



australian  
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## International Degree Program Accreditation Policy

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## List of Abbreviations

<b>Term</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
<b>AC</b>	Accreditation Committee
<b>Ahpra</b>	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Authority
<b>APC</b>	Australian Pharmacy Council
<b>CAOP</b>	Competency Assessment for Overseas Pharmacists
<b>KAPS</b>	Knowledge of Pharmaceutical Sciences
<b>PharmBA</b>	Pharmacy Board of Australia

# International Degree Program Accreditation Policy

## 1. Scope

The Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) accredits international pharmacy degree programs to assure their quality against the [Accreditation Standards for Pharmacy Programs in Australia and New Zealand 2020](#) and to offer an independent quality review for improvement.

## 2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide clear guidance regarding decisions about the accreditation of international pharmacy degree programs.

## 3. International accreditation

APC accredits international programs as an independent quality improvement review. To be eligible to apply for accreditation, an overseas program must meet a number of specific APC criteria before being invited to apply. The provider is required to show that the program:

- is taught entirely in English, with an English curriculum
- leads to a qualification that compares to an Australian accredited 4-year Bachelor of Pharmacy program
- ranks in either Section 1 or Section 2 of the Australian Education International (AEI-NOOSR) Country Education Profile
- is in a country with a [Smarttraveller travel advice](#) of either a normal or high degree of caution

If these criteria are met and APC agrees to commence the accreditation process, the program will be required to submit an accreditation application against the [Accreditation Standards](#). Fees will apply as outlined in the APC [accreditation fees list](#).

## 4. Principles

The following principles apply to the process of international degree program accreditation:

1. Accreditation of international degree programs is undertaken against the [Accreditation Standards for Pharmacy Programs in Australia and New Zealand 2020](#).
2. International degree programs that are granted accreditation are only eligible for 'accreditation with conditions', due to these programs being unable to meet two criteria in the [Accreditation Standards](#) (see Appendix A of this policy).
3. International degree programs will be subject to the same accreditation processes and monitoring requirements (such as annual reporting) as Australian programs, except where specified in this policy or the APC Pharmacy Program Accreditation Guide ('Accreditation Guide').
4. The [Accreditation fees](#) for international degree programs are published on the APC website.
5. Graduates from an APC international accredited degree program are not eligible for the same Pharmacy Board of Australia (PharmBA) registration pathway as Australian and New Zealand program graduates (see part 7 of this policy).

## 5. Accreditation process

The accreditation process for international degree programs is outlined in the APC Accreditation Guide. International degree programs follow the same processes as Australian programs, where possible, and any differences between the processes are highlighted in the APC Accreditation Guide.

International programs are assessed against 36 of the 38 criteria in the [Accreditation Standards for Pharmacy Programs in Australia and New Zealand 2020](#) (see Appendix A for more detail). For a further three of the 36 criteria, the requirements for international programs are modified (see Appendix B for more details).

## 6. Accreditation decision making

The accreditation decision making process for international programs involves both the APC Board and the Accreditation Committee. The decision making responsibilities are designated as follows:

### APC Board

- invites a program provider to apply for accreditation on the basis of meeting the criteria described in part 3 of this policy
- makes a decision on the initial accreditation status of the program ('accredited with conditions' or 'not accredited')
- makes a decision on accreditation renewal

### APC Accreditation Committee

- makes an accreditation recommendation to the APC Board to 'accredit with conditions' or 'not accredit'
- makes a decision on program conditions and/or monitoring requirements (to apply, revise or remove)

## 7. Graduate outcomes

Graduates of APC accredited international degree programs are not eligible for exemption from any stages of the APC skills assessment process, including the Knowledge of Pharmaceutical Sciences (KAPS) or the Competency Assessment for Overseas Pharmacists (CAOP) examinations (as applicable for their country of training).

Graduates seeking registration with PharmBA will be required to apply via the existing APC [Skills Assessment and Registration](#) process.

## Appendix A Criteria in the accreditation standards that do not apply to international programs

International degree programs that are granted accreditation are only eligible for 'accreditation with conditions', due to these programs being unable to meet two criteria in the [Accreditation Standards](#). The two criteria are described below.

### Criterion 2.2

**2.2a** Australian provider organisations are registered either with TEQSA (HEIs) or ASQA (RTOs).

**2.2b** The qualifications of New Zealand provider organisations are approved by Universities New Zealand quality assurance body, the Committee on University Academic Programs (CUAP), listed on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF), and eligible for funding through the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC).

#### Explanation

International programs are unable to meet the same regulatory requirements of Australian or New Zealand providers.

### Criterion 3.4

Program design, content, delivery and assessment specifically emphasis and promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, cultural safety and improved health outcomes in the Australian setting, and Māori cultures, cultural safety and improved health outcomes in the New Zealand setting. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (Australia) and Māori people (New Zealand) should have direct input into curriculum design and content, and where possible should be involved directly in delivery and assessment.

#### Explanation

International programs are not expected to include program content and assessment that relates to, and includes input from, Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or Māori cultures.

## Appendix B Criteria in the accreditation standards that apply to international programs with modifications

The requirements for three criteria in the [Accreditation Standards](#) will be modified for international programs to apply outside of the Australian/New Zealand context. The three criteria and the amended assessment requirements are described below.

### Criterion 1.8

Effective processes are in place to ensure that the unit delivering the program maintains compliance with all obligations under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act (Australia) or the HPCA Act (New Zealand), PharmBA or PCNZ and/or equivalent national and State frameworks.

#### Explanation

International degree programs do not have obligations under Australian or New Zealand national laws and cannot be assessed against this requirement. They will only be assessed against the second requirement of this criterion to maintain compliance with all obligations under 'equivalent national and State frameworks'.

### Criterion 3.3

Program planning, design, implementation, evaluation, review and quality improvement processes are carried out in a systematic and inclusive manner, involving input where relevant from staff, students/interns, graduates, supervisors, practitioners, employers, patients and consumers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander or Māori peoples, and other key stakeholders to ensure that the program remains fit-for-purpose. Outcomes from these processes are clearly communicated in a timely manner to stakeholders.

#### Explanation

The criterion refers to the program gathering input 'where relevant' from a range of stakeholders. International programs are not expected to include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander or Māori peoples in their consultations. It is expected that the processes referred to in the criterion would be undertaken with input from the range of cultural groups relevant to the geographical location of the program.

### Criterion 4.2

Program information, including selection policies, criteria and processes, inherent requirements, English language proficiency requirements, experiential and WIL requirements, PharmBA or PCNZ requirements, current accreditation status and any other relevant information, is accurate, accessible and comprehensive to ensure that potential applicants are given sufficient guidance to make an informed decision.

#### Explanation

The 'PharmBA or PCNZ requirements' referred to in this criterion do not apply for students and graduates of international degree programs seeking registration in their country of training. It is expected that international degree programs would ensure that potential candidates are provided with information on the equivalent requirements in the geographical location of the program.

