



GUIDELINES FOR PERSONS WHO HOLD QUALIFICATIONS IN PHARMACY OBTAINED OUTSIDE THE REPUBLIC

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INTRODUCTION

The South African Pharmacy Council (Council) has prepared this brochure for the information and guidance of pharmacy personnel trained outside South Africa who wish to obtain recognition of their qualifications in South Africa. The brochure is intended as a guide only, and is not legally binding to any of the bodies listed. Although the information contained in this brochure is believed to have been accurate at the time of publication, registration requirements may vary and information in this brochure may be updated from time to time.

The **South African Pharmacy Council** may be contacted as follows:

<i>Physical Address</i>	<i>Postal Address</i>
591 Belvedere Street	Private Bag X 40040
Arcadia	Arcadia
Pretoria	Pretoria
0083	0001

Tel: 0861 SAPC 00/0861 7272 00
Fax: 27 12 321 1479/92
Email: customercare@sapc.za.org
Web: www.sapc.za.org

EVALUATION OF QUALIFICATIONS

If you live outside the Republic of South Africa and are a pharmacist with a qualification acquired outside South Africa and you intend to migrate and work in this profession in South Africa, you should **contact** the nearest South African Embassy, High Commission or Consulate for information regarding immigration requirements.

All qualifications obtained must first be evaluated by the **South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)**. They may be contacted at:

South African Qualifications Authority

Physical Address
SAQA House
1067 Arcadia Street, Hatfield
Pretoria

Postal Address:
Postnet Suite 248
Private Bag X06
Waterkloof,
0145

Evaluation of Foreign Qualifications call centre: +2712 431-5070
Helpdesk: 086 010 3188/086 011 1673
E-mail: saqainfo@saqa.org.za

PHARMACY IN SOUTH AFRICA

As in most countries, the practice of a profession in South Africa requires evidence of an appropriate level of education and practical experience. The recognition of qualifications in most health-related professions is the responsibility of a registration authority established by government statute. To be able to work as a pharmacist in South Africa, registration with the South African Pharmacy Council is needed. **The practice of pharmacy by unregistered persons is punishable by law.** The procedure to be followed to obtain registration as a pharmacist or pharmacy support personnel in South Africa is explained in this brochure.

Pharmacists in South Africa are expected to:

- **organise** the manufacturing, compounding and packaging of pharmaceutical products;
- **organise** the procurement, storage and distribution of pharmaceutical products;
- **dispense** and ensure the optimum use of medicine prescribed to the patient;
- **provide** pharmacist initiated care to the patient and ensure the optimum use of medicine;
- **provide** education and information on health care and medicine;
- **promote** community health and provide related information and advice;
- **participate** in research to ensure the optimal use of medicine.

Most pharmacists and pharmacy support personnel practise in community pharmacies and in hospital pharmacies in the public and private sector. A smaller number of pharmacists work in manufacturing pharmacies, wholesale pharmacies, academic institutions and government institutions such as the army and correctional services.

Community and hospital pharmacists have a wide range of responsibilities. These include:

- (1) the provision of pharmaceutical care by taking responsibility for the patient's medicine related needs and being accountable for meeting these needs, which include the following functions:
 - (a) evaluation of a patient's medicine related needs by determining the indication, safety and effectiveness of the therapy;
 - (b) dispensing of any medicine or scheduled substance on the prescription of an authorised prescriber;
 - (c) furnishing information and advice to any person with regard to medicine;
 - (d) determining patient compliance with the therapy and follow up to ensure that the patient's needs are being met; and
 - (e) provision of pharmacist initiated therapy;
- (2) compounding, manipulation or preparation of medicines and scheduled substances;
- (3) purchasing, acquiring, keeping, possessing, using, supplying or selling of medicine or scheduled substance;
- (4) applications for the registration of medicines or medical devices;
- (5) re-packaging of medicine;
- (6) promotion of public health in accordance with guidelines and standards including:
 - (a) the provision of information and education regarding the promotion of human health;
 - (b) the provision of immunisation, mother and childcare, blood pressure monitoring; health education; blood-glucose monitoring; screening tests for pregnancy; family planning; cholesterol screening tests; HIV screening tests; urine analysis; and visiometric and audiometric screening tests;
 - (c) the provision of animal health care services including:
 - (i) the compounding and dispensing of prescriptions written by veterinarians and ensuring the optimal use of veterinary medicines;
 - (ii) the immunisation of animals;
 - (iii) the handling of minor and/or self-limiting ailments in animals; and
 - (iv) the provision of information and education regarding the promotion of animal health.
- (7) conducting of pharmaceutical research and development;
- (8) provision of primary care drug therapy with prior authorisation from council; and
- (9) any other health service as may be approved by council from time to time.

Pharmacists in manufacturing pharmacies are involved in:

- (1) manufacturing of medicine and scheduled substances;
- (2) purchasing, acquiring, keeping, possessing, using, supplying or selling of any medicine or scheduled substance;

- (3) furnishing of information and advice to any person with regard to medicine manufactured;
- (4) applications for the registration of medicines or medical devices;
- (5) formulation of medicine for the purposes of registration as a medicine;
- (6) distribution of medicine or scheduled substances;
- (7) repackaging of medicine in accordance with the Medicines Act;
- (8) initiation and conducting of pharmaceutical research and development; and
- (9) any other health service as may be approved by council from time to time.

APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE OFFICES OF COUNCIL (CONTACT DETAILS) -

- **Telephone**, using the following number: 0861 72 72 00 and asking for the customer care; or
- **Fax**, using the following number: (+2712) 321-1479/92; or
- Downloading the appropriate forms from the Council's website at www.sapc.za.org

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION (TO BE SUBMITTED DIRECTLY TO COUNCIL BY THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY)

- a) an **original** letter of confirmation from the institution where the above qualification was obtained stating that the above applicant was enrolled as a student and qualified at that institution;
- b) an **original** Letter of Good Standing issued by the regulatory body of the country in which the above qualification was obtained or the institution where the qualification was obtained (**refer note D**); and
- c) Information regarding the **syllabus and curriculum** of the degree/diploma in pharmacy stamped and submitted by the institution where training was undertaken; [information required for verification](#).

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION AND APPLICABLE FEES TO BE SUBMITTED BY THE APPLICANT WITH THE APPLICATION

- (a) Application form/platform approved by Council and proof of payment of the prescribed fee;
- (b) **Certified copy** of the Identity Document/Passport;
- (c) **Original** SAQA evaluation certificate and the [SAQA verification of information consent form](#);
- (d) **Certified copy** of the qualification or a combination of qualifications in pharmacy that will permit registration as a pharmacist in the country of origin, i.e. Bachelor of Pharmacy or equivalent;
- (e) **Original** International English Language Testing System Certificate (IELTS) overall band score 6, except for South African citizens who obtained their secondary education in SA (certified copy of the National Senior Certificate or equivalent is required);
- (f) **Certified copy** of proof of registration as a pharmacist with the regulatory body or proof that the qualification obtained allows for registration as a pharmacist in the country where qualification was obtained. Only a certified copy of the qualification is required for South African citizens;
- (g) Proof of practical training or internship from the regulatory body (if completed);
- (h) Proof of **work experience post registration as a pharmacist**;
- (i) Letter of support from Department of Health Foreign Workforce Management Programme (FWMP) only in the event of a person requiring a work permit;
- (j) Police clearance from country of origin; and
- (k) Police clearance from the South African Police Services (SAPS) if candidate has been in South Africa for more than two years.

Applications without payment and/or with outstanding supporting documents will NOT be accepted by the Office of the Registrar.

For further information regarding the endorsement letter, please contact the Department of Health (DoH) at:

Postal Address
The Director-General
Department of Health

Private Bag X828
PRETORIA
0001
Tel: +27 12 312 0722

Ms Miyelani Malungana
E-mail: Malungana@health.gov.za
ForeignWorkforceManagement@health.gov.za

Mr Lindile Mkunjana
Email: Mkunjana@health.gov.za

For further information regarding the IELTS certification, please contact:

Physical Address	Postal Address
British Council	P O Box 655
Dunkeld Corner	Parklands
275 Jan Smuts Avenue	2121
Dunkeld West	
Johannesburg	
2196	

Tel: + 27 11 560 9300
Fax: +27 11 560 9301
Email: ssa.enquiries@britishcouncil.org
Web: <https://www.britishcouncil.org.za/>

All applications are considered by the Pre-registration Committee of Council which meets quarterly in March, June, August and November. Therefore, all applications must be submitted to Council a month before the Pre-registration Committee sitting, i.e. by 31 January for the March meeting, 30 April for the June meeting, 30 June for the August meeting and 30 September for the November meeting. Applications received after the deadline for that meeting will be served at the next Committee meeting. **Incomplete applications will not be served to the Pre-registration Committee. Failure to submit all the required supporting documentation and fees/proof of payment of fees within 6 months of the application, the application will be invalid and all fees that may have been paid herewith shall be forfeited.**

Each application is considered on merit. After an application has been evaluated, Council may decide, that if the applicant, who wishes to be registered as a pharmacist, complies with all the requirements and has passed the necessary examinations he/she may be registered either as a pharmacist intern for purposes of undergoing practical training or register the applicant as a pharmacist for purpose of performing pharmaceutical community service. If the applicant is eligible for registration as a pharmacist, he/she must provide evidence of the public health facility or complex of health facilities where he/she will perform community service in South Africa and a work permit from Home Affairs. If the applicant, who wishes to be registered as pharmacy support personnel, complies with all the requirements, he/she may be registered as a learner post-basic pharmacist assistant for the purpose of undergoing six (6) months in-service training under approved premises and tutors, and complete a module on Pharmacy Law and Ethics with an accredited provider.

