

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

I chose Pharmacy because I want to make a meaningful impact on health through medicines and patient interaction. The journey has been enriching - the programme's blend of science, patient care, and interdisciplinary teamwork opened my eyes to the many roles pharmacists play, from the community to the clinic and industry. From rigorous clinical training to real-world attachments, I gained the skills, confidence, and compassion to improve patients' lives.

What interests you most in your studies?

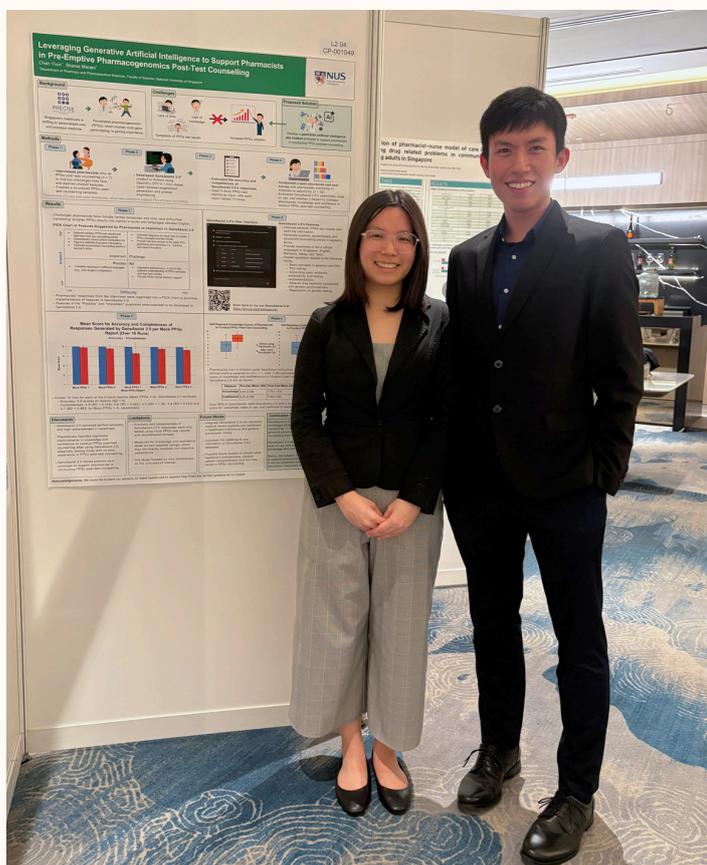
What I enjoy most is the Pre-Employment Clinical Training (PECT). Attachments across polyclinics, hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, and community pharmacies allow me to apply classroom learning in real-world settings, sharpening my clinical judgment and confidence.



Shanīa Maranī
Year 4 Pharmacy

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 interned at the Chief Pharmacist's Office and the MOH Office for Healthcare Transformation, where I learned about policymaking, population health, and stakeholder engagement, and how system-level decisions influence clinical practice. I joined a summer programme at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Eshelman School of Pharmacy, which broadened my global perspective. Driven by my interest in healthcare technology and precision medicine, I undertook a research project (SCI-Phi). I collaborated with my classmate to develop a generative AI chatbot to support pharmacists in pharmacogenomics post-test counselling, and our project was selected for presentation at the 34th Singapore Pharmacy Congress.



SCI-Phi project presentation at the 34th Singapore Pharmacy Congress

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 actively contribute to the department while growing personally, notably through Health T.A.G. (Test, Advise, Go), a pharmacist led community outreach launched in 2022 that provides personalised health assessments. I have volunteered since Year 1 and in Year 3 served as Vice Project Director (Public Relations) for Health T.A.G. 2024, collaborating with key stakeholders such as the Pharmaceutical Society of Singapore and the People's Association, securing sponsorships, driving publicity, and hosting senior leaders in healthcare. This experience strengthened my leadership and interpersonal skills and sharpened my adaptability and critical thinking.

Recently, I volunteered at the department's 120th anniversary carnival, where my classmate and I wrote poems for visitors to showcase the power and beauty of words, highlighting that pharmacists dispense not only medicines but also words of care and encouragement. I also contributed to the department's newsletter *PharmConnect*, writing about alumni and their inspiring journeys.

In Year 2 and Year 3, I served as a Drug Points peer leader. I researched on drugs (carvedilol and amoxicillin-clavulanate), prepared lesson slides, and presented to my cohort. This experience pushed me out of my comfort zone and strengthened my public speaking skills.

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

My most memorable experiences were my internships at Johnson & Johnson (J&J) and Watsons.

At J&J, I worked on projects across commercial, medical affairs, market access, regulatory affairs, and pharmacovigilance, covering therapeutic areas such as oncology, immunology, neuroscience, and cardiopulmonary. These experiences gave me insights into the pharmaceutical industry and the drug development process, broadened my cross-functional exposure, and showed me how diverse teams collaborate to ensure medicines are effective, safe, and accessible for patients.

At Watsons, I learned to manage common ailments and recommend both pharmacological and non-pharmacological treatments. I also observed community pharmacists administering influenza vaccinations under an MOH sandbox initiative. These experiences strengthened my clinical knowledge, communication skills, and confidence in patient care.



Drug Points peer leader presentation



Internship at Johnson & Johnson



Internship at Watsons