



NUS
National University
of Singapore

Department of Pharmacy
and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Faculty of Science

Bachelor of Pharmacy (Honours) Programme

Fitness for Experiential Learning Information Booklet

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Health Fitness Requirements

Experiential learning is an essential and integral part of the Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons) degree programme. Students will undertake internship courses that take them to the workplaces of the pharmacists to hone competencies that are essential for executing professional activities. Besides the conditions indicated in the offer letter, admission to Pharmacy is also subject to the following health fitness requirements for experiential learning. These additional requirements are **mandated by the Ministry of Health (MOH)** and apply to all healthcare workers, inclusive of **pharmacy students**.

Notes

1. The Health Screening and Vaccination Requirements below are also applicable to selected Post-Graduate Pharmacy students who carry out research or clerkship activities at healthcare institutions (HCIs).
2. Students must bear the cost of the required health screening(s) and vaccination(s).
3. All students are encouraged to have their screening(s) and immunization(s) done between 8:30am to 10:30am or 1:30pm to 3:00pm (Mon to Fri) at the University Health Centre (UHC) at Level 1, 20 Lower Kent Ridge Road, Singapore 119080.
4. Students are to bring along their identification card, health booklets (for Singaporeans) or any other documentary proof of vaccination records and this copy of Health Screening and Vaccination Requirements upon registration at UHC for medical examination.

Table 1. Health Screening and Vaccination Requirements for NUS Pharmacy Students (Cohort 2022 and onwards)¹

Infectious Disease	Recommendations for vaccination (for those who do not have immunity)	Acceptable evidence of immunity
Varicella	- 2 doses; minimum interval of 4 weeks apart	- Serological evidence of immunity; or - Laboratory confirmation of history of disease; or - Documented proof of vaccination
Measles, Mumps, and Rubella	- 2 doses; minimum interval of at least 4 weeks apart	- Serological evidence of immunity against all three diseases; or - Laboratory confirmation of all three diseases; or - Documented proof of vaccination
Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis	- If students have not previously received Tdap: 1 dose of Tdap, followed by Td/Tdap booster once every 10 years ¹ - If students have previously received 1 dose of Tdap: Td/Tdap booster is recommended once every 10 years ¹	- Documented proof of vaccination with Tdap or Td in the last 10 years
Hepatitis B	- Primary vaccination consists of 3 doses at 0, 1 and 6 months. - Students with anti-HBs concentrations of <10 mIU/mL should be revaccinated with a second 3-dose series, followed by anti-HBs testing.	- Post vaccination serological evidence of immunity (i.e. anti-HBs concentrations of ≥10 mIU/mL)
Influenza (Optional)	- Annual (or half yearly as recommended by MOH) influenza vaccination is recommended	- Not applicable
Hepatitis C	- Not applicable	- Not applicable
HIV	- Not applicable	- Not applicable

¹ Updated per MOH Circular dated 11 May 2022; MOH Circular No. 62/2022

1. VARICELLA (CHICKENPOX)

All pharmacy students should be immune or vaccinated. Students should either provide documentation of immunity (positive serology) or official records of having received 2 previous vaccination doses.

Self-declaration is only acceptable if the history of varicella was based on physician diagnosis. Please provide the official medical documentation of the physician diagnosis. When history of varicella is uncertain, a serology test should be carried out to confirm immunity against varicella.

2. MUMPS, MEASLES AND RUBELLA

All pharmacy students should be immune or fully vaccinated. Students should produce documented proof of vaccination or serological evidence of immunity against **all** three diseases **or** laboratory confirmation of **all** three diseases. Self-declaration of past infection or vaccination is not considered as evidence of immunity.

3. TETANUS, DIPHTHERIA AND PERTUSSIS

All pharmacy students should receive 1 dose of tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccination, if they have not previously received the Tdap vaccination.

Students who have previously received Tdap vaccination should receive a booster dose of Td (tetanus, diphtheria) **every 10 years**. If Td is unavailable, it may be replaced with Tdap.

Documented proof of vaccination with Tdap or Td in the **last 10 years** would be acceptable as evidence of immunity. Self-declaration is not considered as proof of immunity.

4. HEPATITIS B

All pharmacy students should be screened for Hepatitis B carriage. Hepatitis B negative students who do not have documented serological evidence of immunity against Hepatitis B (i.e. anti-HBs ≥ 10 mIU/mL) must be vaccinated with the primary course series (i.e. 3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine). A post-vaccination serology test should be conducted to determine the concentration of protective antibodies i.e. anti-HBs of at least 10mIU/ mL, one month after the last Hepatitis B injection.