A fee to the amount of **R18, 373.00 (Non-SA citizens) or R9, 344.00 (SA citizens)**, including VAT, is required for the evaluation of credentials upon submission of all required documents. The fee is reviewed annually. A certified copy of permission to reside and take up employment in South Africa issued by the Department of Home Affairs is also required.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE REGISTRATION PROCESSES

All documents mentioned above must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar for evaluation of the curriculum by the Education Committee, and verification of the application by the Pre-registration Committee. The Pre-registration Committee will then make a recommendation for approval by Council or the Executive Committee of Council.

Once the application is approved, the candidate will be allowed to write the applicable professional examination and will be informed accordingly.

The Professional Examinations take place in May and September/October each year.

The professional examinations are written at a venue determined by the South African Pharmacy Council.

A duly completed online application form, with the proof of payment for the prescribed examination fee for admission to the professional examinations must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar of the South African Pharmacy Council **at least one month before the examination date**. All fees are subject to annual revision and therefore subject to change without prior notice.

Format of the Examination

The examinations will be conducted as an open book examination using the SAPC online platform.

The full **Professional Examination** consists of three examination papers written online on different days or as determined by Council:

Applied Pharmacy Practice in a Legal Framework

The examination in applied pharmacy practice in a legal framework is an integrated examination based on pharmacy administration, professional pharmacy practice, and ethics and legislation case study and practice scenario questions. This paper is written over four (4) hours.

Applied Pharmaceutics and Pharmaceutical Chemistry

The examination in applied pharmaceutics and pharmaceutical chemistry is a combined paper consisting of pharmaceutics and pharmaceutical chemistry sections. This paper will be written over three (3) hours.

Applied Pharmacology and Toxicology

The examination in applied pharmacology and toxicology assesses the candidates knowledge of the basic principles of pharmacology and toxicology and is written over three (3) hours.

The examination is marked electronically by the system and the results are moderated by Council's moderators to ensure the fairness of the examination. The examination results are approved by Council before they are released to candidates. Letters are sent to candidates with the results of the examination. Council endeavours to have the results available within 2 months of the date of the examination.

The following rules apply to examination results:

- in order to pass, a candidate must obtain **NOT less than 50%** in each paper. For the combined Applied Pharmaceutics & Pharmaceutical Chemistry paper and the integrated Applied Pharmacy Practice in a Legal Framework a sub-minimum of 40% must be achieved for each section;
- candidates with foreign qualifications who are non-South African citizens who fail to obtain a pass mark, have four (4) attempts to write each paper and a maximum of four (4) years from the date of approval by the Pre-registration Committee to pass the professional examination. Candidates will be required to attend a compulsory remediation programme with an accredited provider prior to the 3rd attempt at the examination;
- candidates with foreign qualifications who are South African citizens, asylum seekers and refugees who fail to obtain a pass mark, have six (6) attempts to write each paper and a maximum of six (6) years from the date of approval by the Pre-registration Committee to pass the professional examination. Candidates will be required to attend a compulsory remediation programme with an accredited provider prior to the 3rd attempt at the examination; and
- any application for special consideration on account of illness or other special circumstance(s) which occur immediately preceding or during the examination session, must be filed with the Registrar, or invigilator as applicable before the examination has been completed.

Appeals by a candidate against the results or any other matter relating to an examination/evaluation conducted by Council must be in writing and addressed to the Registrar. Such an appeal must be received within one month of the release of the results of an examination/evaluation.

Examination Fees

The prescribed examination fee is payable upon booking for the examination. The prescribed fee may be paid in cash or credit card.

The applicable fee is **R3, 911.00** per paper (including VAT)

All fees are subject to annual revision and therefore, subject to change without prior notice.

PHARMACEUTICAL ORGANISATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA

A list of pharmaceutical organisations has been compiled to acquaint candidates with the various organisations serving the pharmacy profession in South Africa. The information has been provided by the various organisations and is by no means an exhaustive list. The following organisations may be contacted for further information regarding pharmacy as a career, membership and services offered:

GBMSA - Generic and Biosimilar Medicines of Southern Africa

PO Box 32361, KYALAMI, 1684

Tel: (+2711) 312-6966

Fax: (+2711) 312-6966

Ms Mologadi Tloana

083 501 0171

Web: www.gbmsa.org

IPASA - The Innovative Pharmaceutical Association South Africa

Ballyoaks Office Park; Building D 1st Floor
35 Ballyclare Drive; Bryanston 2191
Tel: (+2711) 781 3256 Fax: (+2711) 781 3328
Email: info@jpasa.co.za

PSSA - Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa

P O Box 75769, LYNNWOOD RIDGE, 0040
Tel: (+2711) 442-3615 1770 Fax: (+2712) 470-9556
E-mail: pssa@pharmail.co.za

SAAHIP - South African Association of Hospital & Institutional Pharmacists

P O Box 75769, LYNNWOOD RIDGE, 0040
Tel: (+2712) 301-0833/082 413 1770 Fax: (+2712) 301-0836
Web: www.saahip.org.za

SAAPI - South African Association of Pharmacists in Industry

P O Box 75769, LYNNWOOD RIDGE, 0040
Tel: (+2711) 442-3615 ext 316 Fax: (+2711) 442-3661
Email: saapi@pssasg.co.za