

Pharmacy MPharm Pre-registration Year

All international students from outside the European Economic Area, graduating with an MPharm from a UK university, must apply for a visa in order to work in the UK i.e. undertake their pre-registration training. There are a number of different options for this –

1. The RPS [Pharmacy Professional Sponsorship Scheme \(PPSS\)](#) is open to graduates who started their course on or before September 2011. The PPSS is jointly funded by all participating Schools of Pharmacy (including Queen's); the RPS does not charge students for participating in the scheme. In Northern Ireland, the Scheme operates in association with the Pharmacy Forum of the Pharmaceutical Society NI.

Please note, the PPSS is an interim measure and does not cover pharmacy students who started their degree after September 2011.

Successful applicants to the scheme receive a Certificate of Sponsorship that is essential in order to apply for a Tier 5 visa for leave to remain in the United Kingdom.

Essential resources:

[PPSS: Handbook](#)

[PPSS: Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[PPSS: Guidance for Applicants](#)

[UKVI Tier 5 \(Youth Mobility Scheme\) Information](#)

[PPSS: Application Form](#)

[PPSS: Application Form: guidance notes](#)

For further information on the PPSS contact RPS Support via telephone 0845 257 2570 or email support@rpharms.com.

2. From 2016, most overseas students will be expected to apply for a **Tier 2 visa** and will therefore only be able to undertake a pre-registration place with an employer registered as a [Tier 2 sponsor](#) and which pays the minimum salary to meet the Tier 2 requirements. These placements are open to all MPharm students (British, EU and overseas) and so competition for these placements will be very high. For more information about eligibility for a Tier 2 visa, please see the Home Office website at www.gov.uk/tier-2-general/overview.
3. However, if you are a national of one of the following countries you may be eligible to apply for a 2-yr work visa under the Tier 5 Youth Mobility Scheme.
 - Australia
 - Canada
 - Hong Kong
 - Japan
 - Monaco
 - New Zealand

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- Republic of Korea

The scheme is also available to holders of British Overseas Territories passports and British Nationals (Overseas).

You cannot switch into this immigration category from within the UK. Instead, you need to leave the UK and apply for entry clearance.

- If you are from the **Republic of Korea**, you need a certificate of sponsorship in order to apply. You obtain this by contacting the Consular Services Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- If you are from **Taiwan**, you need to register your interest with the National Youth Commission. Registration is usually only open for a short period each year. If the National Youth Commission accepts your registration, they will send you a certificate of sponsorship and details of how to apply for your visa.
- If you hold a **Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region)** passport, you need to apply to the Labour Department for a certificate of sponsorship.
- The Home Office website has full details about how to register if you are from the Republic of Korea, Taiwan or Hong Kong.

If you are from one of the other eligible countries or you have a British National passport, you are not required to register your interest and can just apply using your passport as evidence that you are sponsored. Places are, however, limited in number and your application will be refused if all the places for a year have already been taken. There is no limit for British Overseas Citizens, British Overseas Territories Citizens and British Nationals (Overseas).

You can find further information on the Tier 5 (Youth Mobility Scheme) visa, including requirements, on the UKVI website here - <https://www.gov.uk/tier-5-youth-mobility>.

Non-EEA students who join the MPharm programme and hope to carry out pre-registration training in the UK must be aware that Tier 2 visa opportunities will inevitably be limited and cannot be guaranteed by the QUB School of Pharmacy.