

Council meeting 5 & 6 April 2005

OPEN BUSINESS

Amendments to the Schedules to the Examination Regulations

Purpose

To agree changes to the Schedules to the Examination Regulations.

Recommendations

Council is asked

- i) To agree a proposal that Schedules 1 and 2 to the Examination Regulations be up dated to show the appropriate contact point for application to sit the Registration Examination
- ii) To agree that Schedule 2 of the Examination Regulations be amended to show more clearly that the preregistration training requirements for overseas applicants are the same as for UK graduate applicants.
- iii) To issue the following statement:
"The Society has up-dated Schedule 2 of the Examination Regulations to make it clearer in the light of changes in the way the Adjudicating Committee operates and to make more explicit the consistency of requirements since 2004 between UK and non-UK (or "overseas") graduates. Consequential changes have been made to the contact point for applying to sit the Registration Examination. "
- iv) To agree to change paragraph 2A of Schedule 2 of the Examination Regulations as set out at Appendix 1.

1. Background

As from 2004 all overseas applicants (except those covered by the European Directives and reciprocity agreements) have followed the same programme of attendance at the Overseas Pharmacists Assessment Programme (OSPAP) followed by 52 weeks of preregistration training and the Registration Examination. This puts them on the same footing as UK graduates. There has been a consequential rationalisation of the contact point at the Society for application to sit the Registration Examination which also affects Schedule 1.

The arrangements for overseas applicants to sit the Registration Examination are dealt with in Schedule 2 of the Examination Regulations. These Regulations are made by the Society but must be approved by the Privy Council.

Paragraph 2A of the Schedule is still accurate, but it has become misleading for some applicants in the light of recent changes. This is because it specifies one particular discretion (allowing applicants to sit the Registration Examination after 26 weeks of preregistration training) which the Adjudicating Committee is now most unlikely to exercise. Despite

explanatory notes to applicants, a number of them are still misinterpreting the Schedule. It would be helpful, therefore, to amend the wording to reflect the Committee's general powers and not draw attention to one particular (now largely historic) arrangement.

2. Proposed amendment to the Schedules of the Examination Regulations

It is proposed to remove references to the "Overseas" and to the "Education" Divisions in Schedules 1 and 2 and to replace them throughout by "RPSGB Examinations Officer" as the now single point of contact for application to sit the Registration Examination.

It is proposed to change paragraph 2A of Schedule 2 of the Examination Regulations as set out in Appendix 1. This will remove any confusion over what are the normal expectations of all applicants – UK and overseas graduates alike.

3. Risk implications

The risk of not up-dating the Schedules is confusion and lack of clarity in the information given to candidates and as perceived by others looking at the Society's scheme of admission to the Register, including the appearance of a fast-tracking system which does not in fact exist.

4. Resource Implications

There are no resource implications other than those associated with seeking approval of the change from the Privy Council which are minimal.

5. Recommendations

Council is asked

- i) To agree that Schedules 1 and 2 to the Examination Regulations be updated to show the appropriate contact point for application to sit the Registration Examination
- ii) To agree that Schedule 2 of the Examination Regulations be amended to show more clearly that the preregistration training requirements for overseas applicants are the same as for UK graduate applicants.
- iii) To issue the following statement:
"The Society has up-dated Schedule 2 of the Examination Regulations to make it clearer in the light of changes in the way the Adjudicating Committee operates and to make more explicit the consistency of requirements since 2004 between UK and non-UK (or "overseas") graduates. Consequential changes have been made to the contact point for applying to sit the Registration Examination. "
- iv) To agree to change paragraph 2A of Schedule 2 of the Examination Regulations as set out at Appendix 1.

Peter Burley
Head of Preregistration

Appendix 1

Proposed amendment to paragraph 2A of the Schedule

“2A Entering the examination for the first time

Overseas pharmacists seeking to register in Great Britain who fall within the scope of Section XIX of the RPSGB Byelaws must meet whatever criteria are stipulated by the Adjudicating Committee for entry to the Registration Examination.

To make an application to enter an examination sitting for the first time, Adjudicating Committee students must submit to the RPSGB Examinations Officer , by the specified deadline:

- (i) a tutor’s declaration to the effect that
 - *the trainee will have satisfactorily completed 26 weeks approved employment by the date of the registration*
 - the trainee has obtained a score of 80% or more in sample calculation questions
 - the trainee's overall progress is likely to be sufficient for registration on completion of the required period of preregistration training
- (ii) the specified examination fee
- (iii) a correctly completed application form for entry to the examination
- (iv) two passport size photographs, each bearing on the reverse side the following hand-written declaration by the preregistration tutor, "I certify that this is a true likeness of [trainee's name and reference number]"; this declaration to be signed and dated by the tutor on each photograph."

Delete (i), first bullet point:

“the trainee will have satisfactorily completed 26 weeks approved employment by the date of the registration examination”

and replace with:

“the trainee will have satisfactorily completed the pre-registration training directed by the Adjudicating Committee by the dates of application for and sitting the registration examination”