



RCSI

Marks & Standards 2018-2019 Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) – National Pharmacy Internship Programme

RCSI DEVELOPING HEALTHCARE LEADERS WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE WORLDWIDE



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1. Programme Assessment

Programme assessment comprises:

- The completion of all defined exercises within each module
- The appraisal of competency standards in the training placement by an accredited pharmacy tutor and;
- A final summative assessment prescribed by the School of Pharmacy and approved by the Council of the PSI and the Medicine and Health Sciences Board of the College which is the Professional Registration Examination (PRE) as provided for in Rule 21(2) of The Rules (see Section 6 of this document).

To be eligible for an M. Pharm award a student must:

- Achieve the minimum standard required to pass or greater in each module (subject to Limited Compensation as provided for in Section 3.4 below)
- Pass the PRE independently
- Obtain competency standard Level 4 rating in the final summative clinical appraisal of the competency standards (Ref. Sections 1.3 and 3.72)

1.1 Allocation of Marks: Modules 1-7

The maximum mark for each module and the allocation of marks for Modules 1-7 shall be as indicated in Table 1.

Title	Workplace Assessment	On-line Assessment(s)	First Aid	Terminal (MCQ)	Terminal (OSCE)	Total	Credits	Marks
MP1	Pass/Fail	40%	N/A	N/A	60%	100%	15	100
MP2	Pass/Fail	40%	N/A	N/A	60%	100%	15	100
MP3	Pass/Fail	30%	N/A	10%	60%	100%	15	100
MP4	Pass/Fail	40%	Pass/Fail	N/A	60%	100%	15	100
MP5	Pass/Fail	40%	N/A	N/A	60%	100%	15	100
MP6	Pass/Fail	40%	N/A	N/A	60%	100%	15	100
MP7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100%	30	200
						(submission of research dissertation)		
Total Marks								800

Table 1: Marks Allocation for Modules 1-7

1.1.1 Minimum Pass Mark for Modules

A pass in Modules 1-7 of the programme may be awarded to candidates who obtain an overall module mark of 50% or greater. However, each student must also achieve the specified pass standard in the Terminal Summative Assessment (the PRE) and must pass the PRE independently of the other aspects of the taught modules' components (Modules 1-6).

In certain cases a student may achieve a module mark in excess of 50% but fail based on performance in the PRE (see Section 2).

1.2 On-line Assessment

The following modules are examined via continuous summative assessment: MP1, MP2, MP3, MP4, MP5, and MP6.

Module	On-line assessment
MP1 Professional Practice	Guided Reading Activity: 10% Case-Based Assessment: 20% Reflective CPD Cycle: 10%
MP2 Personal Skills	Guided Reading Activity: 10% Case-Based Assessment: 20%
	Peer Review of Group Assessment: 10%
MP3 Supply of Medicines	Guided Reading Activity: 10% Case-Based Assessment: 20%
MP4 Safe and Rational Use of Medicines	Guided Reading Activity: 10% Case-Based Assessment: 20% CPD Cycle: 10%
MP5 Public Health	Guided Reading Activity: 20% Case-Based Assessment: 20%
MP6 Organisational and Management Skills	Guided Reading Activity: 20% Case-Based Assessment: 20%

Table2–Summative Continuous Assessment and their mark allocations

1.3 Workplace Assessment

This assessment involves online completion and submission of the appraisal of the competence standards appropriate to each of the modules MP1-MP6. Each student will be appraised against relevant competence standards a specified number of times based on their placement structure. This will be at least three times. However, only the final designated clinical summative appraisal in the competence standards will form part of the summative assessment of the student's competence.

The assessment rating is determined using a scale of Levels N/A and 1-4 as shown in Table 3.

Level	Rating	Definition	Percentage expression
n/a	Cannot	Candidate not exposed to this standard in training establishment	n/a
1	Rarely	Very rarely meets the standard expected. No logical thought process appears to apply	0-20%
2	Sometimes	Much more haphazard than “mostly”	21-50%
3	Mostly	Implies standard practice with occasional lapses	51-84%
4	Consistently	Demonstrates the expected standard practice with very rare lapses	85-100%

Table 3: Competence Standards Assessment Ratings

1.4 MP7: Research Dissertation

The student is required to complete all requirements (including data collection) as specified by the Module Coordinator and produce a dissertation of 8,000 to 10,000 words. The pass mark for MP7 will be 50%.

2. Terminal Summative Assessment: Professional Registration Examination (PRE)

2.1 Structure of the PRE

The PRE comprises of two parts: Part 1 (Table 4) and Part 2 (Table 5). Both Parts have to be passed independently and compensation between Parts 1 and 2 is not allowed. Students should reference the document entitled: General Issues in the Administration of the Professional Registration Examination (PRE) for additional details regarding the PRE. This document can be accessed in advance of the examination from the VLE or on request from the Programme Co-ordinator (mpharm@rcsi.ie).

