



University of  
Nottingham

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# Pharmacy@Nottingham

School of Pharmacy Newsletter 2018



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# Welcome to the School of Pharmacy

I am delighted that you are considering studying pharmacy at the University of Nottingham. I and all our staff are very proud of our School. As you will see from this newsletter, we have excellent teaching and research facilities, and a first-class student community making this a great place to study. The School is friendly, welcoming and inclusive and we will give you every opportunity to achieve your full potential as an undergraduate, whatever your aspirations for the future.

Students from all over the world choose to study here. We have now delivered the MPharm 2+2 undergraduate course at the University's campus in Malaysia, as well as here in Nottingham since 2005. The course in Malaysia has full UK accreditation, and has become recognised for the excellence of the students it produces.

**Professor Clive Roberts**  
Head of School  
School of Pharmacy  
University of Nottingham, UK



Congratulations on being offered a place on the MPharm programme at the University of Nottingham. Your choice of university could be one of the most important decisions in your life as a student and this newsletter is designed to help you with that decision.

The Nottingham MPharm 2+2 course is fully accredited both in the UK and Malaysia and, as described in this newsletter, our graduates work in various sectors of the profession in the UK, Malaysia and elsewhere. Our staff at the Malaysia campus bring together extensive expertise and experience from around the world and are eager to welcome you to the School. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you need any further information.

**Professor Nashiru Billa**  
Acting Head of School  
School of Pharmacy  
University of Nottingham Malaysia



## Nottingham tops the list

We have been consistently rated as one of UK's top School of Pharmacy in the Complete University Guide and Guardian University Guide under the Pharmacy and Pharmacology league table (since 2010). Research in universities is a key indicator

of the quality of education on offer and our teaching staff are at the leading edge of scientific and healthcare developments. In the Research Excellence Framework 2014 (an independent review of research), the School was ranked the UK's top School

of Pharmacy and the School's research was judged to be of international quality. This means that you will be learning from, and working with international experts who can deliver the latest knowledge to the classroom.

## What do we have to offer you?

### Accreditation

The University of Nottingham 2+2 MPharm programme delivered at the Malaysia Campus was the FIRST Pharmacy degree offered in Malaysia to be accredited by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (now the General Pharmaceutical Council - GPhC). The new MPharm 2012 was successfully accredited in the Malaysia Campus in May 2012 by GPhC, and subsequently re-accredited recently in May 2018 by the same body. This means that students who have successfully completed their MPharm course and pre-registration training year will be able to register as pharmacists within the UK. The MPharm course is also acknowledged and registrable with the Malaysian Pharmacy Board.

### The first 2+2 MPharm taught by a single university

Our 2+2 MPharm course in Malaysia is not a twinning programme. It was the first

2+2 MPharm degree that is completely delivered by a single university. Once you register with us at the Malaysia Campus, you become a student of the University of Nottingham. The syllabus and learning outcomes are identical, whether you study in Malaysia or the UK.

### Placement opportunities

In addition to the pharmacy placements offered as part of the MPharm course, we also arrange a wide variety of vacation placements in areas such as community pharmacy, hospital pharmacy, the pharmaceutical industry and our own academic laboratories.

### Hands-on experience

We have a simulated pharmacy on campus to teach students about dispensing medicines to patients in a safe and realistic environment.

### Pre-registration training in the UK

All our 2+2 MPharm graduates have opportunities to obtain pre-registration training in the UK, leading to the registration as pharmacists (after pre-registration examination). You may read about our graduates' experiences in applying for pre-registration placements in the next few pages.

### Employment opportunities

Nottingham pharmacy graduates are sought after by a wide range of employers including hospitals throughout the UK and the world. The latest UK Graduate Destination Survey shows 98% of our graduates are in full-time employment while the remaining 2% are on gap years or working part-time.



# Checklist for registration

The following checklist will help you prepare for the start of the new semester at Nottingham:

## Final transcript

Please email (Roshanini.Idrus@nottingham.edu.my) a copy of your final A-level results and/or IELTS results (if applicable). Kindly upload your results through the Admissions portal as well. If you do not quite make the offer please contact us too. We may have places available and you may still be considered.

## Certificate of Good Conduct

When you register we will ask you to submit documents which show evidence of good conduct and character (applicable to both Malaysians and international students). For Malaysian citizens this will be a Certificate of Good Conduct from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Log onto [www.kln.gov.my](http://www.kln.gov.my), go to 'Application of Certificate of Good Conduct' to get more information. You can still register without this certificate but you will need to obtain one during the first few weeks of term.

## Health Questionnaires

We have also sent a health questionnaire to you via email, and this questionnaire should be submitted at the time of registration.

## Hepatitis B immunization

Upon registration, you will be asked to provide proof of Hepatitis B immunization to fulfil the requirement stipulated by the Ministry of Health for all students (locals and foreigners) undergoing placements and visits to General

Hospitals in Malaysia. If you are unable to undergo Hepatitis B immunization due to medical/other reasons, please let us know.

