

KAPS

EXAM GUIDE

The KAPS (Knowledge Assessment of Pharmaceutical Sciences) exam is a key step for pharmacists from other countries who want to work in Australia. [Learn more](#)



KAPS Exam Guide

The KAPS (Knowledge Assessment of Pharmaceutical Sciences) exam is a key step for pharmacists from other countries who want to work in Australia. This exam checks your skills and knowledge to ensure you can work safely and effectively in the Australian healthcare system. Passing the KAPS exam shows that you are ready to practice as a pharmacist in Australia. If you are planning to take the KAPS exam in 2024, it's important to know the exam dates and centres.

Key Information:

- The KAPS exam is vital for overseas-trained pharmacists seeking to practice in Australia.
- The exam is held three times in 2024: March, July, and November.
- Exam centres are located globally, in major cities across multiple countries.
- Important factors for choosing an exam center include proximity, cost, visa requirements, and familiarity.

THIS GUIDE WILL COVER:

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EXAM FORMAT

- The KAPS exam comprises 200 multiple-choice questions administered across two 2-hour sessions, totaling 4 hours of assessment. A 60-minute scheduled break is provided between the two papers.
- Before the exam begins, you'll have 15 minutes to complete a tutorial designed to help you navigate the exam software. At the end of the exam, you'll have an additional 5 minutes to complete a feedback survey.
- Each question has four options, with only one correct answer. The KAPS exam is a closed-book format, meaning no printed or handwritten reference materials are permitted during the assessment.

DISTRIBUTION PER CONTENT AREA

CONTENT AREA	APPROXIMATE DISTRIBUTION PER CONTENT AREA
Paper 1	
Pharmaceutical Chemistry	30%
Physiology and Pharmacology	70%
Paper 2	
Pharmaceutic	30%
Therapeutics	70%

CONTENT AREAS FOR THE KAPS EXAM

The KAPS exam consists of 2 papers:

Paper 1 : Pharmaceutical chemistry, pharmacology and physiology

Paper 2 : Pharmaceutics and therapeutics

PAPER 1: PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMISTRY, PHARMACOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGY

Pharmaceutical chemistry

You'll need to show you understand and have suitable knowledge in the following content areas:

Paper 1	Content assessed	Indicative elements
1	Organic chemistry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nomenclature• Drug class recognition• Reaction types• Functional group reactivity• Drug stability• Acid-base reactions
2	Stereo chemistry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nomenclature• Optical activity• Geometric isomerism• Conformation
3	Physical and inorganic chemistry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kinetics• Acid-base reactions• Phase equilibria

Paper 1	Content assessed	Indicative elements
4	Analytical chemistry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Spectroscopy · Redox reactions · Assay techniques · Diagnostic agents
5	Biochemistry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Nomenclature · Structures · Biochemical classes · Thermodynamics · Biochemical pathways
6	Structure-activity relationships	Relationship between a chemical or 3D structure and its biological activity
7	Medicinal chemistry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Structure-activity relationships · Drug presentation & delivery · Drug formulation and stability · Drug metabolism · Mechanism of drug action · Modern drug development · Absorption, distribution and elimination of drugs
8	Drug metabolism	Breakdown and conversion of medicines through regularly occurring bodily process, leading to active ingredients and by-products of the original medicine

Pharmacology and physiology

You'll need to show you understand and have suitable knowledge in the following content areas:

Paper 1	Content assessed	Indicative elements
1	Biochemical Pharmacology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Principles of drug action• Drug interactions• Receptor pharmacology• Autonomic transmission• Endocrine pharmacology• Cardiovascular pharmacology• Anti-inflammatory agents & analgesics• Antibiotics• Diuretics• Local and general anaesthetics• Vitamins• Drugs affecting nutritional and metabolic function• Drugs affecting the central nervous system
2	Systemic Pharmacology	The mechanism of drug action as it relates to specific organs and disease states
3	Chemotherapy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anti bacterial drugs• Anti viral drugs• Anti fungal drugs• Anti protozoal drugs• Anthelmintic drugs• Anti cancer drugs

Paper 1	Content assessed	Indicative elements
4	Toxicology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Common side effects · Signs of toxicity · Mechanism of toxicity
5	Pathophysiology	Alteration of physiological processes by drugs or disease states
6	General physiology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Normal bodily functions including but not limited to the central nervous, digestive, cardiovascular, lymphatic, nervous, respiratory, urinary, endocrine and reproductive systems and their integration · Blood and other body fluids

PAPER 2: PHARMACEUTICS AND THERAPEUTICS

Pharmaceutics

You'll need to show you understand and have suitable knowledge in the following content areas:

