

Why study Pharmacy?

I have always been interested in healthcare since I was young. My father passed away when I was 10 years old due to a heart attack. About 1-2 years later, my mother was diagnosed with “Retinitis Pigmentosa”, an incurable eye condition that will result in eventual blindness. Despite these moments, I still felt inspired to be a healthcare professional, to help my future patients in their road to recovery and be there for them and their loved ones physically and emotionally so that they will not go through the same sadness as I have gone through.



Julian Ryan Tan
Year 3 Pharmacy

And how has the journey been thus far?

Studying in Pharmacy can be interesting and meaningful due to the plethora of medications in the market. We need to understand the medications: from their uses, doses, mechanisms of action, their side effects and much more. This shows the important role of a pharmacist – being the expert in the medications and the ‘last line’ of ensuring the medications that patients take are correct and safe.

BP Monitoring session in class



Apart from academic lessons, what other programmes did you participate in? And how did the experience(s) benefit you in your (a) personal growth and development, and (b) academic pursuits?

There are many experiential learning opportunities in the Pharmacy curriculum. One of such is the Pre-employment Clinical Trainings (PECT) at Polyclinics and Hospitals that gives us a more in-depth understanding of the healthcare system and the role of pharmacists in Singapore. There are also 'Skills Lab' sessions that progressively build-up students to the role of counselling and to have the confidence of talking to patients. Lastly, there are team-based assignments with other healthcare students such as Longitudinal Patient Experience and Inter-Professional Education where you interact with a client and deal with case studies through the lens of different healthcare students. All these experiences have developed my confidence to work in a multi-disciplinary team and apply clinical skills as a future Pharmacist.

What other interesting activities did you partake in to further enrich your student life, e.g. extra-curricular activities on campus (e.g. NUSPS, House, etc.)?

University life is not just about studying. There are many activities to participate in NUS. I am very much involved in NUS Pharmaceutical Society (NUSPS) – I was in NUSPS Welfare, Receiving and Giving (RxAG), Youth Expedition Project (YEP), Inter-Professional Education subcommittees and an Orientation Group Leader (OGL) in Year 1. In Year 2, I was the Scheele House Committee Programmes Head and YEP Project Director. Now, as a Year 3 student, I hold the role of the President.

Share with us your most memorable experience as a Pharmacy student.

The most memorable experience was the lab sessions. We were taught how to make suspensions, solutions and creams in the 'Compounding' session. We even made suppositories in the lab during our second year!



Sharing at XPharm 2023!



PECT at Clementi Polyclinic