2.1.1 Part 1 of the PRE

Part 1 of the PRE is in multiple choice question (MCQ) format. It will comprise of 40 MCQ questions and candidates will be given 120 minutes for completion of Part 1. The cut score for Part 1 will be determined using statistical methods as approved by the external examiners.

Subject Area	Aligned Module
Pharmaceutical Calculations	MP3

Table 4: Module Alignment for PRE Part 1

2.1.2 Part 2 of the PRE

Part 2 will consist of 18 Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) stations (3 aligned to each of the 6 taught modules undertaken) of five minutes duration each, where each intern will be assessed. Stations will be a blend of interactive and non- interactive stations.

Standard setting of the interactive stations will be performed using statistical methods as agreed by the appointed external examiners, while non-interactive stations will have a pre- determined pass mark of 50%. The overall pass mark for the OSCE will be determined by obtaining the arithmetic mean of all cut scores for all 18 OSCE stations, to which one standard error of measurement (SEM) will be added.

Number of stations	Station theme	Aligned Module
3	Professional Practice	MP1
3	Personal Skills	MP2
3	Supply of Medicines	MP3
3	Safe and Rational Use of Medicines	MP4
3	Public Health	MP5
3	Organisational and Management Skills	MP6

Table 5: Module Alignment for PRE Part 2

3. Notes to Marks & Standards

3.1 General Notes

3.1.1 The NPIP is regulated by the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (Education & Training) Rules 2008 (SI No 493 of 2008).

3.1.2 This document (Marks and Standards 2018/2019) is intended to be read in conjunction with the following and without prejudice to that provided for in law:

- The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (Education and Training) Rules 2008 (The Rules);
- Syllabus (or equivalent document) for the Professional Registration Examination 2018/2019 as published by the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland in accordance with Rule 21 (2) of The Rules;
- General Issues in the Administration of the Professional Registration Examination;

- The current version of all College regulatory documents including the following:
 - RCSI Examinations and Assessment Regulations
 - RCSI Exceptional Circumstances Policy
 - RCSI Appeals Regulations
 - RCSI Disciplinary Regulations
 - RCSI Student Attendance Regulations
 - RCSI Plagiarism Policy

- All RCSI Policy documents can be accessed either from the VLE or on request from the Programme Co-ordinator (mpharm@rcsi.ie).

3.1.3 Application is made to the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI) as per Rule 16 of The Rules. Applicants must have completed a PSI accredited pharmacy degree programme and have completed and submitted an online application form (Application form In- Service Practical Training), Form NPIP2 (Training Placement Approval) and Form NPIP3 (Statutory Declaration). The deadline for receipt of these application forms is posted by the Programme Co-ordinator in advance on the RCSI website.

3.1.4 Students must undertake their internship in training establishments approved by the PSI and under the supervision of a tutor as set out in Rule 19 of The Rules. Information on the eligibility criteria for recognition as a tutor pharmacist or as a training establishment can be found on the PSI website.

3.1.5 Students must complete the programme and period of training within the same twelve months. Exceptional or extenuating circumstances may be considered by the PSI if a student cannot complete their training within the same twelve months.

3.1.6 All students accepted onto the M. Pharm. programme must comply with the RCSI Code of Conduct.

3.1.7 The award of this Master of Pharmacy qualification shall be based on a student's attainment of the minimum designated learning and competencies for a qualification appropriate for practice, as determined by the Council of the PSI and the Medicine and Health Sciences Board.

3.1.8 Students completing the programme must for its duration be completing their period of in-service practical training in an approved training establishment. A student who for whatever reason has their period of in-service practical training terminated will have a grace period of up to six weeks starting from the date they finish in one training establishment in which to identify an alternative training establishment and commence the continuation of their in-service practical training (subject to PSI approval). This six week period will not be counted towards the required 12-month period and therefore students should note if there is a six week gap, this six weeks must be made up at the end of the in-service practical training period.

3.1.9 Students who for whatever reason are without a training establishment for more than six continuous weeks will normally be considered to be automatically withdrawn from the programme. These cases will be considered on a case by case basis by the Programme Director in consultation with Student Academic and Regulatory Affairs and the Vice Dean for Student Support and Development as appropriate. In light of the programme's discontinuation after the academic year 2018/2019, for any student who is automatically withdrawn from the programme in 2018/2019, the provisions of Section 4 (see below) will apply.

3.1.10 Students who fail to identify a training establishment in which to undertake their period of training by the notified commencement date will be unable to complete the programme in 2018/2019 and accordingly the provisions of Section 4 (see below) will apply.

