

The Joint Professional Bodies

Qualified Persons Eligibility Scheme

Newsletter

Published November 2023

The Joint Professional Bodies (JPB) are committed to keeping in touch with the Qualified Person's community and will be releasing a regular newsletter to share relevant updates and information about the QP eligibility scheme.

QP Symposium 2024

Joint Professional Bodies QP Symposium 2024

Hosted by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, Royal Society of Biology
and Royal Society of Chemistry.

15th of May 2024
BMA House, London

The JPB QP Symposium is a key calendar event that brings together peers across Pharmacy, Chemistry and Biology. The theme of the Symposium will be "Future Proofing the QP Role" and the event is aimed at eligible QPs and trainee QPs. Please keep this day free in your calendars. Further information will be provided closer to the time.

Sponsors

The role of the sponsor is a fundamental part of the QP application process and is one of the key reasons why the registration process was enacted. The sponsor has many roles, but their key responsibility is to help prepare a candidate for their future role as a Qualified Person after successfully completing the application process, particularly the interview stage. The JPB expectation is that the sponsor will act as a mentor and have regular interaction with the candidate from the start and throughout their training.

Full details of the sponsor and their requirements can be found in the Guidance notes (section 2.5) but if the prospective sponsor requires any further advice on fulfilling the role, they should refer to their own professional body. Assessors are available to help answer any queries and further information can also be found in the FAQs available on the PBs websites.

QP Code of Practice

Early in the year, it was identified that the QP Code of Practice (COP) needed a review and update. A review panel composed of QP Assessors from each of the three professional bodies was formed to undertake this review. Their aim was to bring the COP up to date to reflect the changes that have occurred over the past few years.

An updated version has been prepared and is in the process of being approved by the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the JPB Panel of assessors as well as the MHRA and VMD. Once this has been approved, it will be shared with the wider QP community. This is expected to be in Q2 or Q3 2024.

Reasons/ Trends for Failure

The JPB have been keeping track of the areas of failure at the interview stage over the past several years. To help current and future candidates prepare for the QP application process, the JPB has decided to share the top five areas where the candidate has not demonstrated the required level of understanding and/or knowledge.

Top five sections of failure in interviews are:

1. B (The role and professional duties of a QP)
2. C (Pharmaceutical Quality Systems)
3. F (Pharmaceutical formulation and processing)
4. G (Pharmaceutical microbiology)
5. I (Pharmaceutical packaging)

Additionally, many candidates who have failed, partly did so due to their inability to extrapolate their knowledge into areas of the Study Guide outside of their chosen dosage form. As part of the interview process, candidates will be assessed on their ability to apply their knowledge and understanding to any area of the Study Guide. This is done because the assessors need to be satisfied that if a candidate passes, after a suitable induction period, they would be able to function as a QP in any licenced undertaking and with any dosage form.

Checking of Qualification Requirements

The process of verifying a candidate's qualifications and their suitability for a QP application was discussed at the most recent annual Tripartite meeting, which is a meeting between the JPB, the MHRA and VMD. As part of this discussion, it was agreed to review this process and investigate whether it needs updating to ensure that qualifications are aligned with the legislation. Further updates will be provided to candidates through the Newsletter.

At this current time, the professional bodies will be maintaining their existing qualification verification processes, which may include confirming the subjects studied in a candidate's degree, diploma, or other formal qualification they have undertaken, against the list of subjects listed in the Human Medicines Regulation 2012 (SI/2012/1916).

Training Courses

Several academic institutions and commercial companies offer QP training courses. Taking a course is not compulsory, and the JPB do not recommend, accredit, or endorse any particular courses. It is for candidates and their sponsors to decide whether attending a formal training course would be suitable.

The RSC does approve some courses offered by some of these providers, but this is solely for the purposes of continual professional development (CPD). A RSC approved course in no way implies that a course will fulfil the requirements of the Study Guide and should not be taken as any kind of endorsement by the RSC with regards to the QP application process. This would also apply to any other training course that is approved by any of the JPB.

QP CPD

QPs have a personal and professional duty to keep their knowledge and experience up to date. We therefore strongly encourage all QPs to keep their CPD up to date and maintain a suitable record of these activities. All three professional bodies have CPD resources which are available to their members, detail of which can be found below:

RPS: Details can be found on the [RPS Training Webpage](#).

RSB: Details can be found on the [RSB CPD Webpage](#).

RSC: Details at the bottom of the [RSC QP Webpage](#) and the [RSC Profession Development Webpage](#).

Practical Experience vs Professional Experience

Candidates are reminded to use their whole career for appropriate examples when trying to demonstrate that they meet the requirements of the Study Guide. Generally, they are two types of experience:

- First is practical qualifying experience which has legal implications and is specifically about any work related to the manufacture of medicinal products (see section 4 of the Study Guide).
- Second is professional experience which can come from any part of your career and doesn't have to be related to the work connected to a licence to manufacture medicinal products. If a candidate and their sponsor deem an example from any point in a candidate's career to be relevant experience or knowledge against the Study Guide, then please include this in your application form.

**QP Officers
November 2023**