



Why study Pharmaceutical Science?

I have always been interested in the sciences, especially in Biology and Chemistry. Thus, I wanted to read a major that embraces both. I am also interested in how drugs affect the human body, and how drugs are developed. Hence, I pursued a Pharmaceutical Science major.



Clara Wang

Year 3 Pharmaceutical Science

What interests you most in your studies?

I am most interested in the process of how medications are made into different forms, and how they interact with the human body to bring about a desired effect. It is also interesting to learn how biological samples are analysed to detect drug substances in the field of forensics.

Apart from academic lessons, what other programmes (e.g. UPIP, UROPS, NOC, SEP, Summer/Winter Schools/Research/Internship, etc.) did you participate in? And how did the experience(s) benefit you in your (a) personal growth and development, and (b) academic pursuits?

I had the opportunity to participate in Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme in Science (UROPS) and Undergraduate Professional Internship Programme (UPIP). These experiences expanded my research skillsets, and allowed me to discover the differences between working in a laboratory within and outside NUS.

In NUS, I worked in a synthetic organic chemistry laboratory, where I got to build my foundation and work independently on my UROPS project. During my UPIP, I saw a completely different side of the pharmaceutical industry. I interned in a biopharma laboratory, where I was involved in both the upstream and downstream processing of biologics. I had previously learned about it in theory during class, so it was pretty amazing to experience doing it hands-on.

Through involvement in various projects, I learned to collaborate with colleagues from different departments. I also picked up essential life skills like critical thinking when I had to troubleshoot problems that surfaced during the experiments.



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.)?

I joined the Netball Recreational Club (NRC) in NUS and served as the Public Relations Director in AY22/23. I liaised with different groups of people to plan projects and organise events. I was also the main point of contact between ~80 club members and the executive committee. I also designed the collaterals that we gave out during our events, and I managed multiple social media platforms related to the club activities. My experience in NRC which was enjoyable and fulfilling as I was exposed to different roles and responsibilities, and I get to play netball with like-minded peers.

Share with us your most memorable experience as a Pharmaceutical Science student.

Filming a video project with my Team-Based Learning (TBL) group in Year 1. We had a lot of fun creating the storyboard and filming the scenes for the video. Another memorable experience was when we participated in the AstraZeneca challenge together. Despite not qualifying, we enjoyed the process of brainstorming and coming up with engaging ideas for the project.

What advice do you have for the incoming students or juniors?

Do up your study plan as early as possible, and make sure to plan wisely. Some courses are semester dependent, and some might clash with your essential core courses. Thus, if there is a course that you know you want to take, you need to ensure that you will be able to take it when the time comes.



My Pharm Sci friends who worked in the same lab where I did my UROPs



Winning 1st place at Netballuxion competition



A group photo with our Pharm Sci profs