

PPSS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: FAQs

The RPS Tier 5 visa scheme for pre-registration trainees, the Pharmacy Professional Sponsorship Scheme is now **closed**. The following FAQs are to support those remaining students sponsored under the scheme and due to sit the 2017 GPhC assessment.

The FAQs are split into three sections:

- Applicant FAQs
- Employer FAQs
- Tier 5 visa application FAQs.

Pharmacy students looking for information on other visa options which may be suitable for the pre-registration training can find details on the [UK Visas and Immigration website](#). You should note however, that the UKVI website provides current information and you should monitor the site for any changes that might come into force before your graduation.

APPLICANT FAQs

What do I need to do once I receive my Certificate of Sponsorship?

The Certificate of Sponsorship is **not a visa** and does not give you permission to remain in the UK when your Tier 4 visa expires. Once you have been issued with a Certificate of Sponsorship you are responsible for applying for the Tier 5 visa.

You should keep the RPS PPSS and your employer informed about the status of your visa application and must submit a copy of the Tier 5 visa/biometric residence permit to the RPS PPSS when issued (remember to copy *both sides*). If your visa application is refused you must let the RPS PPSS and your employer know immediately.

Throughout the pre-registration year, students must:

- Provide all necessary information and documentation requested by the RPS PPSS for administering the scheme
- Adhere to GPhC/PSNI regulations for pre-registration trainee pharmacist training
- Inform the RPS PPSS of any move to part-time or flexible working or any changes to your placement
- Inform the RPS PPSS when your pre-registration training placement ends
- Notify the RPS PPSS of any significant changes to personal circumstances (including residential address, passport and contact details).

Additionally, you must report the following situations to the RPS PPSS immediately:

- You are unable to start your pre-registration trainee pharmacist placement on the expected start date
- You are absent from your pre-registration training post for longer than 10 days
- You resign or are dismissed from your pre-registration trainee pharmacist post
- There is a change to your pre-registration status with the GPhC/PSNI
- There are significant changes to your pre-registration trainee pharmacist post) e.g. salary changes, job title/role, hours of work).

Further information on student/pre-registration trainee pharmacist obligations under the PPSS can be found in the [PPSS Handbook](#).

What happens if I change employer or training site during my pre-registration year?

Any changes to your pre-registration trainee pharmacist's placement, including change of placement site, change of tutor or change of employing organisation, should be communicated **immediately** to the RPS PPSS. The RPS PPSS is required to notify any changes to UKVI as one of the conditions of sponsorship. Failure to notify the RPS PPSS in these circumstances may affect the sponsorship status.

Changes should be submitted to the RPS PPSS using the '[Placement amendment form](#)'.

Note that this requirement is *in addition* to any GPhC/PSNI requirements.

Can I remain in the UK and work as a pharmacist once I register with the GPhC/PSNI?

The PPSS covers only the pre-registration training placement and as part of the PPSS application process students are asked to declare their intention to leave the UK on completion of the pre-registration year.

Continued employment as a pharmacist and residence in the UK following completion of the pre-registration year

is subject to UKVI rules and is beyond the scope of this scheme. If you wish to return to the UK following completion of your pre-registration year we recommend that you review the information available from the [UKVI](#) about the different immigration categories and seek expert immigration advice.

Where can I get further information and support?

Students should contact their School of Pharmacy in the first instance for advice and support with any enquiries about the scheme or their pre-registration placement.

The RPS Support Team can help with more complex queries relating to the sponsorship scheme. You can email them using support@rpharms.com or telephone 0845 257 2570.

The RPS cannot is not authorised to provide advice on visa or immigration issues outside the scope of the PPSS. For information and advice on visas, including the Tier 5 Government Authorised Exchange, you should contact an authorised immigration adviser. The [OISC website](#) includes details on how to find authorised advisers.

EMPLOYER FAQs

What are my obligations as an employer or pre-registration tutor under the PPSS?

Comprehensive information on employer/tutor obligations under the PPSS can be found in [PPSS Guidance for Employers](#).

What checks do I, as an employer, need to do to ensure an international pre-registration trainee is entitled to work in the UK?

Overseas pre-registration trainees generally have a grace period as part of their student visa which allows them to remain in the country following completion of their pharmacy degree course (usually four months). However all individual's circumstances are different and you are advised to check on each occasion whether you are able to employ a pre-registration applicant before they have successfully obtained a Tier 5 visa. The RPS is not authorised to provide visa or immigration advice: employers can find advice on employing migrant workers on the [GOV.UK website](#) or should take advice from an employment specialist.

Employers should note that the RPS PPSS is a professional sponsorship scheme which enables a pharmacy student to apply for a Tier 5 visa to cover their pre-registration year. Acceptance onto the PPSS does not guarantee that the migrant has a right to work in the UK; nor does it mean that a student's Tier 5 visa application will automatically be successful. Employers should therefore check with their pre-registration students as to the

progress of the visa application and should confirm the application has been successful.

TIER 5 VISA FAQs

Are all Tier 5 visa applications approved by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI)?

No. Acceptance onto the PPSS does not guarantee that the migrant has a right to work in the UK; nor does it mean that a student's Tier 5 visa application will automatically be successful. Although each applicant's circumstances differ, there are some common reasons why visa applications from PPSS pre-registration trainee pharmacists have failed:

- Inability to provide evidence of funding i.e. unable to meet the UKVI maintenance criteria
- Failure to include confirmation of the degree result (e.g. degree certificate, University confirmation)
- Applications made from within the UK where:
 - the previous Tier 4 visa had already expired
 - the previous visa was a Tier 2 visa
- Applications made after the certificate of sponsorship had expired.

Can I start my pre-registration training before I get my Tier 5 visa?

This will depend on the expiry date and conditions associated with your existing visa as each individual's circumstances are different.

Applications for a Tier 5 visa can take eight weeks (sometimes longer) to process. UKVI expect that the majority of applicants will have applied for their Tier 5 visa (if they haven't already received it) **before** starting their pre-registration placement.

Your employer will be able to confirm your right to work.

You can apply for your Certificate of Sponsorship up to three months before your expected start date to allow time for your visa application to be processed before you start work. Remember: Visa applications often take over eight weeks to process so you should apply for your Tier 5 visa as soon as you receive the Certificate of Sponsorship and have confirmation of completion of your MPharm from your university.

I am applying for my Tier 5 visa but am unable to provide supporting evidence for the maintenance requirement. Can the RPS, as my sponsor, certify maintenance for me?

No. The Royal Pharmaceutical Society is not able to certify financial maintenance for any student as this is outside the remit of the PPSS.

What is the RPS sponsor rating?

The RPS is an A-rated sponsor.

What is the sponsor licence number?

The RPS sponsor licence number and name can be found on your Certificate of Sponsorship.

Do I need a tuberculosis test when applying for a Tier 5 visa?

If you are applying for a Tier 5 visa from your home country it may be necessary to have a tuberculosis test before the visa can be granted. Further information on tuberculosis testing, including a list of the countries for which tuberculosis test are required can be found on the [GOV.UK website](#).

Further information on the PPSS can be found in the [PPSS Handbook](#).

**If you would like further information please contact RPS Support:
support@rpharms.com ; 0845 257 2570.**

FAQs compiled November 2016