEA, the route is OSPAP, a 52-week foundation training year and the Common Registration Assessment. Northern Ireland has its own regulator, the PSNI. Facts checked against official sources on **20 November 2026**.

ROUTE UNDER REVIEW The GPhC consulted on a new route for internationally qualified pharmacists, which closed in July 2026. It says there is no firm timetable for any change, and it is considering aligning the route with the 2021 standards, which include independent prescribing. Today, OSPAP is still the only route for non-EEA degrees.

1	2	3	4	5	6
English test	**Eligibility**	**OSPAP**	**Foundation year**	**CRA**	**Registration**
IELTS 7 or OET B	GPhC OSPAP check	1-year PG diploma	52 weeks, via NRS	computer-based exam	apply via myGPhC
2–6 months (est.)	2–4 months (est.)	1 academic year	52 weeks	2 sittings a year	set register dates

The route, step by step

1. **Prove your English**
   IELTS Academic overall 7 with no band below 7, or Pharmacy OET grade B in all four parts, at one sitting. The GPhC will not process an application without it.
   Time: 2–6 months (est.) · Cost: set by test provider

2. **Apply to the GPhC for OSPAP eligibility**
   The GPhC checks your degree, experience, fitness to practise and English, then tells your chosen universities. Send it to arrive before 31 July. The letter is valid for 2 academic years.
   Time: 2–4 months (est.) · Cost: £830

3. **Complete an OSPAP course**
   A full-time, one-year postgraduate diploma at a GPhC-accredited UK university. The university decides on your place. It meets MPharm graduate criteria but does not award an MPharm.
   Time: 1 academic year · Cost: set by university

4. **Complete 52 weeks of foundation training**
   Supervised training in England, Scotland or Wales. Posts are filled only through the national recruitment schemes. Apply in June the year before, often before OSPAP starts.
   Time: 52 weeks

5. **Pass the Common Registration Assessment**
   A two-part exam at UK test centres, usually held twice a year, in summer and autumn. You must pass both parts at the same sitting.
   Time: 2 sittings a year · Cost: £208

6. **Join the GPhC register**
   Apply online through myGPhC. You must finish every step and apply within 4 years of the date you started your OSPAP course.
   Time: set register dates · Cost: £128 + £311

Official fees	Amount
OSPAP eligibility application Paid to the GPhC. Non-refundable, even if refused or you cannot find a university place	**£830**
Common Registration Assessment Per sitting, non-refundable	**£208**
Registration application Application for entry in Part 1 of the register, from 1 September 2026	**£128**
Registration entry Charged when the application is granted, from 1 September 2026	**£311**
Annual renewal Pharmacist renewal fee from 1 September 2026	**£311**

Exam pattern: online or onsite?

Common Registration Assessment (CRA) TEST CENTRE
Part 1: 40 calculation questions in 120 minutes · Part 2: 120 questions (90 SBA, 30 EMQ) in 150 minutes · Approved calculator allowed in both parts · Pass both parts at the same sitting

OSPAP course assessments ONSITE
Format set by each university · Taught modules plus assessments · Some teaching may be exempted · All assessments must be completed

Timelines

- Send the OSPAP eligibility form so the GPhC receives it before 31 July for a September or October start. The eligibility letter lasts two academic years.
- Recruitment for foundation training opens in June each year for posts starting the following year. Late applications are not accepted.
- Next CRA: 15 June 2027, results 20 July 2027. Everything must be done, and registration applied for, within 4 years of starting OSPAP.

Typical total: About 3–4 years (est.)

Keep these separate

- Licence ≠ visa ≠ job. The GPhC says meeting its criteria does not mean you can enter the UK or find work, and it cannot answer visa questions.
- Study, training and work each need the right immigration permission, decided by UK Visas and Immigration, not by the GPhC or your university.
- You cannot practise as a pharmacist until you are on the register. Foundation training is a supervised trainee post found only through recruitment schemes.

How ASGHCA supports you

- GPhC assessment 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

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Sources (checked 20 November 2026): GPhC (pharmacyregulation.org): non-EEA qualified international pharmacists page (updated 29 Sep 2026); factsheet Registering as a pharmacist in Great Britain, internationally qualified pharmacists (July 2026); Common Registration Assessment page, sitting page and CRA framework for 2026; guidance on evidence of English language skills (June 2025); Registration and Renewal Fees Rules 2025 · GOV.UK: Health and Care Worker visa, Skilled Worker visa, eligible healthcare jobs, national pay scales, Graduate visa, TB test countries. **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.