

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): Pharmacist

1. Which organisations are involved in the development of this degree apprenticeship?

A list of organisations involved in the apprenticeship development can be found [here](#).

2. Who are the Chairs of the development group?

The group is co-Chaired by Claire Flavell from United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust and Vanessa Kingsbury from Blackwell Medical Services Ltd.

3. Can I join the employer group to develop the degree apprenticeship?

In line with the Institute's guidance, the membership of the employer group should be representative of the sector and organisation types, and with good geographical coverage. However, it must also be of a size that can operate as a working group. Currently the development group is seeking additional NHS representation. If you are interested in joining the group as an NHS representative, please email healthcare.trailblazer@skillsforhealth.org.uk

4. What are the next steps?

The employer group are developing a second proposal and a draft standard. Both of these will go out for public consultation. To register to be notified of when the consultation is available please email healthcare.trailblazer@skillsforhealth.org.uk

5. Why is Skills for Health the main contact?

Skills for Health has been commissioned by Health Education England to provide facilitation and technical expertise in regard to apprenticeship standard and end point assessment to several trailblazer groups. As part of this programme of work, Skills for Health are supporting the pharmacist apprenticeship development group.

Over the past four years Skills for Health has worked with a range of employer groups to facilitate the development of over 40 healthcare occupation apprenticeship standards and End Point Assessment plans. Details of how apprenticeship standards are developed can be seen at <https://haso.skillsforhealth.org.uk/> along with a range of other materials to support employers with implementation of apprenticeships.

6. How will this align with the General Pharmaceutical Council's requirements for registration?

The regulator is clear that the apprenticeship standard and end point assessment plan must align with the General Pharmaceutical Council's (GPhC) requirements for statutory registration.

7. What will the apprenticeship look like?

To ensure the apprenticeship meets regulatory requirements, the apprenticeship will include a GPhC accredited MPharm as the on-programme qualification. The end point assessment will be integrated as part of the apprenticeship.

Universities wishing to offer the apprenticeship programme will need to develop their programme, delivery model and supporting materials to meet the requirements of the apprenticeship standard and the GPhC Initial Education and Training Standards for Pharmacists, also taking into account the needs and requirements of their stakeholders.

8. How will the apprenticeship be funded?

Once the proposal, standard and end point assessment plan have been submitted and reviewed by the Institute, on approval, the Institute will allocate a funding band. This will represent the maximum amount that can be drawn from apprenticeship levy to contribute to the overall cost of delivery. The maximum funding band amount is £27,000 however it is not guaranteed that the apprenticeship will achieve the maximum funding available.

The development group are currently exploring other funding mechanisms to support the overall cost of delivery.