

Guidelines for Pharmaceutical Scientist Membership

Below is information for people wishing to apply for Pharmaceutical Scientist membership of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

Please read these guidelines before applying for membership to ensure you meet the criteria and that you have the necessary information to hand to enable you to complete the application process. If you have any questions please contact the membership team on 0845 257 2570 or email membership@rpharms.com.

1. Admission requirements

1.1 Definition of Pharmaceutical Scientist membership

The relevant Section of the Regulation concerning Pharmaceutical Scientist membership reads as follows:

*“The category of **Pharmaceutical Scientist member** is open to applicants holding, at least, a bachelor degree (or its equivalent), in a subject related to the pharmaceutical sciences, and working in, or having worked in, the basic or applied sciences, or the social sciences, impinging on the discovery, development, delivery, quality, safety, efficacy, regulation or usage of medicines and medical devices and their educational development in all its many aspects.”*

1.2 Criteria for inclusion as a Pharmaceutical Scientist Member

To be eligible to apply to become a Pharmaceutical Scientist member of the Society you need to meet the following criteria:

- A bachelor degree (or equivalent) or higher from a recognised institution awarding degrees.
- Must be working, or have worked, in an area of pharmaceutical science as set forth in the approved definition (see section 1.1 above). The inclusion of the term ‘or *having worked*’ has been included to enable retired pharmaceutical scientists to be members.
- Have at least 2 years experience in a pharmaceutical scientist role.
- When applying for Pharmaceutical Scientist membership you must complete an online application form and provide supporting information (see section 2.1 below).
- Must agree to abide by Society ‘rules’ – code of conduct.

Please note - If an individual who applies to join the Society as a Pharmaceutical Scientist member is entitled to join as a pharmacist/former pharmacist Member, then they would be expected to join as a pharmacist Member.

1.3 Examples of roles of pharmaceutical scientists

The following examples of acceptable pharmaceutical scientist roles are only indicative; they are intended to provide guidance and should not be viewed as an exhaustive list.

Industrial Pharmaceutical Scientists

- Create formulations for new drugs and new methods of delivering existing drugs
- Screen for new antimicrobial agents
- Scaling up of processes for biological products
- Assessing the toxicology of new drug molecules
- Providing advice to customers on the properties and uses of medicines
- Developing new devices for the delivery of medicines.
- Delivering drugs via routes that avoid parenteral administration
- Identifying important role that biomarkers, diagnostic and genetic tests will have in the development of future medicines.

Academic Pharmaceutical Scientists

- Teaching of pharmacy undergraduate student in Schools of Pharmacy
- Researching how patients view their medicines or pharmacy workforce issues, in academic departments outside of Schools of Pharmacy
- Improving medicines safety and concordance in patients
- Researching novel drug delivery systems for transdermal delivery and assessing transdermal bioavailability
- Identifying potential new drug compounds from plants or creating compounds through organic synthesis
- The roles of stem cells and regenerative medicines in future medicines

Hospital Pharmaceutical Scientists

- Analytical scientists assessing drug stability in pharmacy QA departments
- Involvement in clinical trials in patients
- Developing medicines that are more appropriate for use in children and the elderly
- Translational medicine – bench to bedside

Regulatory Pharmaceutical Scientists

- Understand the complex science involved in product licence applications for medicines.

The following roles do not fulfil the definition of pharmaceutical scientist

The following examples of roles that do not fall within the definition of a pharmaceutical scientist are only indicative; they are only intended for guidance and should not be viewed as an exhaustive list.

- Non-pharmacist community pharmacy owners and managers.
- Those working in medicines wholesalers (supply of medicines).
- Those with a “pharmaceutical science degree” but who are not working in the pharmaceutical science arena such as a manager or administrative executive.

2. The application process

2.1 Supporting information

When applying for membership, you'll need to complete an online application form, which will ask you to upload the following supporting information:

- A copy of your degree qualifications (as one document)
- A portfolio of relevant experience (as one document)

The portfolio should demonstrate your contribution to the science and practice of pharmacy through your contribution/work. Account will be taken, for example, of notable achievements within your organisation, external activities complimentary to your job role, conference activity, awards, membership of boards/committees, etc.

If you feel your CV provides this information then you can upload your CV as your portfolio.

- The details of two sponsors

Sponsors are Society members of good standing (they have no outstanding fitness to practice issues) who are willing to support your application and can confirm that you meet the criteria i.e. you have the skills and experience necessary. You must provide the sponsor's name, Society membership number, email address and phone number.

Your sponsors may be contacted by us to provide further information to support your application. By you providing their names and contact details we are assuming their consent to act as sponsors, please ensure you discuss this with them and get their agreement before submitting your application.

- In addition, you may also upload your CV if you feel it further supports your application.

The Society will reserve the right to check on qualifications and statements as necessary.

To make the application as smooth and quick as possible please ensure you have the above documents in an electronic format (scanned documents are acceptable) when you come to complete the online application form.

2.2 Assessment process

- Once an application is submitted online you will automatically receive an email confirming your application has been successfully submitted
- If you pay by card online when you apply you will also receive an email from WorldPay confirming your payment has been processed
- The membership team will inform you within seven working days if they need any further information to support your application
- If your application is not successful or needs to be referred to the Membership Committee for a second opinion then you will be informed within three weeks
- If you are undergoing a formal review of your professional conduct then your application may be referred to the Membership Committee. We will inform you of this referral within seven working days of your original application date

- Applicants who are not successful have the right to appeal the decision
- Applicants who are not successful are not entitled to a refund so it is important that you check you meet the criteria before applying
- If your application is successful you will receive a welcome pack within three weeks of your original application date

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