



THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND
PSI – The Pharmacy Regulator

Recognition of Third Country Pharmacist Qualification as a Qualification as appropriate for practice in Ireland

[In accordance with Part 4 of the Pharmacy Act 2007 and the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (Registration) Rules 2008 (S.I. No 494 of 2008)]

INFORMATION & EXPLANATORY BOOKLET
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Anyone who qualified as a pharmacist in a Non-EU/EEA country, regardless of his/her nationality, can apply to the PSI to have the qualification recognised in Ireland using the Third Country Qualification Recognition Process.

“Third Country” means all countries other than Ireland and countries which are members of the European Union or part of the European Economic Area.

In order to practice as a pharmacist in Ireland an applicant must be registered as a pharmacist with the PSI . In order to register as a pharmacist in Ireland an applicant must have his/her qualification recognised by the PSI. Once a person has had his/her qualification recognised then he/she may make an application to register as a pharmacist in the Register of Pharmacists.

Access to the Register of Pharmacists by holding pharmacist qualifications obtained in a Third Country is a therefore a **two-part process (Part A - Qualification Recognition and Part B - Registration in the Register of Pharmacists)** as follows:

Part A: Qualification Recognition

The applicant’s qualification must be recognised as one which is “appropriate for practice” in accordance with Section 16 of the Pharmacy Act, 2007. This is the Act that regulates the practice and profession of pharmacy in Ireland.

In order that the PSI can determine whether an applicant’s Third Country qualification is a qualification appropriate for practice in Ireland a four stage process is implemented. This process may involve a number of different people, institutions and regulatory authorities and for that reason it may take significant time to complete.

Part B: Registration in the Register of Pharmacists

The applicant submits an application to register as a pharmacist in the Register of Pharmacists in accordance with the criteria specified in Section 14 of the Pharmacy Act 2007.

This booklet aims to give an applicant, an overview of the process involved in the Third Country Qualification Recognition procedure. This information booklet attempts to set out for you the various stages of the process. It is not a legal document.

The PSI does not engage in pre-assessing any set of individual circumstances prior to receiving a formal application for recognition. It is the responsibility of each individual to review his or her own individual circumstances and to be sure that the qualification he/she obtained meets the minimum conditions required for recognition. The PSI assesses the individual qualification obtained which allows an individual practice as a pharmacist in his/her home state. This is the qualification an applicant must compare to the minimum training conditions as compensatory courses undertaken will not be assessed.

Part A - Qualification Recognition	
Stage 1	<p>Application & Fee</p> <p>Applicants must submit</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a completed application pack and 2. the application fee (currently set as €1500). <p>The application is reviewed and the PSI must be satisfied that an applicant’s qualification respects the minimum training conditions laid down in Article 44 of Professional Qualifications Directive 2005/36/EC.</p> <p>The prescribed minimum education and training conditions for a qualification as a pharmacist are that the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course of training to become a pharmacist must be of at least five years’ duration • Course of training must include at least six months’ full time practical training in a community or hospital pharmacy • Course of study must include least four years’ full time academic training in a higher-education institute (university or equivalent) • Course must be structured to ensure the balance between theoretical and practical training for each subject gives sufficient importance to theory to maintain university character of the training • Course must contain mandatory subjects as reference in Annex V 5.6.1 of Directive 2005/36/EC. <p>If, upon review, the qualification is deemed not to meet the minimum conditions of education and training, the application will not be progressed and will be deemed to be invalid and the application documents will be returned to the applicant. Please note it is the primary qualification that allows an individual to act as a pharmacist in his/her home state which is assessed; “extra” or “top-up” educational qualifications will not be looked at in this assessment. The period of practical training is required to be undertaken on a full time basis for a minimum of six months in a community/hospital pharmacy setting as part of the structured training course and this must be independently confirmed by a Competent Authority, Regulatory Authority or University.</p> <p>Please also note that the application fee is non-refundable.</p> <p>If after evaluating the qualification held it is deemed acceptable in relation to the criteria required an applicant moves on to stage 2.</p>
Stage 2	<p>Equivalence Examination & Portfolio</p> <p>If an applicant is deemed to hold a qualification that respects the minimum training conditions laid down in Article 44 of Professional Qualifications Directive 2005/36/EC as above (satisfactorily completes stage1), the applicant is invited to sit an “Equivalence Examination”.</p> <p>The purpose of the Equivalence Examination is to assess the standard of training, education, examinations and qualifications undertaken by the applicant to ascertain that the standard of the applicant is not of a standard lower than that which an Irish/EU/EEA applicant must</p>