If students remain non-immune despite repeated vaccinations, they will receive counseling to understand their potential risk and susceptibility to Hepatitis B during the course of study and when they graduate.

5. INFLUENZA (OPTIONAL)

Annual (or half yearly as recommended by MOH) influenza vaccination is recommended for all pharmacy students.

6. HEPATITIS C AND HIV

Even though Hepatitis C and HIV screening are not directly applicable to pharmacy students, students who are tested positive for Hepatitis C and/or HIV must inform the department as soon as they are aware of their diagnosis. The students should understand that their employability and areas of practice may be restricted in future if they are Hepatitis C or HIV positive.

7. COVID-19 VACCINATION

MOH's recommendation on completion of COVID-19 vaccination course is found here: <http://vaccine.gov.sg/covid>. While COVID-19 vaccination is not mandatory for healthcare students based on the latest MOH requirement in May 2022, students may be required to comply with respective healthcare institutions' COVID vaccination-related instructions (if any).

Vaccination Records

Access your records via:

- National Immunisation Registry (NIR) eServices (Singpass): <https://www.nir.hpb.gov.sg/nirp/eservices/login>
- HealthHub (portal or app; Singpass): <https://www.healthhub.sg/>
- Health Booklet (hard copy)
- NSmen: SAF Manage Medical (eHealth) eService (Singpass): <https://www.safhealth.gov.sg/>
- University Health Centre (UHC) Records – Request for past records if you were vaccinated in UHC or in the midst of vaccination.

Submitting overseas vaccination records:

- A copy of the official immunisation records from your country of origin (showing vaccine names, dates, and doses)

If your documents are not in English, submit both:

- A copy of the original document
- An English translation certified by a notary public

If you lack a required vaccination or need a booster to meet MOH requirements, you may visit your preferred clinic or the University Health Centre (UHC).

For vaccination cost enquiries at UHC:

- Phone: 6601 5035
- Email: uhc_health@nus.edu.sg
- For general information about UHC, visit: <http://www.nus.edu.sg/uhc>

Deadline for Submission of Acceptable Evidence of Immunity

Pharmacy students will be required to submit the required “Acceptable Evidence of Immunity” specified in Table 1 through the NUS Learning Management System called CANVAS by **August of Year 1 Semester 1**. Access to NUS CANVAS will be given in **August of Year 1 Semester 1** as well.

More information, including confirmed dates and CANVAS access, will be sent to student’s NUS email account in **July, before Year 1 Semester 1** begins.

Students are to submit whatever vaccination records and/or documentation that they currently have by the initial deadline as this allows early assessment of each student’s vaccination status, especially for vaccines that require multiple doses over long intervals (e.g. Hepatitis B).

Students without the required documented evidence of immunity are required to keep track of their personal vaccination schedules and complete the second-round update of their vaccination records by **January of Year 1 Semester 2**. These two submission checkpoints ensure that all students are on track to meet the Ministry of Health (MOH) vaccination requirements before PECT commences in Year 2.

Ensuring that you are up to date with the required vaccinations protects you and the patients and/or other healthcare professionals whom you will be in close contact with during the course of your study. Students who do not comply with this requirement **WILL NOT BE ALLOWED** to attend or perform syllabus-required activities at the public healthcare institutions. **This will impact on a student’s ability to fulfil graduation requirements and thereby jeopardizing their ability to graduate from the programme.**

Pre-Employment Clinical Training II (PECT-II)

Pharmacy undergraduates undergo pre-employment clinical training II (PECT-II) as part of graduation requirements. During PECT-II, the pharmacy students will be assessed by preceptors for their attainment of requisite level of competency in executing essential professional activities pharmacy practice.

It will require the students to undertake two courses of full-time experiential learning: one in primary care setting, another in either a pharmaceutical company or community hospital.

Passing the two PECT-II courses also partially fulfils pre-registration pharmacist training. Pre-registration pharmacist training is required for Pharmacy graduates to become registered pharmacists under the Singapore Pharmacy Council, Ministry of Health.

Fitness for Clinical Training Policy

Fitness for Clinical Training Policy for Students Pursuing Healthcare Professions Degree Programmes

All students undertaking clinical training from AY 2024/2025, including PECT-II, will be subject to the provisions of the “Fitness for Clinical Training” Policy for Students Pursuing Healthcare Professions Degree Programmes.

Scope of the “Fitness for Clinical Training” Policy

Broadly, “fitness for clinical training” will be considered across two domains of relevance. These include:

- a. Unprofessional Conduct in relation to clinical training. Pharmacists are guided by the Singapore Pharmacy Council Code of Conduct.** This domain will therefore address issues of conduct and behaviours which fall out of alignment with the codes of conduct, ethical guidelines and other directives prescribed by the profession of pharmacy.

