Australian Intern Written Examination

Graduates of approved Australian pharmacy programs and overseas qualified pharmacists who hold provisional registration with the Pharmacy Board of Australia (PharmBA) are required to complete a number of steps before they can apply for general registration as a pharmacist in Australia. Successfully passing the Australian Intern Written Examination is one such step.

The Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) delivers the Australian Intern Written Examination in Australia on behalf of the PharmBA. The exam is used to assess an intern’s competence to practise as an individual practitioner in the Australian health care setting.

Candidates may register to sit the exam if they have completed or will complete the required amount of PharmBA approved supervised practice hours by the date of the exam.

The Australian Intern Written Examination fee is currently $693 AUD per attempt.

Candidates should carefully review this information sheet in its entirety before registering for an exam.

1. Complete PharmBA’s required amount of supervised practice hours
   To be eligible for the Intern Written Exam you must meet the following requirements:
   - Be currently, provisionally, registered with the PharmBA or have been previously registered and thus have a unique PHA number
   - Have, or will have, completed the approved amount of supervised practice hours by the date of the exam.
2. Register and sit the Australian Intern Written Examination

- Check the exam dates and places page on the APC website for the exam schedules
- Sign into APC’s Candidate Portal
- Use the dropdown menu at the top of your Candidate Portal, go to My Portal
- Go to section 2. Click on ‘Book an Exam’ and commence the online registration. As part of the registration process, you will be requested to enter some basic information, such as: your contact details, university, pharmacy qualification level, Intern Training Program provider, number of supervised practice hours completed
- Special Accommodation: If you have a special accommodation request, you will be required to upload your supporting documents in the APC Candidate Portal for further assessment. APC will review your supporting documents and contact you with further information about your request prior to the exam date
- Select your test centre, date and time, and proceed to checkout
- Agree to Policies
- Submit order and review summary page
- Receive your confirmation email from Pearson VUE. Your seat has been temporarily reserved at this point in time
- Click on “return to APC website” to make payment
- Use a credit card (Mastercard or Visa) to pay the application fee $693 AUD per attempt
- Once payment has been made then your seat will be secured, and you will receive your receipt via email
- Receive the exam reminder: You will receive a reminder email approximately from APC one week before your exam date
- Attend and complete your exam

Receive your results

- You or your nominated agent will receive an email from the APC approximately two weeks after the exam date when the results are released results in your Candidate Portal account.
- You can view and download your Results Certificate in the Candidate Portal
Additional information

**Australian Intern Written Examination eligibility requirements**
You may register to sit the Australian Intern Written Exam if you have completed the required amount of PharmBA approved supervised practice hours by the date of the exam.

Your exam registration will be verified by the PharmBA to confirm your eligibility. If you are ineligible to sit the Australian Intern Written Exam, you will receive an email notifying you about the cancellation of your exam and the exam fee refund arrangement. It is the candidate’s responsibility to ensure their eligibility to sit the exam, before submitting exam registration and making payment.

Candidates who are unsure for any reason of their exam eligibility should contact the PharmBA directly to discuss their personal situation and circumstance.

**APC candidate portal accounts**

**First Time Users:** Create an account in the APC Candidate Portal and register for the exam.

**Returning Users:** Candidates who have previously set up an account in the APC Candidate Portal can sign-in with their existing username and password.

**KAPS Candidates:** Candidates who have previously set up an account in the APC Candidate Portal can sign in with their existing username and password.

**KAPS Candidates who do not have an existing Candidate Portal account:** Contact the APC at exams@pharmacycouncil.org.au and provide the following information:
- Your full name
- Your date of birth (DD/MM/YYYY)
- Your 6-digit APC reference number
Candidates will be sent log-in details upon confirmation of the above details.

**All Candidates:** If you have created an account in our Candidate Portal at any time and you are unable to log in, please contact the APC at exams@pharmacycouncil.org.au to report the issue for resolution. Please do not attempt to create a new account with a different email address as one candidate is only allowed one account in the Candidate Portal.

**Examination dates and places**
Please refer to the APC’s exam dates and places web page for details about where, when and what to bring for your exam.

When registrations are open, you will select your exam appointment details including venue, date, and time.

**Fees and payment**
The exam fee of Intern Written Exam is currently **$693 AUD** per attempt.
Payment must be made by credit card (Visa or MasterCard) online. The APC does not accept any alternative forms of payment.

Your credit card must be issued by a bank located in the same country of your residence. If it is not, the payment will be suspended, and you will not be able to complete the transaction. Please contact your financial institution if you require any advice relating to credit card payments.

A payment receipt will be sent to your nominated email address after completing payment.

Please visit our website for information on other fees and charges.

**Refunds and cancellation**

Please refer to the APC Refund of Fees for Exam Cancellation Guidelines for comprehensive information on the processes and procedures available to APC candidates wishing to withdraw from an exam. This policy is also applicable to candidates who may incur illness or personal circumstances that may prevent you from attempting the exam on the day.

**Special accommodation**

Special accommodation is the arrangement made by us to assist candidates who have physical or personal conditions that require support on the day of the exam.

Candidates with a pre-existing condition that may affect their ability to take the exam, should contact the APC at exams@pharmacycouncil.org.au. Candidates should provide current supporting documentation from an appropriately qualified practitioner along with your request. The documentation will be used to verify a condition and provide relevant and useful information in assessing appropriate adjustments or accommodations. Your application will be reviewed, and you will be contacted if additional information is required from you.