	<p>achieve in conformity with the prescribed EU Minimum Training Requirements, and the standard necessary for practice in Ireland.</p> <p>The outcome of this examination, along with the content of a portfolio compiled by the applicant giving information about their experience as a pharmacist, and continuing professional development is assessed to determine if any shortcomings exist and if so if they can be addressed.</p> <p>The examination is held twice a year in Dublin. The Equivalence Examination is conducted through English, and PSI does not require an applicant to have proof of a particular standard of English. It is advisable that any applicant who cannot communicate in the English language address this deficit prior to undertaking the examination as this could significantly impact on his/her performance and ability to demonstrate his/her knowledge in the examination. Applicants currently may only sit this examination twice during the one application procedure.</p> <p>Upon the successful completion of the adaptation period an applicant moves on to stage 3 or 4 depending on the result achieved.</p>
<p>Stage 3</p>	<p>Adaptation Period</p> <p>After stage 2 the applicant may be required to complete a period of adaptation (six months to three years) during which an applicant makes up any deficiencies which have been identified during the course of the Equivalence Exam.</p> <p>This period of adaptation is carried out in a manner directed by PSI under the guidance and supervision of a tutor pharmacist and must be completed within the length of time of the adaptation period assigned plus three years. It may be carried out in a hospital or community pharmacy under the supervision of a tutor pharmacist. The applicant is responsible for sourcing the adaptation period placement.</p> <p>This adaptation period ensures that in cases where a doubt exists in respect of the qualification held, that an applicant acquires any competencies which appear to be deficient, and which are necessary to practice safely as a pharmacist in the State.</p> <p>The PSI does not assess language competence at any stage during the recognition process. There is a language competence requirement for registration. In order to successfully complete an adaptation period it may be necessary for any applicant who lacks language knowledge to up skill in this regard.</p> <p>Upon the successful completion of the adaptation period an applicant moves on to stage 4.</p>
<p>Stage 4</p>	<p>Professional Registration Exam</p> <p>Stage 4 of the process requires an applicant to sit and pass the Professional Registration Exam of the PSI.</p> <p>When all the stages of the process have been completed an applicant will be issued with a certificate from PSI confirming that their qualification is <i>“a qualification appropriate for practice in the State”</i>.</p>

Part B - Registration

Having obtained such a certificate an applicant may then (and only then) apply to be registered as a pharmacist.

All persons who are not nationals of a relevant state will be required to satisfy a language competency requirement at the point of registration.

Registration as a pharmacist is a separate process. Information on the registration process operated by the PSI is available at www.thepsi.ie. Information on the language competence standards required in order to register is also available.

Qualification Recognition Stage 1

STAGE 1 (a) – SUBMITTING A VALID APPLICATION

You must submit a completed application pack together with the fee which is currently set as €1500. Please note that some of the required documentation will need to be **provided directly** to the PSI by specific third parties on your behalf.

LIST OF DOCUMENTATION TO BE SUBMITTED BY YOU

Application for recognition of a Third Country Pharmacist Qualification as a Qualification Appropriate for Practice in Ireland Form

You are required to complete this form by:

- writing clearly in black ink
- providing a legible email address [where possible]
- completing ALL applicable sections of the application

Fee

The Recognition of a Third Country Pharmacist Qualification as a Qualification Appropriate for Practice in Ireland fee is €1500, which is required to be submitted at the time of application.