3.2 Block Attendance

Students are obliged to attend the block attendance event held annually, This event will be scheduled in advance and students will be notified via the VLE.

3.3 Classification of Award

3.3.1 Awards for the M. Pharm. will be made at the following levels:

Award	%
First Class Honours	70-100
Second Class Honours Grade 1	65-69.99
Second Class Honours Grade 2	60-64.99
Pass	50-59.99

Table 6: Classification of Awards

3.3.2 To be eligible for such an award at Pass or Honours level, a student must:

- Achieve the required standard in all assessments, set out in the programme, in accordance with these Marks & Standards.

A First Class Honor will only be awarded where a student achieves 70% or more in each of the six taught modules, and where a student achieves 70% or more in the OSCE component of the PRE. There is no requirement for a student to be awarded 70% or more in the Research Module (MP7) when determining whether a student is awarded a First Class Honour

3.4 Limited Compensation

3.4.1 Students who fail to attain the minimum standard required (50%) to pass overall in one of the modules MP1- MP6 but have achieved a mark of 45% or greater in it; have attained the minimum standard required (50%) to pass overall in each of the remaining five modules from MP1-MP6 and in MP7 and have attained the required standard to pass the PRE, will be permitted to pass the failed module by compensation and will be eligible for the award of MPharm.

3.4.2 Students who do not pass the PRE are not eligible for Limited Compensation

3.4.3 Limited Compensation is not permitted in the PRE (see Section 2)

3.4.4 Limited Compensation is not permitted in MP7

3.4.5 Students presenting for the PRE for a second or subsequent occasions are eligible for Limited Compensation as provided for in 3.4.1

3.4.6 Limited compensation will not apply to summative continuous assessment (see Section 3.7.1)

3.5 Failure to Achieve the Required Standard: Summative Continuous Assessments

3.5.1 Any student who fails to reach a cumulative total of at least 50% in the summative continuous assessment(s) for any module will be required to do one of the following, as determined by the module co-ordinator:

- re-submit the assessment(s) on one further occasion, addressing the specific issues outlined by the marker, or,
- complete another assessment on a specified topic within the module to a satisfactory standard

3.5.2 The resubmission must be made within a specified timeframe. Marks for the resubmitted summative continuous assessment(s) will be capped at 50

3.6 Failure to Achieve the Required Standard: MP7

3.6.1 Any student who fails to reach at least 50% in the MP7 dissertation will be required to undertake minor or major corrections to the original dissertation submitted as determined by the module co-ordinator:

3.6.2 The resubmission must be made within a specified timeframe. Marks for the resubmitted dissertation will be capped at 50%.

3.6.3 Students should note that a requirement to resubmit the MP7 dissertation will delay a student being conferred with the M. Pharm award.

The award of M.Pharm will only be awarded where a student achieves the required standard on their resubmission of the dissertation.

3.7 Eligibility to Present for the PRE

In order to be eligible to present for the PRE each student must fulfil the following requirements in respect of their Summative Continuous and Workplace Assessments as follows:

3.7.1 Summative Continuous Assessment

- Each student must attain a cumulative total of at least 50% in the summative continuous assessment(s) in each of the Modules 1-6.

- Where a student, having engaged in remediation processes (Ref. Notes to Marks and Standards), does not achieve a cumulative total of at least 50% in the summative continuous assessment(s) in each of the Modules 1-6, they will not be eligible to present for the PRE in October 2019. In such circumstances, the Programme Director in consultation with the Director of Academic Studies and relevant module co-ordinator(s) will on a case-by-case basis determine the additional requirements that a student in these circumstances will have to undertake and satisfactorily complete in order to be eligible to present for the PRE in May 2020. Failure by any student to meet these requirements will result in their discontinuation from the programme and ineligibility to present for the PRE.

3.7.2 Workplace Assessments

Each student must attain, in their final summative clinical appraisal of the competence standards, a Level 4 rating on all applicable competence standards in order to obtain the credits for modules 1-6 and be eligible to present for the PRE. Where a student does not attain a Level 4 as required, there is a mediation and appeals process available to them (see Section 3.11).

3.8 Failure to Achieve the Required Standard: PRE

3.8.1 A student who fails to achieve the required standard in the PRE will be required to repeat the PRE.

3.8.2 Any student who fails to achieve the minimum standard required to pass each of the taught modules MP1-MP6 will also be required to repeat the PRE, unless subject to Limited Compensation as provided for in Section 3.4.

3.8.3 In the case of a candidate repeating the PRE, marks awarded on the basis of summative continuous assessment marks for the modules MP1-MP6 and the marks awarded for the research dissertation in MP7 shall be carried forward. However, the maximum mark achievable for modules MP1-MP6 for students who repeat the PRE is capped at 50% and it is on this basis that the classification of the M.Pharm. to be awarded will be calculated. The grade achieved in MP7 will remain uncapped.

