

PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD  
HONG KONG  
香港藥劑業及毒藥管理局

Your Ref. :  
貴處檔號  
Our Ref. : PPB 4/7 II  
本局檔號  
Tel. No. : 2527 8238  
電話  
Fax No. : 2527 2277  
圖文傳真

1st Floor, Shun Feng International Centre  
182 Queen's Road East  
Wan Chai, Hong Kong  
香港灣仔皇后大道東182號  
順豐國際中心1樓

12 August 2013

British Council's Education UK team  
British Council  
3 Supreme Court Road  
Admiralty  
Hong Kong

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Non-local Applications for Registration as Pharmacists in Hong Kong  
involving Pharmacy Graduates of the United Kingdom (UK)**

We write to seek your assistance in drawing the attention of potential students who plan to pursue their pharmacy study in the United Kingdom (UK) regarding the change of immigration policy of the UK since April 2011, and also the policy of registration as a pharmacist in Hong Kong.

**Application for Registration as a Pharmacist in Hong Kong**

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board of Hong Kong (the Board) is the statutory authority for the registration of pharmacists in Hong Kong. According to the registration policy of the Board, non-local applicants applying for pharmacist registration in Hong Kong must meet the following requirements before their applications can be considered:

- (a) they must have completed their tertiary education of not less than three full-time academic years, or equivalent, in pharmacy, and **be registered or be professionally qualified to be registered as pharmacists, normally in the country in which they have completed that education;** and
- (b) they should have **had relevant pre-registration training and/or post-registration experience for an aggregate period of not less than one year in the country in which they have completed their studies in pharmacy or in another country.**

Applicants who meet the above requirements must also pass the Board's registration examinations in three subjects, namely, Pharmacy Legislation in Hong Kong, Pharmacy Practice and Pharmacology. A copy of the "Explanatory Notes on Registration as a Pharmacist", which sets out the details about the requirements, is attached for your reference.

## **Prevailing Immigration Policy of the UK**

It has come to our notice that the Home Secretary of the UK announced on 23 November 2010 a number of changes to the immigration policy in respect of Tier 1 and Tier 2 work visa. Under the prevailing policy, international students who are not British citizens or citizens of the European Economic Areas are no longer able to obtain Tier 1 visa for undergoing pre-registration training and be registered as a pharmacist in the UK. Instead, they may apply for Tier 2 visa if the employers/sponsors meet the salary requirement.

As some of the UK pharmacy students who have started their pharmacy studies in the UK prior to the announcement of the new immigration policy are left in a difficult situation, the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (RPSGB) has launched a "Pharmacy Professional Sponsorship Scheme for Overseas Pharmacy Students" (the Scheme) to enable overseas pharmacy students who are studying in the schools of pharmacy in the UK to undertake pre-registration training in the UK. However, we understand that the Scheme only runs for four years from July 2012 to July 2016. Hence, it will not cover those pharmacy students who started their studies in pharmacy in 2012 or after. Details about the Scheme may be found at the following website of the RPSGB:

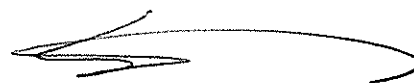
<http://www.rpharms.com/preregistration-trainees/pharmacy-professional-sponsorship-scheme-for-overseas-pharmacy-students.asp>

Despite the above-mentioned change of policy in the UK, the Board's registration policy remains unchanged. That said, only those applicants who can meet all of the requirements as mentioned in paragraph 2 above will be accepted for taking the Board's registration examinations.

In this connection, we should be most grateful if you would kindly remind those students who plan to study pharmacy in the UK to take note of the Board's registration policy, and to keep abreast of the development of the visa policy in the UK before they decide to pursue pharmacy study there.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in the matter.

Yours faithfully,



(Ms Sarah TSUI)

Secretary, Pharmacy Internship Training Committee  
of Pharmacy and Poisons Board