Paper 1	Content assessed	Indicative elements
1	Physical pharmacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Solvents · Types of preparation · Solutions · Suspensions · Emulsions
2	Biopharmaceutics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Dissolution · Drug absorption · Bioavailability and bioequivalence · Drug interactions with a biopharmaceutical basis

Paper 1	Content assessed	Indicative elements
3	Pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Biological half-life · Elimination rate constants · Apparent volume of distribution · Clearance · Steady state considerations · Drug protein binding · Drug metabolism · Drug interactions · Pharmacogenetics · Relevant calculations
4	Pharmaceutical microbiology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Preservation · Antimicrobial agents · Sterilisation technology
5	Formulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Formulation of drugs for various routes of administration · Parenteral dose forms · Controlled release preparations · Evaluation of particular dose forms
6	Dose forms, including extemporaneous preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Drug products · Constituent drug substances · Combination compounded products for use via various routes of administration

Therapeutics

You'll need to show you understand and have suitable knowledge in the following content areas:

Paper 1	Content assessed	Indicative elements
1	Calculations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Dilutions· Percentages· Densities· Sensitivity of balance· Proportions· Isotonicity· Milliequivalents and milliosmoles· Buffers· Dose calculations from body weight or surface area Stability
2	Posology and dose determinations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Appropriate dosages of common medications· Dosage regimens of common medications
3	Medicine choice	Demonstrating an understanding of the clinical processes used for choosing the most appropriate drug for the presenting patient and their condition
4	Surgical dressings, applications and associated drug delivery systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Drug choices for surgical dressings· The use of and choices for surgical dressings

Paper 1	Content assessed	Indicative elements
5	Adverse reactions to drugs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adverse reactions for drugs • Relevant patient counselling and advice
6	Drug interactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug interactions • Relevant patient counselling and advice
6	Drug Information	Using information sources to find drug and health information relevant to conditions and disease states
8	Managing minor ailments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-prescription prescribing • Diagnosing minor illness • Rational over-the-counter product selection • Over-the-counter drug information

Exam Scoring

You must complete all questions in the paper or papers you sit. To pass the exam, you need a mark of at least 50% in all subsections of the exam.

PAPER 1

Pharmaceutical chemistry 50%

Pharmacology and physiology 50%

PAPER 2

Pharmaceutics 50%

Therapeutics 50%

You need an overall mark of at least 50%.

You will receive a results certificate indicating your outcome. We'll email you or your agent when your results are available. Expect this to be around 2 weeks after you sit the exam.

KAPS Exam Dates

Kaps Exam Dates	Registration	Result Released	BOOK NOW
04 / 06 March 2024	28 November 2023 to 5 February 2024	19 March 2024	

KAPS Exam Cost

Description	Amount (AUS\$)	Authority
Eligibility Check Fees	1310	APC
KAPS Examination Registration Fees	2230	APC
Provisional Registration Application Fees	226	PBA (APHRA)
Intern Written Examination Fees	730	APC
Intern Oral Examination Fees	415	PBA (APHRA)
Application for General Registration Fees	226	PBA (APHRA)
Intern Training Program - PSA	1950	PSA +5 other
Total Investment	\$7087	

EXAM TEST CENTRE

Country	City
Argentina	Buenos Aires
Australia	Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Darwin, Hobart, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney, Townsville
Botswana	Gaborone
Canada	Toronto and Montreal
Egypt	Cairo and surrounding areas
Fiji	Suva
Finland	Espoo and Helsinki
Ghana	Legon
Greece	Athens
Hong Kong SAR	Hong Kong
India	Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad, Mumbai, New Delhi, Pune and Noida.
Jamaica	Kingston
Kenya	Nairobi
Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur
Nepal	Birtamode
New Zealand	Auckland and Wellington
Oman	Muscat
Pakistan	Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi and surrounding areas
Peru	Lima
Philippines	Manila

Country	City
Poland	Krakow
Qatar	Doha
Saudi Arabia	Dammam, Jeddah and Riyadh
Singapore	Singapore
Spain	Madrid
South Africa	Johannesburg, Cape Town
Sri Lanka	Colombo and Western Province
Taiwan	Kaohsiung, Taipei City
Thailand	Bangkok
Türkiye	Istanbul
United Arab Emirates	Dubai and surrounding areas
United Kingdom	London
Zimbabwe	Harare
New Zealand	Auckland and Wellington
Oman	Muscat
Pakistan	Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi and surrounding areas
Peru	Lima
Philippines	Manila

Conclusion

The KAPS exam is a significant step for pharmacists aspiring to practice in Australia, ensuring they meet the required standards of safety and effectiveness in healthcare. By understanding the exam format, content areas, scoring criteria, and logistical details like test centre and costs, candidates can adequately prepare and approach the exam with confidence. With careful preparation and a thorough review of the syllabus, you can take this essential step toward achieving your professional goals in Australia.



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