

The Joint Professional Bodies

Qualified Persons Eligibility Scheme

Newsletter

Published August 2025

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 2026

Joint Professional Bodies QP Symposium 2026

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

Tuesday 12th May 2026
Leonardo Royal London St Paul's

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 "Leadership and Innovation", and the event is aimed at eligible QPs and trainee QPs. The registration link is now live and can be found [here](#). Further information, including full programme will be provided closer to the time.

Plagiarism

The Joint Professional Bodies have encountered applications where candidates have copied sections from the application of other candidates or existing Qualified Persons. Candidates should be aware that any examples of plagiarism will be taken seriously. Instances where candidates have been found to plagiarise, applications will be rejected. Candidates will not be eligible for a refund of the assessment fee if it is evident that plagiarism has taken place. Candidates will also be referred to the appropriate disciplinary authority within their professional body.

Pharmaceutical Complaints

The JPB have been contacted on several occasions by those wishing to raise behaviour which they believe could break the QP and/ or a Professional Body's code of conduct. [RSC](#), [RSB](#), [RPS](#) members must abide by their respective body's code of conduct. If an individual or company has a complaint about a company or matter relating to medicinal products, manufacturing licences or equivalent, they should contact the MHRA Whistleblower service, details of which can be found on the [MHRA website](#).

If an individual has a complaint regarding the behaviour of a JPB member and is not relating to medicinal products, manufacturing licences or equivalent, they should raise this complaint directly with the professional body of which the person is a member. Details of each Professional Body's complaints process can be found below:

RSC: <https://www.rsc.org/contact-us/member-complaint>

RSB: <https://www.rsb.org.uk/contact.html>

RPS: <https://www.rpharms.com/about-us/contact-us/complaints-procedure>

Checking of Qualification Requirements

The process of verifying a candidate's qualifications and their suitability for a QP application has been an ongoing discussion between the JPB, the MHRA and VMD. As part of this discussion, this process has been reviewed and is being updated 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): SCHEDULE 7 Qualified persons, PART 1 Qualification requirements for qualified person, paragraphs 2 and 4. Qualifications are checked during the QP eligibility registration process, therefore we encourage all candidates to register with their professional body if they haven't already done so.

QP Officer Transition Period

The RSB and RSC QP Officers will be departing their respective roles at the end of August 2025. Transition plans have already been put in place for the period between their departure and replacements taking over. Whilst preparations to ensure a smooth and continuous service have been put in place, please note that during these handovers, there may be delays to the usual service.

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 (since 2022) are:

1. G (Microbiology)
2. C (Pharmaceutical Quality Systems)
3. H (Analysis and testing)
4. K (Investigational Medicinal Products)
5. B (The role and professional duties of a QP)

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.

QP Officers
August 2025