

Eligibility to apply to sit the June 2026 Common Registration Assessment

You will be eligible to sit the Common Registration Assessment (hereinafter the 'assessment') on **Tuesday 16 June 2026** provided that you:

1. have completed not less than 39 weeks of training
2. complete the application process successfully for the assessment via <https://portal.psni.org.uk/Account/Login>

It is important that you only apply to sit the assessment when you are confident that you are ready to take the assessment. We strongly advise you to read the [ready to apply guidance](#) to help you decide if you are ready to apply.

The [assessment framework](#) outlines the topics, skills, and knowledge areas that may be assessed. All assessment content is derived directly from this framework, which also explains the overall scope and structure of the assessment. You should use the framework as a resource to reflect on whether you are ready to apply for the assessment.

If you are planning to sit, please read the important information below.

Completing your application

Before you begin

Log into your [online portal](#) and check that the details showing on your homepage, including your name, home address, email address and contact details are correct.

It is **essential, and your responsibility**, to ensure your personal details are up to date. Where possible, you will be allocated a seat at the test centre nearest to your registered address. If your address is not correct, you may have to sit at a test centre further afield.

Common Registration Assessment Application

The application to apply for the June 2026 assessment will be available via the [online portal](#) from **Thursday 22 January 2026**.

You must complete and submit your application, including payment of the non-refundable fee of **£174**, by **5pm on Tuesday 14 April 2026**.

As part of the application process, you must:

1. confirm your personal details
2. complete declarations* about your application, and your understanding of the assessment process and regulations

*As part of the application process, you will see the following declaration:

"I will have completed 45 weeks of satisfactory training from the start date of my Foundation Training Year in accordance with the Standards for Foundation Training Year by the date of the Registration Assessment I have chosen to sit.". You should answer "yes" for this declaration and your application will proceed. If this declaration is not relevant to you, we will know this by our records.

3. provide a copy of the photo identification you will use on the day of the assessment to foundationtrainingyear@psni.org.uk
4. pay the non-refundable application fee of £174

Once we have your 39-week confirmation, we will send an Approved to Sit letter to your registered email address, confirming that you have been approved to sit the assessment.

This letter will be sent, by email, on **Tuesday 21 April 2026**.

On occasion, there may be circumstances, whereby your Approved to Sit letter will be issued slightly later than the above date. Unless advised otherwise, you should continue with the process, including tasks set by Surpass, as if you have received your Approved to Sit letter.*

If at any stage of the process, you are concerned that you have not received this confirmation, and believe that you meet all the entry requirements, please contact us via foundationtrainingyear@psni.org.uk.

*Surpass undertakes the CRA operational and delivery role across the UK. The CRA is jointly run by the General Pharmaceutical Council and the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland. Surpass provides the secure computer-based assessment platform used to deliver the CRA. Surpass is not involved in writing or standard-setting of the exam.

ID Documentation

You will need to verify your identity when you sit the assessment by presenting a valid and in date form of photo identification. This can be either your passport or European driving licence photo card (either full or provisional).

Important: If you do not have either of these forms of valid ID, please contact us as soon as possible.

If your first name and surname as shown on your Pharmaceutical Society NI [online portal](#) do not match your photo ID*, you must let us know by completing a change of name application via the online portal. You must complete this step before submitting your application to sit the assessment and no later than **5pm on Tuesday 14 April 2026**.

*Middle names are not used as part of the assessment identity checks, but we will need to verify your full name, including any middle names, as part of any subsequent application for registration.

Applying for a reasonable adjustment

To apply for a reasonable adjustment for this sitting, you must email your completed form to GPhC via adjustments@pharmacyregulation.org by **5pm on Monday 23 February 2026**.

73 University Street, Belfast, Northern Ireland, BT7 1HL
Tel: 028 90326927 www.psni.org.uk

If you have any issues completing or submitting your request, you must email GPhC before the deadline via adjustments@pharmacyregulation.org.

If you submit a request after the deadline without contacting GPhC beforehand, they may reject your application as they will be unable to assess, and accommodate, your request in time before the assessment.

If you miss the deadline, you must decide whether you are fit to sit the assessment without these adjustments in place.

The application for reasonable adjustment can be found [here](#).

If you have any issues obtaining evidence from the relevant health professional, you must email adjustments@pharmacyregulation.org before the deadline.

Surpass test centre place

In early May, you will receive a welcome/welcome back email from Scheduler (Surpass) and shortly after you will be allocated a place at a test centre.

There will be specific timeframes where you can change your test centre booking place, should an alternative place be available.

Candidates who have been granted adjustments will not be able to move test centres as their adjustments will already be in place.

Please make sure you check your junk or trash folder for emails sent from the Scheduler system and add it to your safe senders list.

Preparing yourself for the assessment

The [assessment framework](#) outlines the topics, skills, and knowledge areas that may be assessed. All assessment content is derived directly from this framework, which also explains the overall scope and structure of the assessment. You should use the framework as a resource to reflect on whether you are ready to apply for the assessment. GPhC have produced a short video about the assessment, which can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TUFJvKGAQHg>.

Please note that any queries you have about the CRA, as a Northern Ireland candidate, should be directed to foundationtrainingyear@psni.org.uk

Independent Prescribing

In 2026, regardless of whether you are eligible to complete independent prescribing training during your foundation training year or not, the assessment format and content will remain the same for all trainee pharmacists.

Learning outcome 37 (independent prescribing) is assessed during the foundation year, **not** as part of the CRA. See the framework above for more information on what may be assessed within the CRA.

Key documents

Please make sure that you read the following documents which will be available on our website shortly:

- the assessment regulations,
- the assessment specification and permitted items.

Feedback and Learning Points

After each sitting, the Board of Assessors publishes [feedback](#) highlighting topics trainee pharmacists found challenging. Use this feedback to identify knowledge gaps when deciding whether to apply for the June 2026 assessment.

Example questions

Use the set of example questions available to familiarise yourself with the Surpass platform and to understand the style, format, and level of challenge of assessment questions. The questions are all mapped to the framework.

There is also a [guide to using the example questions](#), which explains the functionality available to you, and the answers to the example questions.

Withdrawal from the sitting

If you decide not to sit and need to withdraw from the assessment:

- you do **not need to formally notify us**
- you will **not lose a sitting attempt**
- you will **not receive a refund** of the assessment fee.

More information

If you have any queries regarding this email, please review the Students/Trainees section of our [website](#). If you have any queries after reviewing the website, please contact us at foundationtrainingyear@psni.org.uk.