

**Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland and  
Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain**

**Education Committee**

**Summary of a Reaccreditation Review Report**

**Queen's University, Belfast 2006/07**

The joint accreditation team of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland and Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain agreed to recommend to the Royal Society's Education Committee and the PSNI's Council respectively that the Queen's University Belfast MPharm degree be reaccredited for a full period of five years, subject to conditions and recommendations.

The above recommendation is subject to the following CONDITIONS:

1. That the University monitor the quality of the teaching environment for pharmacy to ensure that it reaches a similar standard as that for research. There are specific observations in the report related to this recommendation and the panel would expect this monitoring exercise to become a coherent estates strategy developed for pharmacy to manage planned expansion and the impact that will have on space utilization (this relates to criterion #41). The RPSGB and PSNI will expect to receive the University's response to this condition by 1 August 2007.

Additionally the visiting team RECOMMENDS:

1. That the policy of allowing various vacation community workplace experiences to count as part of the course be reconsidered to ensure parity and to ensure that consistent quality assurance procedures are in place, including procedures for quality assuring community pharmacist tutors (this relates to criterion #25)
2. That there is reconsideration of the place of pharmacy practice in the course, specifically as to when students are introduced to the subject area.
3. That the modest amount of interprofessional learning be kept under review, with a view to increasing it when possible (this relates to criterion #38)

The accreditation team makes the following commendations:

1. The high levels of satisfaction across all areas of the student experience.

2. A sense of community among both staff and students.

### **Accreditation Notes**

The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland accredits MPharm degrees in Northern Ireland.

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain accredits MPharm in the United Kingdom (Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Summary reports are concluding sections of full reports agreed by the Society's Education Committee.

'Accreditation Team' refers to an expert accreditation team of the Society.

'Criteria'/Criterion' refers to the Society's accreditation criteria for MPharms which are on the Society's website.

In summary, the accreditation process for MPharms is as follows:

A university wishing to make an application to establish an accredited MPharm enters the accreditation process at Step 1, and initial dialogue between the university and the Society (this step occurs three years before student may be enrolled). The subsequent steps, of provisional accreditation, are:

Step 2: Evaluation of business plan

Step 3: Evaluation of the MPharm curriculum

Step 4: Evaluation of year 1 of the delivery of the MPharm

Step 5: Evaluation of year 2 of the delivery of the MPharm

Step 6: Evaluation of year 3 of the delivery of the MPharm

Step 7: Evaluation of year 4 of the delivery of the MPharm

One step event is permissible every academic year. If a step is not passed it must be retaken in the following academic year.

If a new school passes all seven steps it becomes an existing school. Existing schools are reaccredited for a period of up to five years. Should the Society be made aware of concerns that may threaten a schools accreditation status, the school can be placed on probation, until the concerns are resolved. If they are not resolved then the Society's Council can withdraw accreditation.