3.8.4 An intern as part of the requirement to obtain an M.Pharm. shall normally be successful in undertaking the PRE within a maximum of four sittings. However, due to the discontinuation of the programme after the academic year 2018/2019, the last sitting of the PRE is May 2020 (see Section 4 below). For students who fail to pass the PRE in May 2020, the provisions of Section 4 will apply.

3.9 Late Submissions (Summative Continuous Assessment & MP7 Dissertation)

3.9.1 Late Submission of Summative Continuous Assessment or MP7 Dissertation

Students should note that a daily penalty of 10% will be applied to late submissions. This penalty will be applied for up to 5 days after which an automatic fail will be applied (i.e. an assessment or dissertation submitted one day late will be deducted 10% from the gross score; an assessment or dissertation submitted two days late will be deducted 20% and so on. An assessment or dissertation submitted 6 days late will receive 0%).

A student who does not reach the required standard to pass either a summative continuous assessment or MP7 dissertation as a result of penalties applied for late submission will be considered not to have achieved the required standard and the provisions of Section 3.5 Failure to Achieve the Required Standard: Summative Continuous Assessment or Section 3.6 Failure to Achieve the Required Standard: MP7 will apply.

3.9.2 Exceptional Circumstances and Late Submissions

Students with exceptional circumstances, who fail to submit their summative continuous assessment or MP7 Dissertation by the specified deadline, may submit a claim for exceptional circumstances by email (exceptionalcircumstances@rcsi.ie) for consideration by the Exceptional Circumstances Committee. If it is determined that the claim is upheld in accordance with the RCSI Exceptional Circumstances Policy, the claim will be recommended for consideration by the Board of Examiners

3.10 Engagement and Participation (Online Programme and Summative Continuous Assessments)

3.10.1 Engagement with the online programme and participation in all summative continuous assessments is considered a measure of the professional behaviour expected of all students.

3.10.2 Engagement with the online programme and participation in the summative continuous assessments will be monitored and measured against the guidelines given to students at induction and in MPO. If a student cannot engage with the online programme or participate in summative continuous assessments in line with requirements, they should bring this to the attention of the Programme Co-ordinator at the earliest opportunity.

3.10.3 Students who do not engage as required with the online programme and/or do not participate in summative continuous assessments in accordance with the guidelines given without valid reason, will be considered to be in breach of the RCSI Student Code of Conduct and RCSI Programme Regulations and may be referred by the Programme Director to the Professional Conduct Committee.

3.11 Mediation and Appeals Process Following Failure to Attain Level 4 in Final Workplace Assessment

Where a student does not achieve a Level 4 rating in each of the relevant competence standards in the final appraisal, the following will apply:

The Programme Director will invite both the student and their tutor to participate in a mediation process. If both the student and tutor agree to a mediation process, the Programme Director will appoint a Mediator who will meet with both the student and tutor. The Mediator will determine whether an additional period of further training of specified duration can be arranged. Where such an arrangement is reached, the Mediator will recommend to the PSI its approval of the agreed additional period of training. If either the student or tutor or both do not agree to a mediation process or if the mediation process does not result in agreed additional period of training for recommendation to the PSI as outlined above, the Appeal Process as provided for in Rule 18 of The Rules will be followed.

The Review Panel as provided for in Rule 18(3) of The Rules will be convened and having considered the matter shall make a recommendation, together with reasons, to the PSI Council for its consideration.

The recommendation of the Review Panel to PSI Council will be i) to deem the student competent or ii) to deem it necessary for supplemental training to be undertaken in order that the student can attain a Level 4 in the relevant element(s) of the Competence Standards. The Panel will adjudicate on the requirements of the additional education and training time.

The PSI Council, having considered the recommendation of the Review Panel and any representations from the appellant shall make a final decision in the matter.

4 Discontinuation of Programme

RCSI is contracted by the PSI to provide on its behalf until June 2020 the NPIP and PRE leading to the award of MPharm and entitlement to practice. Arising from the introduction of the five year integrated Master of Pharmacy programme in all Schools of Pharmacy accredited by the PSI in the State in 2015/2016, NPIP will not be offered after 2018/2019 and the intake in 2018/2019 will be the final one to the programme. RCSI's contract with the PSI to provide the NPIP and PRE ceases on 30th June 2020, with the last sitting of the PRE due to be held in May 2020. Responsibility for those students (other than those who have been discontinued from the programme) who on 30th June 2020 have not successfully obtained a qualification appropriate for practice (i.e. one which entitles them to registration as a pharmacist with the PSI) by completing the NPIP shall vest in the PSI. It will be a matter for the PSI at such time to determine the course of action (if any) available to such students to attain a qualification appropriate for practice.