

The Stream B process

a) Competency Assessment of Overseas Pharmacists (CAOP) Examination

The CAOP Examination consists of one paper of 100 multiple choice questions (MCQ) plus one short answer question, to be taken over two and a half hours. It is based on the current competencies for Australian pharmacy practice. This examination is available four times per year in London, Auckland and all capital cities in Australia.

b) Interview

Same as the Stream A process.

c) Supervised Practice

Same as the Stream A process, except that there will be a minimum of 152 hours undertaken over not less than 4 weeks.

d) National Forensic, Ethics and Calculations (NFEC) Examination

Same as the Stream A process.

e) Oral Assessment

This is conducted together with the NFEC Examination.

APC Certificate

Candidates who have successfully completed the Stream A or Stream B examination process are issued with an APC certificate, which entitles the candidate to apply for registration with any of the Australian pharmacy registering authorities. The APC certificate is recognised by all the pharmacy registering authorities in Australia.

Development, maintenance and administration of examinations

The APC has developed a number of examinations that are used for the assessment of overseas-trained pharmacists. It has also developed assessment tools for Australian pharmacy registering authorities to use in the assessment of Australian pre-registrants. These are the Australian Pharmacy Competency Assessment Tool (APCAT) and the NFEC Examination.

The APCAT covers pharmacy practice in Australia and comprises 120 multiple choice questions to be completed in two and a half hours.

The development of all APC examinations involves holding item writing (i.e. question writing) workshops to generate suitable examination material, then validating examination material by testing on both Australian pre-registrants and practising pharmacists, generating examination papers from a data bank of examination questions and standard setting (establishing a pass mark). Questions are written and reviewed by practising pharmacists from community, hospital and industry and lecturer-practitioners across the full breadth of the pharmacy profession in Australia.

In addition to preparing various examinations, the APC also administers them in Australia and at a number of overseas locations.

The Website

It should be noted that this brochure may be amended from time to time and that the current definitive information about the process will be found on the Australian Pharmacy Council website at www.pharmacycouncil.org.au

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**AUSTRALIAN
PHARMACY
COUNCIL**

THE ORGANISATION OF REGISTERING AUTHORITIES

APC SKILLS RECOGNITION

This brochure outlines the Australian Pharmacy Council's skills recognition process.



AUSTRALIAN PHARMACY COUNCIL

THE ORGANISATION OF REGISTERING AUTHORITIES

Skills Recognition

Overview

The Australian Pharmacy Examining Committee (APEC) is a standing committee of the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC). APEC assists overseas-trained pharmacists to obtain registration to practise as a pharmacist in Australia. APEC carries out the following functions on behalf of the APC:

- Recognition of skills for migration purposes
- Determining competency to practise as a pharmacist in Australia, and
- Development and administration of examinations.

Skills recognition processes

Following a review of its examination procedures in 2006, the Examining Committee (APEC) introduced an alternative examination procedure for overseas-trained pharmacists from certain countries that are recognised by the APC as having educational processes, practice competencies and structures that are substantially comparable with those in Australia; such as the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and the United States of America. These pharmacists may demonstrate their competence to practise according to Australian standards through a process known as Stream B. For all other pharmacists with overseas qualifications the examination procedure is known as Stream A.

Both pathways aim to ensure pharmacists are appropriately qualified and equipped with the necessary knowledge for Australian pharmacy practice.



The skills recognition process consist of several steps

1. Eligibility Assessment

An initial assessment of a candidate's qualifications and associated documents is undertaken to determine an applicant's eligibility to undertake the APC examination procedure through either Stream A or Stream B.

Under Australian migration legislation the APC also provides skills assessments for international pharmacists who obtain their pharmacy qualifications in Australia (usually as a student on a study visa) and then seek to migrate to Australia. Such Australian-trained pharmacists are not required to complete either of the APC examination processes (Stream A or Stream B), but require a skills assessment letter issued by the APC to submit to Australian migration authorities as part of their migration application.

2. English Language Requirement

Language requirements are based on either the Occupational English Test (OET) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). Please check the APC website (www.pharmacycouncil.org.au) or contact the APC office on +61 2 6247 5088 for the minimum scores required. The OET and IELTS may be taken overseas or in Australia.



The Stream A process

a) Stage I Examination

The Stage I Examination consists of two papers of multiple choice questions covering pharmaceutical chemistry, pharmaceuticals, pharmacology, physiology and therapeutics. It is held in Australia and overseas in March and September each year.

A skills assessment letter for migration purposes is issued after successful completion of the Stage I Examination.

b) Interview

Successful candidates in the Stage I Examination are interviewed by the appropriate Examining Committee state/territory representative and a member of the relevant registering authority to discuss the requirements for the Stage II Examination, the period of supervised practice that must be completed, and any other formal training requirements of the registering authority. The interview is held in Australia prior to undertaking a supervised practice placement.

c) Supervised Practice

Supervised practice is a period of practical experience of up to 2000 hours undertaken in an Australian community pharmacy and/or hospital pharmacy department under the supervision of an Australian registered pharmacist.

d) National Forensics, Ethics and Calculations (NFEC) Examination

The NFEC Examination consists of a written examination covering forensic, ethical and calculation aspects of Australian pharmacy practice to be completed in one hour. The examination is held in Australia.

e) Stage II Examination

The Stage II Examination has written, practical and oral components covering the practice of pharmacy and must be attempted in the state/territory in which the supervised practice was undertaken. The examination is held in all Australian states and territories.

