



INFORMATION ON BECOMING A PHARMACIST IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Pharmacist Registration FAQ

1) How long does it take to process my pre-registration application?

You should allow up to 20 business days to process your pre-registration application. Once processing is complete, you will be mailed a confirmation letter. To avoid delays in processing, ensure that all your documents are complete.

2) How long does it take to process my Full Pharmacist registration application?

You should allow up to 5 business days to process your Full Pharmacist application. Once processing is complete, you will be mailed a Certificate of Registration card.

3) I am an International Pharmacy Graduate. How do I know if my pharmacy degree will be recognized to practice in Canada?

To ensure that your Pharmacy degree will be recognized for practice in Canada, you must contact the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC) to have your documents evaluated. Visit the PEBC website (www.pebc.ca) for more information.

4) Will you recognize the Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Equivalence Certification (FPGEC) from the U.S.?

No, pharmacists who wish to practice in Canada are required to become certified with the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC). Please refer to the PEBC website (www.pebc.ca) for additional information.

5) How do I obtain a work permit?

The College is not qualified to provide advice regarding work permits. These questions should be directed to Citizenship and Immigration Canada (www.cic.gc.ca).

6) How many hours of Structured Practical Training (SPT) are International Pharmacy Graduates required to complete?

International Pharmacy Graduates are required to complete 500 hours (3 months) of SPT.

7) Can my previous work experience as a pharmacy intern/pharmacy technician/pharmacy assistant be applied towards my SPT hours?

No. Previous experience as a pharmacy intern/pharmacy technician/pharmacy assistant cannot be applied towards your SPT hours.

8) Do I get paid for SPT?

Not necessarily. Whether or not you are paid during your SPT is an arrangement that should be made between you and your employer. Neither the OEE or the College is involved in this arrangement.



9) Where can I find a testing centre for the English language Proficiency (ELP) test?

You may find testing centre locations on the following websites:

- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL):
www.ets.org/portal/site/ets/
- Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB):
www.lsa.umich.edu/eli/testing/melab/
- International English Language Testing System (IELTS):
www.ielts.org/default.aspx
- The Canadian Test of English for Scholars and Trainees (CanTEST)
www.cantest.uottawa.ca/

10) I am an International Pharmacy Graduate but English is my first language. Do I still have to take an English Language Proficiency test?

Yes. According to the standards set by the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA), all pharmacists who have obtained their pharmacy degree outside of Canada or the U.S. are required to complete an English Language Proficiency assessment.

11) What scores do I need to meet the English Language Proficiency (ELP) requirements?

The ELP requirements can be found in the “RCP–1 English Language Proficiency” document on the College website: http://www.bcpharmacists.org/library/E-Registration/Licensure/E-2_Pharmacist/5098-Reg_Committee_Policy_RCP-1.pdf

You may compare your test scores to the scores listed under the “Minimum score with SEM” column of Appendix 1.

12) How should I provide you with my English test scores?

Place a request with the English testing agency to send an official score report directly to the College of Pharmacists of BC. Do not submit your own copy of the score report as this will not be accepted.

13) How do I arrange to write the Jurisprudence exam outside of Vancouver?

The Jurisprudence exam can be written anywhere in Canada or the continental US. To apply, you will need to submit both applications below and pay the required fees:

http://www.bcpharmacists.org/library/K-Forms/K-2_Registration/9013-App_JE.pdf

http://www.bcpharmacists.org/library/K-Forms/K-2_Registration/9026-App_JE_Outside_Vancouver.pdf

You will also be responsible for finding your own invigilator and exam site. The exam site must be a learning agency, provincial pharmacy regulatory authority, pharmacy state board office, college or university. Any fees that are charged by the invigilator or site are the responsibility of the applicant.



14) I am a first year UBC pharmacy student. When should I submit my student (UBC) registration application?

Your application should be received by the College office no later than September 1, before the start of your first year in the Pharmacy program.

15) What should I study for the Jurisprudence Exam (JE)?

For information on what to study for the JE, view the Jurisprudence Exam Information guide on the College website: http://www.bcpharmacists.org/library/E-Registration_Licensure/E-2_Pharmacist/5029-RegInfo_JE.pdf

16) Where can I obtain liability insurance to be a Full Pharmacist?

If you are already employed, you can confirm with your employer if liability insurance is provided for you, otherwise you may obtain it through membership with the BC Pharmacy Association (<http://www.bcpharmacy.ca>) or through an insurance broker.