

Pharmaceutical Society NI and the GPhC announce results for June 2022 online registration assessment

29 July 2022

A total of 2,697 candidates sat the registration assessment in four countries on 29 June, with 2,147 candidates passing the assessment: an overall pass rate of 80%.

The results of the common registration assessment for pharmacists, held jointly by the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) and Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (PSNI), have been published.

This summer's pass rate of 80% compares with the 82% pass rate for the summer 2021 registration assessment, and the 61% pass rate for the Autumn 2021 registration assessment.

GPhC Chief Executive Duncan Rudkin said:

"We would like to congratulate the successful candidates and we look forward to them joining our register and continuing to the next stage of their career.

"However, we appreciate that the June registration assessment was a difficult and stressful experience for many – and we are extremely sorry about the problems faced by a number of candidates on the day.

"For those who did not pass, there is [a guide on our website](#) outlining all the options that may be available, such as provisional registration and the right to appeal. There are also links to organisations and resources that can provide support with mental health and wellbeing.

"We wish the successful candidates all the best in their future careers and encourage those who were unsuccessful to make full use of our guide to help them with their next steps towards future registration and success in the profession."

Pharmaceutical Society NI Chief Executive, Trevor Patterson said:

"We congratulate all those candidates who have been successful and wish them every success in their future careers as much needed additions to the healthcare workforce.

"We would like to apologise to those candidates that experienced disruption to their sitting of the Common Registration Assessment on 29 June 2022 and to reassure them that steps are being taken to ensure learnings from the assessment are applied.

“Those candidates in Northern Ireland who have been unsuccessful should refer to [guidance on the Pharmaceutical Society NI website](#) which includes advice on next steps and signposting to help and support in Northern Ireland.”

Further information and statistics

Table 1: June 2022 summary statistics

Candidates	Number	% of total
Total number of candidates	2697	100%
GPhC candidates	2570	95%
PSNI candidates	127	5%
Number of first time sitters	2,389	89%
Number of second time sitters	189	7%
Number of third time sitters	119	4%
Candidate performance - pass rates		
First sitting candidates - pass	1,968	82%
Second time sitters - pass	102	54%
Third time sitters - pass	77	65%
Overall pass	2147	80%
Overall fail	550	20%

Table 2: 2021 sittings

Registration year	Total sitting	Total passing	Pass rate
March 2021	2666	2353	88%
July 2021	2907	2371	82%
November 2021	959	584	61%

Table 3: Registration assessment results for previous years (Summer sittings)

Registration year	Total sitting	Total passing	Pass rate
2019	2942	2128	72%
2018	2942	2318	79%
2017	2823	2208	78%
2016	2804	2672	95%
2015	2811	2077	74%

Quality assuring the registration assessment

The registration assessment papers are developed by experienced pharmacists and assessment experts. Questions are written by practising pharmacists, then the standard of each question is set by standards setters, all of whom are practising pharmacists with current knowledge of pre-registration trainees and/or recently registered pharmacists.

Papers are then set by an appointed body of pharmacists and assessment experts, the Board of Assessors. All questions and papers are mapped on to the GPhC's registration assessment framework to ensure they reflect the practice of a day one pharmacist.

After a sitting, the performance of all questions and papers as a whole in that particular sitting are analysed and, using statistical methods applied across health professional examinations, the pass mark for each paper is confirmed and candidates are awarded passes or fails. Candidates who pass both papers pass overall.

The Board of Assessors set the passing standard, not the percentage of candidates who pass the assessment. This means that candidates are not being measured against each other or selected to pass or fail according to where they sit in the cohort of all candidates.

All marking is anonymous and the Board of Assessors does not know where any candidate sat or what attempt they were undertaking during the mark awarding process.

Further information on how papers are created and marked can be found [on the registration assessment pages of our website](#).

[For more detailed statistics on the result, see our statistical breakdown](#)