The fee is non-refundable, and applications will not be progressed if the fee is not submitted at the time of application.

Certificate Identity Form (including passport photographs)

You are required to provide four recent passport style photographs along with the completed certificate of identity form.

The photographs should meet the following criteria:

- Photographs should be not more than 6 months old
- They may be in colour or black and white
- Minimum photos size 35mm x 45mm, maximum size 38mm x 50mm
- The photograph should show a full front view of the subject's head, as he or she would normally appear
- The image must be sharp and clear, and taken against a plain white or light grey background
- Sunglasses are not acceptable. Tinted glasses may be worn provided they do not obscure the person's eyes
- Photographs should not show military or police uniforms
- Only head coverings worn for religious or medical reasons are permitted. Hair bands are not allowed
- Photographs must be undamaged
- Photographs must be countersigned

The counter signatory must be a registered legal or healthcare professional, and must sign and date both photographs indicating they are true likenesses of the applicant. He/she must also complete the relevant details required on the Photo Form, and sign as required.

Copy of Birth Certificate

Marriage Certificate (if applicable)

Full Copy of Passport (all pages)

Statutory Declaration Form

You must complete the Statutory Declaration Form. This is a solemn declaration for the purposes of Irish law. Under the Statutory Declarations Act 1938 anyone, who wilfully makes any statutory declaration, knowing the same to be untrue in any material particular, shall be guilty of an offence.

By swearing this declaration, you are making a legal declaration that:

- You are the person to whom the application and the various certificates and documents presented as part of your application refers to;
- Any facts, dates and circumstances set out in the application or in the relevant certificates and documents presented are, to the best of your knowledge, true and accurate;
- The certificates and documents concerned, where presented in copy form are true and accurate copies of the originals.

Statutory declaration forms must be sworn in the Republic of Ireland, and witnessed by either a Peace Commissioner, a practising Solicitor, or a Commissioner for Oaths. Statutory declaration forms sworn in Northern Ireland or other EU Member States (irrespective of whether the solicitor is registered in the Republic of Ireland) will not be accepted.

For contact details of peace commissioners, solicitors and commissioners for oaths in Ireland:

- Golden Pages: <http://www.goldenpages.ie>
- OASIS (Citizens Information Online): <http://www.citizensinformation.ie>
- The Law Society of Ireland: <http://www.lawsociety.ie>

Curriculum Vitae

A copy of your full Curriculum Vitae containing at least the following information:

- Details of your qualification as a pharmacist, place of study, programme duration, practical training etc.
- Details of any other courses/programmes of education and training undertaken
- Details of ALL work experience to date (including all periods of in-service/vocational training in a pharmacy)
- ALL current and previous employments to date (including those not connected with the practice of pharmacy)

LIST OF DOCUMENTATION TO BE SUBMITTED DIRECTLY TO THE PSI FROM A THIRD PARTY IN SUPPORT OF YOUR APPLICATION

Evidence of Qualification

Certificates of Confirmation of Qualification – Country where your Qualification was obtained

A certificate of confirmation of qualification from the relevant authority in the country in which your qualification as a pharmacist was obtained, certifying that you hold the qualification of a pharmacist and that you are lawfully entitled to practise as a pharmacist in that country.

The relevant regulatory authority must independently certify:

- That you have undergone a programme of education and training in that country,
- The authority should also outline in detail all practical in-service/internship/pre-registration training that you undertook as part of your qualification prior to being entitled as a qualified pharmacist in an independent and unsupervised capacity,
- The scope and extent of your entitlement to practise as a pharmacist or operate a pharmacy in that country,
- Professional status.

The certificate should also include the following details:

- Your name,
- Your nationality,
- Your registration number issued by the regulatory authority,
- Your gender,
- Your date of birth,
- Your registered address,
- Your current registration status and details of the nature of registration held (e.g. full, temporary, restricted, suspended, etc.).

