

Processes for Initial Accreditation of a New Zealand Pharmacy Education Programme

1. The Council's policy for the Accreditation of New Zealand Pharmacy Education Programmes provides an overview of the implementation of new pharmacy education programmes. This document describes the process in greater detail. It deliberately mirrors corresponding elements of the Australian Pharmacy Council's (APC) Accreditation Quality Assurance and Monitoring Policy (February 2015)¹.

New education programmes

2. New education programmes that lead to qualification in a gazetted scope of practice may be proposed by providers from time to time.
3. Providers must make a formal request to the Council for consideration of accreditation of a new programme².
4. After the Council determines that a programme may be considered for accreditation, it will arrange for an initial accreditation assessment against accreditation standards.
5. After consideration of recommendations from the initial accreditation assessment, the Council will decide whether to accredit the programme. Accreditation may be conditional or unconditional.
6. The process for attaining initial accreditation is outlined in Processes for Initial Accreditation of New Zealand Pharmacy Education Programmes.

Consideration of request to accredit a new programme

7. The education programme provider must make a formal application for consideration to the Council.
8. The Council will decide if the programme is to be considered for accreditation.

¹ Reflecting the desire to collaborate that is conveyed in a Memorandum of Understanding, both organisations agree that consistency of content is helpful.

² Accreditation of a programme includes accreditation of the programme itself and also the organisation as suitable to provide the programme.

9. Council will engage the APC to undertake an initial review of the application against the accreditation standards³ and to make an accreditation recommendation to Council.
10. The initial review of the application will be conducted in accordance with the APC's usual processes, after explicit agreement from the Council. A written report on the initial review, together with an accreditation recommendation will be provided to the Council by the APC.
11. Accreditation of significant new programmes are expected to be subject to a full accreditation process, including site evaluations or audits. Members of review teams will be confirmed after agreement with the Council.
12. The Council will decide whether to grant the programme accreditation, and, if relevant, will confirm the conditions that must be met by the programme.
13. The Council will advise the provider of its decision and of any conditions that must be met to achieve full accreditation.
14. Written reports on monitoring activities conducted by the APC for the Council will be provided to the Council. They will include recommendations as appropriate.
15. The Council may revoke a programme's accreditation status if conditions are not met by the required deadline.
16. Accredited programmes will undergo a re-accreditation process at intervals determined by the Council.

Effective date

Effective: 1 July 2015.

³ The APC makes accreditation recommendations to the Council against the following standards:

For Bachelor of Pharmacy programmes: Accreditation Standards for Pharmacy Programs in Australia and New Zealand

For Pharmacist Prescribing Post-Graduate Certificate Programmes: Accreditation Standards for the Prescribed Qualification of the Pharmacist Prescriber Scope of Practice

For Intern Training Programmes:: Accreditation Standards for Pharmacy Intern Training Programmes in New Zealand (2010)