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pharmacy
council

O-84 Assessment Standards for
pharmacist registration and
assessment systems in non-
Australian countries
for eligibility for APC's Competency Stream

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List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Term
CAOP	Competency Assessment of Overseas Pharmacists
KAPS	Knowledge Assessment of Pharmaceutical Sciences
NRAS	National Registration and Accreditation Scheme
PharmBA	Pharmacy Board of Australia

Assessment Standards for pharmacist registration and assessment systems in non-Australian countries

for eligibility for APC's Competency Stream

1. Purpose

This document describes the standards required to be met for a country to be included in APC's Competency Stream countries, and for individuals holding current registration in that country to be eligible for APC's Competency Stream pathway.

2. Overview

The Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) conducts assessments of the knowledge, clinical skills and professional attributes of overseas qualified pharmacists (candidates) who are seeking registration to practise as pharmacists in Australia. This function is assigned under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009 and is defined in Section 42(d).

APC's assessment process involves an 'eligibility check' followed by an exam. The eligibility check determines which APC pathway a candidate will undertake (and which exam they will sit).

Most candidates undertake the process known as the 'Knowledge Stream' which includes a knowledge-based examination (KAPS), a period of supervised practice as a provisionally registered pharmacist (intern), a pre-registration training program (an 'internship') followed by the registration exams.

The 'Competency Stream' is an accelerated pathway allowing candidates to undertake a competency-based examination (CAOP), register with 'limited' registration and complete a shortened period of supervised practice. The Competency Stream pathway is designed to remove unnecessary obstacles to the registration in Australia of pharmacists trained and registered in those overseas countries which the APC recognises as having education and accreditation processes and practice substantially equivalent to those in Australia, in line with the 'Guiding Principles' of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS).

An individual's eligibility for the Competency Stream is determined by the country in which they hold current registration. Their initial training may or may not have been in a Competency Stream country.

Competency Stream countries must meet the Standards set out in this document to obtain and continue to hold Competency Stream status.

3. Principles

The principles underpinning these Standards are:

1. The Standards will operate in the public interest.
2. The Standards will be cognisant of the needs of individuals in their application.
3. The Standards will be fair, ethical, consistent, efficient and transparent in their application.
4. The Standards will be defensible.
5. The Standards will reflect contemporary good practice in the quality assurance of professional regulation.

4. Standards and Indicators

Criterion	Indicators
<p>1. Program standards for the training of pharmacists in the country are substantially equivalent to Australian program standards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National program accreditation standards in the country are demonstrated to be substantially equivalent to APC accreditation standards; and • National registration examinations are required and are demonstrated to be substantially equivalent to the APC's test of knowledge and skills; and • Clinical placements (experiential placements) are undertaken in a practice environment substantially equivalent to those in Australia; and • The training is delivered in English.
<p>2. Registration standards and competency standards (or the equivalent) for the practice of pharmacy in the country are substantially equivalent to Australian standards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National or jurisdictional registration requirements and processes are demonstrated to be substantially equivalent to PharmBA requirements and processes; and • Standards (for registration and competency) in the country are demonstrated to be comparable to PharmBA and the profession's standards; and • Registration requires practitioner competency in English written and oral communication skills.
<p>3. The pharmacy practice standards and practice environment in the country are substantially equivalent to the Australian practice environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National or jurisdictional practice standards are substantially equivalent to PharmBA practice standards; and • The pharmacy scope and nature of practice in the country is substantially equivalent to the scope of practice in Australia; and • The country's legal framework in which the pharmacist operates is substantially comparable to that in Australia; and • The practice of pharmacy is conducted in English.

5. References

[Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009](#)

[National Competency Standards Framework 2016](#)

[Pharmacy Board of Australia Registration Standards](#)

[Accreditation Standards for Pharmacy Programs](#)

