



Terms of Reference for the Routes to Membership Working Group

Purpose

This Working Group (WG) has been established to review and update the criteria for the award of Membership (MFPM) in order to:

- Establish a set of principles by which qualifications can be reviewed and considered as acceptable for the award of MFPM (qualification route: Appendix 1)
- Consider an alternative 'experience route' (experience route: Appendix 2) to MFPM that awards membership based up criteria that recognises a demonstration of significant experience and skills as well as academic or professional qualifications

Principal responsibilities and outputs

The principal responsibilities of the WG will be to:

Qualification route

- Draw up proposals for the criteria by which qualifications are reviewed for the award of MFPM
- Review a selection of qualifications using the proposed criteria and make recommendations for the acceptance of these qualifications for MFPM
- Undertake research, as needed, to support the recommendations made
- Prepare a report outlining the WG's recommendations to be presented to the Membership Committee and Board in May 2022

Experience route

- Make a recommendation as to whether FPM should establish a new 'Experience' route to MFPM
- If the recommendation is to proceed, to draw up proposals for the criteria under which an applicant would be accepted for MFPM
- Undertake research, as needed, to support the recommendations made
- Consider the communication of any changes to gain support from key stakeholder groups
- Prepare a report outlining the WG's recommendations to be presented to the Membership Committee and Board in July 2022

Membership of the Working Group

Membership of the WG will include representation from the following stakeholder groups:

- Membership Committee
- Education and Standards Committee
- Wider FPM membership
- FPM Head of Membership

The number of WG members will be 10-12. The WG will be chaired by a member of the Membership Committee and secretariat support will be provided by Eleanor Kingwell-Banham, Membership and Events Manager.

Meeting frequency and location

The WG will meet once a month with meetings held online unless otherwise agreed by Working Group members. WG members will also provide additional input on specific matters between meetings as required. This could include contributing to draft papers and reports as appropriate.

Duration of the Working Group

The WG will present its findings on the qualification route to the April 2022 Membership Committee. The WG's proposals will then be presented to the Board on 12 May 2022 for approval and implementation.

The WG will present its findings on the experience route to the April 2022 Membership Committee. The WG's proposals will then be presented to the Board on 4 July 2022 for approval and implementation.

Appendix 1: Eligibility for MFPM via examination

Membership of FPM and the right to use the postnominals MFPM is open to medical practitioners who hold the:

- Diploma in Pharmaceutical Medicine awarded by Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine
- Diploma in Human Pharmacology awarded by Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine
- Diploma in Experimental Therapeutics awarded by Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine
- Diploma in Pharmaceutical Medicine awarded by Free University, Brussels
- Diploma of Advanced Studies in Pharmaceutical Medicine awarded by the University of Basel/ECPM

The doctor must also have achieved a minimum of two years' experience in a pharmaceutical medical role.

Applicants must also possess a medical qualification listed in the WHO Directory and current registration with the GMC, or the relevant professional body in the country in which they are practising or where they were awarded their primary medical qualification.

Appendix 2: Membership by Distinction

Within the FPM regulations, there is an alternative route to MFPM via 'Membership by Distinction'. The only criterion is to have made a *“significant contribution beyond the normal day-to-day practice of pharmaceutical medicine in the fields of research, teaching or the practice of pharmaceutical medicine”*. Members by Distinction have the same rights, privileges and obligations as Members and may also apply for Ordinary Fellowship (FFPM).

An individual must be nominated for Membership by Distinction by a Fellow and seconded by another Fellow. The supporting Fellow details why this person should be given this award and the nomination is reviewed by the Fellowship and Awards Committee.

This is an exceptional route to Membership and very few Members are elected via this route, in the last 10 years there have only been 6 awarded. A new 'experience' route to MFPM will focus on a range of criteria that recognises significant experience and skills as well as academic or professional qualifications, and an individual will be able to put themselves forward for MFPM without the need for nomination by a Fellow.