Only **originals** of Certificates of Confirmation of Qualification will be accepted and **must be received directly by the PSI from each competent authority. Certificates received from applicants directly will not be accepted.**

It is your responsibility to request the Certificate of Confirmation of Qualification in sufficient time from the relevant competent authority. Certificates of Confirmation of Qualification will be considered valid for 3 months from the date of issue or such other shorter period as may be specified in the certificate. If the certificates expire during the process, you may be required to have new valid certificates issued by the relevant authority.

if you are currently not registered in that country, you will be required to have the relevant authority certify that you are eligible to be registered/practise as a pharmacist in that country were you to apply, and also that no adverse information is held by the authority regarding your entitlement to practise as a pharmacist or operate a pharmacy were you to make such an application.

Certificates of Confirmation of Qualification – From Any other Country that you have practised as a pharmacist (if applicable)

You are also required to have relevant authorities submit certificates of confirmation of registration and good standing in respect of all or any countries in which you are or were ever registered and entitled to practice as a pharmacist. Again only **originals** of Certificates of Confirmation of

Qualification will be accepted and **must be received directly by the PSI from each competent authority. Certificates received from applicants directly will not be accepted.**

Academic Transcript

An original and full academic transcript of the results of the examinations which led to the award of your pharmacy qualification issued and certified by the awarding institution. (This might include your undergraduate results and/or any pre-qualification results).

Syllabus

An original syllabus in respect of your programme of education and training that led to the award of your qualification as a pharmacist issued and certified by the education institution at which you undertook any such programmes of education and training.

Please note this should be the syllabus undertaken by you at the time you undertook your pharmacy studies, and not the current syllabus as it may have changed since you undertook your course of study.

The syllabus should contain as much relevant detail as possible, such as:

- subjects studied;
- grading structure;
- module outlines;
- hours allocated to lectures; tutorials; practical laboratory sessions etc.;
- forms of assessment;
- reading lists.

If all the required detail is not included in the syllabus provided, the assessment of your qualification may be delayed and further information may be sought. You are asked to advise the university or institution to note your name on the syllabus, otherwise, the PSI may request to have the syllabi re-issued in your name.

GENERAL POINTS

- Documentation received that is found to be incomplete or completed incorrectly will be returned to you with all/any documentation received from you or on your behalf.
- It is the **YOUR** responsibility to ensure that documents are submitted correctly, in full and in a timely fashion.
- If any queries arise regarding the application documents, you will be contacted by email in the first instance in order to seek additional information or clarification.
- The PSI reserves the right to make any enquiries or checks it deems necessary in order to verify the authenticity or otherwise of any documents furnished in support of an application.

- If following receipt of an initial application, all required support documentation has not been received within 6 months, the application will be deemed to be invalid and all documentation will be returned to you. Exceptions may be made in limited cases where the applicant informs the PSI of a valid reason why all documents have not been received within 6 months of the initial application being received.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- **If incomplete or insufficient information is provided on certificates/documentation, it may be necessary for the PSI to seek further information and clarification from the relevant authority. Incorrect certificates /documentation with errors or omissions will not be accepted and will be required to be re-issued. It is the applicant's responsibility to liaise with the relevant authority for the re-issuance of the certificates/documents.**
- **It may take some time for the relevant competent authorities and academic institutions to issue certificates, therefore applicants are advised to contact the relevant competent authorities at the earliest possible date to request that the certificates be sent to the PSI.**
- **All documentation must be submitted in English or Irish**
If any document or certificate you provide is not in the English [or Irish] language(s) you must provide a certified translation. The translation must be carried out by a registered and authorised translator. On the page of the translation, the translator must state name of translator and business address, certify that they are authorised to translate from the language into English [or Irish] language(s) and certify that the translation is true and accurate.
- **You will, in general, be registered in the name that appears on your Birth Certificate or Passport. If you wish to be registered under your married name, you must submit a marriage certificate.**
- **If there are any variations in your name within or between the documents provided by you, or on your behalf, the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland will need to verify this. You may be asked to produce evidential documents such as marriage certificate(s), deeds poll etc. to verify these variations. You may also be asked to provide a declaration sworn before a solicitor practising in the Republic of Ireland, of these variations. If there are variations in your name you should contact the Registration & Qualification Recognition Unit for further guidance.**

