

Why study Pharmacy? And how has the journey been thus far?

During my National Service as an Emergency Medical Technician, I saw how medicines stabilise patients in critical moments. I wanted to understand how and why they work, what patient-specific factors influence therapy, and how to ensure safe and effective use across different profiles.

Through the NUS Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons) programme, I discovered my calling to restore stability to patients' lives with medicines in both acute emergencies and long term care. The journey has been intellectually stimulating and rewarding because learning is consistently patient-centred. The integrated curriculum and team based learning (TBL) foster collaboration, supported by approachable faculty who are invested in our growth. We are encouraged to ask questions, clarify uncertainties, and refine our thinking with our TBL groups, so we never face steep learning curves alone.

Most importantly, the programme connects pharmacological theory to real world practice through patient counselling and clinical decision making via pharmaceutical care plans, preparing me not just to know medicines but to use them meaningfully.



Chong Zi Hao Joe
Year 3 Pharmacy



In class with the professors and my friends

What interests you most in your studies?

What interests me the most is the clinical judgement behind every medical decision. Pharmacy is not just about knowing every medicine; it is about finding relevant evidence, testing its quality, and judging its fit for the right patients. The curriculum strengthens my pharmacological foundations and trains me in systematic searching and critical appraisal so I can reach answers that are clinically meaningful and grounded in science and research.

This real world application of knowledge excites me because it shows how dynamic pharmacy is. Therapies evolve, guidelines update, and best practice is continually refined. It is not only about keeping up but about learning how to keep up properly through systematic search strategies and critical appraisal. Pharmacy is a profession where learning never ends, driving better health outcomes through patient safety and medicine optimisation.

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 participated in several conferences, including the Asia Pacific Intensive Care Symposium, Singapore Pharmacy Congress, Singapore Health and Biomedical Congress, and an international event, Pharmacology 2025, held in Belfast. These experiences helped me see how evidence translates into real decisions and understand practice in high stakes settings. They also let me explore future directions in healthcare, connect with like minded peers, and compare how different systems tackle similar challenges.

During my summer attachment as a Pharmacy Assistant at Singapore General Hospital's Drug Information Services, I handled broad, complex, and time sensitive enquiries. I saw how pharmacists support safe prescribing and keep practice updated as evidence evolves. The experience strengthened my accountability and communication. It also improved my ability to apply pharmacology and therapeutics to patient contexts.



My first international conference with Pharmacy peers in Belfast



My first local to explore a pharmacy specialisation in Critical Care



Networking with pharmacists and pharmaceutical professionals

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.)?

My student life has been enriched by serving the community and growing professionally through management positions held in the NUS Pharmaceutical Society. I also served as Events and Manpower EXCO for Health T.A.G (Test, Advice, Go!) in 2025, which saw about 200 participants. These experiences provided me with valuable insights that contributed to my professional growth while allowing me to dedicate my time to serve the community. They also fostered meaningful friendships and created lasting memories.

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

Participating in team-based learning and clinical experiences like Pre-Employment Clinical Training (PECT) shows how classroom concepts translate into real-life patient decisions, making learning purposeful. Attending these trainings with friends enhanced the experience through shared insights and growth, preparing us better for real-world practice.



PECT experience with my TBL group