Inappropriate conduct and behaviours of such a nature may undermine the standard and safety of care in the student-patient interaction. These could also include instances where ethics and professionalism are called to question. This domain will be differentiated from the types of offences which lead to disciplinary proceedings as detailed in the NUS Statute 6 and Regulation 10. While different from the disciplinary offences spelled out in NUS Statute 6 and Regulation 10, misconduct and misbehaviours under this domain can still erode public confidence in the University. It is therefore pivotal to consider a student’s fitness for clinical training. Such inappropriate conduct and behaviours may manifest as a single serious episode or a series of repeated, but less serious episodes, which in turn raise concerns over a student’s fitness to continue with clinical training.

- b. Health and Wellbeing.** The health and wellbeing of students must not compromise their ability to carry out professional activities under supervision.

Process of Review by the Fitness for Clinical Training (FCT) Committee

Concerns over a student’s fitness for PECT can be surfaced by their peers, preceptors or staff to the FCT Officer in the Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. The FCT Officer will review such expressions of concern. If it warrants a review by the FCT Committee, it will be escalated to the Provost who will appoint a committee to look into the expression of concern.

In the event the Committee determines the concern revolves in part or wholly around a health issue, the Committee may direct that an assessment from the University Health Centre (UHC), University Counselling Services (UCS) or an appropriate healthcare provider be obtained to facilitate the FCT Committee’s review.

Depending on whether the concern raises issues under the Unprofessional Conduct as Healthcare Professionals in Training domain or the Health and Wellbeing domain, the focus of the review may differ. Where issues in the latter domain are the subject of, or a causal factor in, the concern, the aim is to provide the student with the necessary platform and support, with time and space to seek such support, to address any unforeseen health/medical condition which could impair their clinical training.

Outcomes of Review by FCT Committee

Following the completion of the review and assessment of “fitness for clinical training”, the FCT Committee may recommend one of the following outcomes:

- a. **Dismiss the FCT Concern.**
- b. **Permit the student concerned to continue with her/her B. Pharm. (Hons.) programme, subject to the student’s compliance and completion of specified mitigation or remediation conditions.** Such conditions may include but are not limited to counselling, remedial work (which could be pre-clinical in nature) and written assignments and seeking appropriate medical treatment or counselling.
- c. **Mandate a discontinuance of all clinical training and academic activities related to the student’s B. Pharm. (Hons) programme (defined as “Mandated Discontinuance” in the policy) for a specified period not exceeding two (2) semesters, subject to the student’s compliance and completion of specified mitigation or remediation conditions.** Such conditions may include, but are not limited to, counselling, remedial work (which could be pre-clinical in nature), written assignments, and seeking appropriate medical treatment or counselling. During this period, the student will not have access to academic and/or non-academic University privileges, benefits, rights or facilities, including clinical training privileges, courses of instruction and examinations.

Appeals by Students

Students may, if dissatisfied with the FCT outcome, submit an appeal.

Consideration and Implication of Policy

In the event that an undergraduate is deemed to be unfit for clinical training resulting in a Mandated Discontinuance, the period of such Mandated Discontinuance may be counted towards their maximum candidature. As such, should the student be unable to fulfil his/her academic requirements within the maximum candidature period, he/she will not be able to complete his/her B. Pharm. (Hons.) programme.

Academic and Career Counselling for Prospective Students with Medical Conditions

NUS Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences offers academic and career counselling for prospective students with medical conditions to help you understand programme requirements, discuss possible accommodations and explore suitable career pathways. Advisors can explain essential course components (e.g. laboratories, placements, and clinical or field activities), vaccination or safety considerations and processes for requesting support. To enquire or book a discussion, please contact: askBPharm@nus.edu.sg

Annual Fitness to Practise Declaration by Pharmacy Students

Pharmacy students are required to submit an annual self-declaration to update on any changes that may affect their readiness for clinical training. Information is handled confidentially and used to support safe learning and placements.

The questions (to be answered as Yes/No) are as follows:

1. Have you ever suffered or are you suffering from any physical or mental illness which may impair your fitness to practise as a pharmacist in future, as certified by a registered medical practitioner?
2. Have you ever consulted a psychiatrist or are you currently undergoing treatment for psychiatric ailment?
3. Have you ever been the subject of an inquiry or proceedings by a professional body, licensing body, health authority or any law enforcement agency in Singapore or elsewhere?
4. Have you, at any time before the submission of this application, ever been convicted in a court of law in Singapore or elsewhere of any offence?