STAGE 1

(b) – QUALIFICATION ASSESSMENT

Once your application is submitted to PSI it will be preliminarily evaluated for compliance with the minimum training conditions by PSI staff, and if compliant will be sent for external assessment by a member of the Qualification Assessment Panel. The Qualification Assessment Panel (QAP) is composed of a panel of experts appointed to this Panel by the Professional Learning & Development Committee of the PSI Council for the purpose of assessing if a qualification is a pharmacy qualification.

ASSESSMENT STEPS

1. Once your application is found to be complete, subject to the verification of original documents (see Stage 1 (a)), you will then be notified of this via email and informed that your application will now be sent for QAP assessment.
2. The purpose of the QAP's review is to ascertain whether the qualification held by you is a pharmacist qualification and also to assess, on the face of it, the standard of that qualification.
3. If any additional information is required by the QAP, you will be informed via email and are advised to provide the additional information or clarification as quickly as possible.
4. If following assessment by QAP there is any doubt regarding the standard of your pharmacist qualification, you may be asked to have your third country qualification independently certified by the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (NQAI). You will be provided with further information on how to do this if needed.
5. If after assessment your qualification appears to be a qualification as a pharmacist that appears to meet the minimum education and training requirements in accordance with Article 44 of EU Directive 2005/36/EC, you will proceed to the next stage in the Qualification Recognition process and undertake the Equivalence Examination.
6. You will be issued with a 'Statement of Eligibility' letter by the PSI informing you of your entitlement to sit the Equivalence Examination. You must sit the Equivalence Examination within 12 months of the date of issue of this letter.

UPON COMPLETION OF STAGE 1, APPLICANTS MAY PROGRESS TO STAGE 2 TO SIT THE EQUIVALENCE EXAM AND SUBMIT A PORTFOLIO OF EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE.

Qualification Recognition – Stage 2

STAGE 2

(a) – EQUIVALENCE EXAMINATION

Applicants who have been issued with a '**Statement of Eligibility**' letter are entitled to sit the Equivalence Exam.

1. The Statement of Eligibility **must** be received by you, prior to applying to undertake the examination and you must present this letter to the Institute providing the examination on the day of the examination.
2. The date of the Equivalence Examination will be posted on the PSI website as and when they are scheduled and confirmed.
3. You will be required to complete an Equivalence Examination Application form and submit this to apply to sit the Equivalence exam.
4. Acknowledgement of an application to sit the examination will be issued to you. You will receive necessary information regarding the examinations. This will include how to prepare to undertake the examination and the examination format. Preparatory materials, i.e. sample papers, syllabus, reading materials etc. will also be made available.
5. You will be sent a Third Country Portfolio form and asked to complete and submit this
6. A preparatory course/orientation day may be provided by the institute which has been authorised by the PSI to conduct the Equivalence Examinations. Further details of the preparatory course/orientation day will be provided as necessary. This course is not compulsory. It is provided to assist in the preparation for the examination and there is a separate fee for attending this course that is payable to the institution providing it.

STAGE 2

(b) – VERIFICATION MEETING

You will be invited to attend a document verification meeting at the offices of the PSI before presenting to sit the Equivalence Examination. This meeting usually takes place a few days before the examination.

You will be required to present the originals of the following documents at this meeting:

1. Passport
2. Birth Certificate
3. Degree Certificate
4. Registration/License Certificate

If you do not attend this meeting and present the originals of all of the above documents you may be permitted to present for the equivalence examination.

STAGE 2

(c) – REVIEW BY THE PANEL OF INDEPENDENT ASSESSORS

The results of your performance in the Equivalence Examinations together with your training and practical experience as a pharmacist to date (your portfolio) will be carried out by a Panel of Independent Assessors (PIA) to determine the requirement for (if any) and the duration of the adaptation to be completed.