If your request is approved, the APC will notify you by email.

It takes time for special accommodation requests to obtain approval. If you think you may require special accommodation, please contact the APC well in advance of the closing date of your exam registration.

Examples of special accommodations that we may be able to arrange for you are:
- additional time
- permission to leave the exam room for breaks
- permission for more leg room due to an injury.

The APC is unable to facilitate any special accommodation requests after the exam registration closing date.
Identification documentation required to sit the Examination

Please provide two identity documents (IDs) to enter the exam venue and sit the exam.

**Primary ID**
- International Passport
- Government issued national/country identity card (with photo)
- Government issued citizenship card (with photo)
- Australian/NZ driver’s licence

**Secondary ID**
- Debit (ATM) card
- Credit card
- Any form of ID on the primary list

Candidates who are unable to be positively identified will not be permitted to sit the exam, and no exam fee refunds will be allowed.

Please refer to the APC exam dates and places page for information on the mandatory documents required to sit the Australian Intern Written Exam.

**Examination approach and delivery**

High-stakes exam development and delivery require the highest levels of security and accuracy. In partnership with Pearson VUE, the APC delivers high-stakes pharmacy exams to thousands of candidates around the world. Through regular subject-matter reviews and psychometric analysis, the APC ensures the reliability, defensibility and validity of its exams.

**Examination format**

The Australian Intern Written Exam is a 3-hour computerised exam delivered via Pearson VUE software.

- The examination consists of 125 multiple choice questions, 115 scored questions and 10 (non-scored) pilot questions.
- You are expected to complete all 125 questions.
- Failure to complete all 125 questions in the examination may lead to insufficient information being provided for the purposes of determining your competency.
- Each question contains a stem, either a question phrase or short paragraph and four possible answers.
- There is only one correct answer for each question.
- The Pearson VUE software randomises the order of the questions. Please note, there are no pilot questions in the either the Law and Ethics or Calculations content areas.
- Candidates must complete the exam paper within 3 hours.

**Examination subject areas**

The Australian Intern Written Exam covers five content areas based on the National Competency Standards Framework for Pharmacists in Australia 2016.
The areas covered in the exam are:
- Law and Ethics
- Calculations
- Appropriate approaches to medication management and health promotion
- Implementation of medication management strategies and plans
- Monitoring and evaluation of medication management strategies and plans

**Examination question types**
Questions may either stand-alone or be associated with a patient profile.

Stand-alone questions are those questions that are self-contained. You will be given all the information required to answer the question in the stem.

Patient profile questions are linked to content found in a patient record or profile. The patient profile will be displayed beside the questions and provide you with basic information about the patient (e.g. age, weight, allergies) and more detailed information including details such as presenting complaint(s), prior and existing medical conditions, any test results and the medication history.

You should answer the patient questions within the context of the profile. The answer to a particular question associated with the profile will not be dependent upon correctly answering another question also related to the profile. You will be able to answer each question independently of the other profile questions.

**Preparing for the examination**
The below resources are available to support candidates with preparing for an exam:

- downloadable practice exam
- downloadable Guide for the Australian Intern Written Exam
- online tutorial to give you the chance to see the computer software used to deliver the exam

All resources suitable for use in exam preparation and as references are located on our exam resources page.

APC exams are set on the latest information available through relevant journals, publications and textbooks. It is up to the candidate to obtain the latest information. APC does not endorse any reference sources.

**Items permitted/not permitted in the room**
Candidates may undertake an exam in a room with candidates who are sitting other exams. These candidates may have different requirements/reference material restrictions. The Australian Intern Written Examination is an open-book exam.

**Permitted Items:**
- printed or hand-written reference materials
- calculators: There are no restrictions on the type of calculators you can bring into the room. An online calculator will also be available during the exam.
Non-permitted Items:
- wrist watches, mobile phones, tablets or other electronic devices at your workstation
- pens/pencils: (an erasable marker and notepad will be provided)

Examination results and next steps
You will be notified via email when results are available for your session. You can view and download your results in the Candidate Portal.

Results are posted approximately two weeks after the exam date.

APC releases its exam results as PASS or FAIL only.

Interns must pass the Australian Intern Written Examination as a part of the PharmBA’s requirements to gain general registration.

Pass marks
You must achieve an overall mark of 65% or above in order for APC to assess you as successful (a pass) in the Australian Intern Written Examination. The overall pass mark is calculated by taking the number of scored questions answered correctly and dividing by the total number of questions being used for assessment purposes in the exam.

Candidates who have been unsuccessful in the Australian Intern Written Examination three times are eligible to receive counselling via a teleconference on how best to move forward. If you are interested in this service please feel free to contact us by p +61 2 6188 4288 or e: exams@pharmacycouncil.org.au. We will provide you with details as to when and how the counselling can take place.

If you cannot view your results in your Candidate Portal, please email the APC Exams Team at: exams@australianpharmacycouncil.org.au with your full name and date of birth.

Appealing a decision/requesting an examination review
Please refer to the APC Appeals Policy for comprehensive information on the processes and procedures available to APC stakeholders wishing to appeal an APC decision, including applying for an exam review.

Contact us
APC Exams Team
Email: exams@pharmacycouncil.org.au
Phone: +61 2 6188 4288 – select 2 for the Exams Team

Other useful contacts
Pharmacy Board of Australia (PharmBA)
Web: www.pharmacyboard.gov.au
Phone: within Australia call 1300 419 495; from outside Australia call +61 3 9275 9009