



British Pharmaceutical Students' Association
The Official Student Organisation of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society

Overseas Candidates' Assessment Sitting Statement

It is with disappointment that we find ourselves having to write to the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) again regarding the continuing failure to ensure our members and future pharmacists of our profession are treated compassionately, fairly and above all, equally during this difficult time.

The e-mail notification sent to 69 overseas students who reside in countries in a different time-zone, with over 5 hours time difference to the UK, shows that the GPhC does not practise the same standards that the profession is so rightly held to. We are expected to take responsibility for our actions, be honest and trustworthy and communicate effectively.

How can these students be denied the opportunity for a remote sitting when remote sittings are available to other candidates? Why is the denial of this opportunity being blamed on students' concerns about internet connectivity and equipment when others have the opportunity for remote sittings without these concerns jeopardising their future? What confidence can the hundreds, if not thousands, of candidates already registered for the assessment have in the system if the opportunity to sit the assessment can be withdrawn at such short notice without any credible justification?

All these candidates are asking is for the opportunity to sit the assessment. The regulator should not be deciding who can and who cannot sit an assessment when a candidate is eligible; rather, give them the option to sit and if the time difference is of concern to them, they can choose not to undertake the March sitting.

We would urge the GPhC to review this decision as a priority to prevent any more harm to these candidates. We would also urge the GPhC to provide a clear justification for this decision and what steps are being taken to ensure the same issue does not occur again for the 2021 summer assessment.

Yours Sincerely,

On behalf of the British Pharmaceutical Students' Association

Sean Brannen
President 2020 - 2021

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Vice President 2020 - 2021