The recommendations of the Panel are submitted to the Registrar who will make a decision regarding the need for and length of adaptation required having regard to the recommendations of the PIA.

Please note the adaptation period range that is used by the panel in applying their recommendations:

- No adaptation period required – applicant may proceed to Stage 4
- 6 months to 3 years adaptation period required.

There are three possible outcomes from stage 2. These are that

- an applicant's performance is such that the qualification he/she holds appears not to be of a standard lower than that necessary for practice in Ireland and he/she can progress directly to stage 4 and has to sit and pass the Professional Registration Exam of the PSI
- an applicant's performance is such that there is a doubt that the qualification he/she holds is of a standard not lower than that necessary for practice in Ireland and the applicant will be required to complete an adaptation period ranging from 6 months to three years and subsequently be required to sit and pass the Professional Registration Exam of the PSI
- an applicant's performance is such that the qualification he/she holds is deemed to be of a standard lower than that necessary for practice in Ireland and the applicant will not be allowed progress any further in the process.

UPON COMPLETION OF STAGE 2, APPLICANTS MAY PROGRESS TO STAGE 3 TO COMPLETE AN ADAPTATION PERIOD OR TO STAGE 4 TO SIT THE PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION EXAM (PRE).

Qualification Recognition - Stage 3

COMPLETION OF AN ADAPTATION PERIOD

The purpose of the adaptation period is to ensure that applicants gain the competencies required to practise safely as an independent and professional pharmacist and gain the knowledge and skills required to exercise the independent legal, professional and ethical responsibilities of a pharmacist in Ireland.

1. The requirement for and the duration of the adaptation period to be completed by you will be determined depending on the outcome of the Equivalence Examinations/Portfolio Review.
2. A minimum period of at least 6 months and up to a maximum of 36 months training may be required to be undertaken.
3. It is your responsibility to source a training placement in which the adaptation period will be carried out. This placement must be approved by the PSI prior to the commencement of the adaptation period.
4. When you have obtained a potential training placement, you are required to complete and submit an 'Application for Approval of Adaptation Period Training Placement Form' and a 'Statutory Declaration Form' to the PSI.
5. Upon receipt of the completed forms, as soon as possible thereafter the PSI will contact you to advise of the approval status of the training placement. You may not commence an adaptation period until you are officially notified of approval to do so by the PSI.
6. Training must be carried out under the supervision of an approved tutor pharmacist at an approved training establishment. (Criteria used in determination are at http://www.thepsi.ie/Libraries/Education/Eligibility_Policy_Re_Sanctions_and_Convictions_FINAL230215.sflb.ashx).
7. The PSI will recognise adaptation Periods in blocks of 6 months.
8. You and your tutor(s) will each be required to complete three separate competency assessments throughout the duration of the complete adaptation period.
9. If during the adaptation period you have not performed to the required standard and competencies, then a further period of training may be required.
10. You and your tutor(s) are required to notify PSI at the end of the Adaptation Period. Your Tutor must certify that you have reached a sufficient standard of competency.
11. You must complete the full length of the Adaptation Period and you must reach the required standards of competency in order to progress to Stage 4 of the process i.e. the Professional Registration Exam.

UPON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF STAGE 3, OR IN THE EVENT AN ADAPTATION PERIOD IS NOT NEEDED UPON THE COMPLETION OF STAGE 2, APPLICANTS MAY PROGRESS TO SIT THE PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION EXAM (PRE).

Qualification Recognition - Stage 4

PSI PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION EXAMINATION

Applicants who successfully complete the adaptation period are then eligible to proceed to stage 4 of the process and undertake the PSI Professional Registration Examination.

1. The overall purpose of the Professional Registration Examination is to finally assess and confirm that you possess the knowledge, skills and competencies appropriate for practice as a pharmacist in Ireland.
2. You must pass the Professional Registration Examination within 3 years of successfully completing your adaptation period or from the date of notification that no period of adaptation is necessary.
3. Procedures, requirements and rules which apply to the PSI Professional Registration Examination are identical to those which apply to the national pharmacy graduates.
4. Details on applying to sit this examination will be provided to eligible applicants in advance of the Examination. You will be required to submit an application to undertake the Professional Registration Examination.
5. You will receive necessary information regarding the examinations. This will include how to undertake the examination and the examination format. Preparatory materials, i.e. sample papers, syllabus, reading materials etc. will also be made available.

UPON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF STAGE 4, APPLICANTS WILL BE ISSUED WITH A CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE COUNCIL CONFIRMING THAT HE/SHE HOLDS A QUALIFICATION APPROPRIATE FOR PRACTICE IN THE STATE.

APPLICANTS MAY THEN, AND ONLY THEN, MAKE AN APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION AS A PHARMACIST.

REGISTRATION IS A SEPARATE PROCESS.

The Pharmacy Act 2007 as amended (No 20 of 2007) - www.irishstatutebook.ie

Persons are entitled to be registered as pharmacists in Ireland if they meet a number of criteria. These criteria are set out in Sections 14 and 16 of the Pharmacy Act 2007 (the Act).

One of those criteria is that the person must hold “*a qualification appropriate for practice in the State*”. In the case of persons from Third Countries, the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI) is obliged to satisfy itself that a person’s education, training and qualifications are of a standard NOT LOWER than the standard of those necessary to practice in Ireland.

The term “qualification appropriate for practice” is specifically referred to in both the Pharmacy Act 2007 as amended and the PSI (Registration) Rules 2008.

PSI (Registration) Rules 2008 (SI No 494 of 2008) - www.irishstatutebook.ie

The Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, in accordance with the function conferred upon it by Section 11 of the Pharmacy Act 2007 as amended, made the PSI (Registration) Rules 2008. These rules set out the procedures for the recognition of third country qualifications in pharmacy as qualifications appropriate for practice in Ireland.

These rules stipulate that the qualification obtained in a Third Country must respect the minimum training conditions laid down in Article 44 of Professional Qualifications Directive 2005/36/EC - www.ec.europa.eu

Please Note:

This information booklet attempts to set out for you the various stages of the process. This document is not a legal interpretation of the legislative provisions in place and is intended solely as a guide to applicants considering submitting an application for recognition through the process outlined.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE PSI

Application for recognition of a pharmacy qualification is a formal process and applicants must engage directly with the PSI. The PSI cannot discuss your application with third parties, except in exceptional circumstances where you require legal representation.

PSI Website	<p>The PSI's web address is www.thePSI.ie</p> <p>The Registration Section of the PSI's website is used to provide updated information regarding the Recognition Process. The PSI reserves the right to change deadlines, meeting dates, recognition requirements, as necessary from time to time. Any such changes will be notified on the PSI's website.</p>
Email Queries	<p>The recommended way of contacting the Registration & Qualification Recognition Unit of the PSI is by email at noneuroute@thePSI.ie giving a clear description of the query.</p>
Telephone Queries	<p>If you are not in a position to send an email, contact can be made by phoning the PSI at (01) 2184000 and your query will be replied to in due course. Priority will be given to those queries which are not already addressed in material provided or accessible on the PSI website.</p>
Appointments	<p>It is not the policy of the PSI to address routine matters/queries by meeting an applicant. In certain limited circumstances however, pre-arranged appointments will be made in the event that an issue arises which may only be more satisfactorily addressed in this way.</p>

Visa Queries:

Applicants who are not current resident in the State and who require a visa must ensure that they obtain a valid Irish visa prior to travelling to Ireland.

The PSI is NOT the relevant agency which deals with matters of immigration, visas, etc. This is a separate regulatory process that is dealt with by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform through their Irish Naturalisation & Immigration Services (INIS). www.inis.gov.ie

Please note that these arrangements do not grant any right to take up employment in the State or to engage in any business in the State. These are separate regulatory processes that are dealt with by the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation in respect of employment permits. www.djei.ie