## Registration/Induction Week

Do take note that the Registration/Induction Week for year 2018/19 will start from 18th till 22nd September. Approaching September, you will be able to get more information about Registration/Induction Week from Admissions Office as well as from our university website. During this week, you will be given a brief introduction to the School of Pharmacy and the facilities available on campus such as the library, accommodation quarters and laboratories. You will also be given the semester timetable and have the opportunity to know your tutors, lecturers and seniors during this exciting week.

## Accommodation

Have you booked your accommodation? If not, please contact the Accommodation Office at [accommodation@nottingham.edu.my](mailto:accommodation@nottingham.edu.my)

Certificate of good conduct and health questionnaires are required by all Pharmacy programmes that are fully-accredited by the UK's General Pharmaceutical Council.

We look forward to seeing you in September.

**Dr Tung Wai Hau**  
MPharm Admissions Tutor



MPharm students at Pharmnotts Ball 2017/18.

# Meet our students and graduates

## Olivia Chung Jia Ying, MPharm Year 3

Studying at the University of Nottingham (UoN) has been a life-turning point for me. Here I made friends with people of different cultures and nationalities. To me, the transition from Malaysia to the UK was quite smooth with the support given by the School and seniors. Before the start of Year 3, I took part in a two-day work experience at UK's Boots Pharmacy arranged by the School. It was an eye-opening experience as the community pharmacy setting in the UK is totally different from Malaysia.

In addition to adapting to cold weather, we had to prepare for our professional practice exam which was quite daunting because no one can afford to be terminated from the MPharm course. In MPharm 3, we were also given the opportunity to carry out research project that leads to dissertation writing and producing scientific poster – these were quite challenging! Apart from that, there was also a lot of forms to fill for our summer placement applications.

To date, I am fortunate to have gained exposure to various areas of pharmacy, namely community and hospital pharmacies. I am also lucky to be offered a summer placement this year at Jayson's Pharmacy in Nottingham, where I will be given a chance to apply skills and knowledge in full. In terms of pre-registration application, the school has scheduled many sessions to keep us up to date with first-hand information.

The living culture in the UK is quite different from Malaysia. I enjoy travelling to other European countries. Apart from that, I participated in 'After School Science Club', a volunteering scheme that was conducted by Dr Keith Spriggs. It is never easy to leave our comfort zone and move to a foreign country but I always remind myself to be active and outgoing to expand our network. The process might not be easy, but it is definitely a worthwhile experience.



Olivia Chung at Deer Park, Nottingham with Wallaton Hall as backdrop.



Some of our 2+2 MPharm graduates during summer graduation in the UK (July 2017).



### Huan Cherng Jia, MPharm Year 3

Welcome to the University of Nottingham Malaysia (UNM)!

It has been almost a year since I had arrived in Nottingham, UK. I could still recall the day at the airport back in Malaysia, bidding farewell to my family members. How time flies! I really enjoy the time spent here in the UK – being able to get to know the locals and understand more about their culture.

I also truly appreciate the 2+2 MPharm course at the University of Nottingham (UoN). The year 3 syllabus has given me first-hand experience of conducting a research project. I enjoyed every second spent in the laboratory. The supervisors were very helpful and constantly guided us throughout the commencement of the project! Besides, we were also given the opportunity to enrol in 2 optional modules. I opted to do Management Accounting as well as Inter-Faculty Japanese Language as I have a

keen interest in Japan and its culture.

Previously in UNM, I used to be the school representative for the School of Pharmacy. This year, I decide to challenge myself and pick up some new soft skills - I joined the Equality and Diversity team at UoN. I am glad that I could play a part in creating a discrimination-free environment for the staff and students.

Throughout these few years, I have gained much experiences and overcome many challenges. I will continue to get hold of every opportunity to improve myself. Here are some words I hope could help you while journeying towards your dream - be optimistic, treat any problems you faced as challenges, be persistent in whatever you do and always be patient.

I hope that you will enjoy your time at the UoN and I wish you all the best!



Huan (tallest guy, second from right) with coursemates and Robin Hood statue in Nottingham.

### Gwee Zhong Li, MPharm Year 3

Congratulations on being offered to study Pharmacy in one of the best pharmacy university in the world - UoN! I am very proud to study in this programme as I am given a chance to get out of my comfort zone (Malaysia), and to study a few thousand miles away from home. On September 2017, I have safely landed in UK to continue MPharm 3 in UoN. I would say that my transition is quite easy due to the kind support given by staff, family and friends.

I am very grateful to study in UoN as they provide us with integrated syllabus to train students to be professional pharmacists. Here in UoN you will have lots of opportunity to develop professional skills, which is more than just training in handling prescriptions. In MPharm 3, I become the 2+2 course representative. This means that I have the chance to speak up for students. Staff in UoN are very supportive upon receiving feedback, and

they would strive to make our pharmacy course the best we could ever have.


UoN is a wonderful and comfortable place for studying as its location is not too close to city centre. Cost of living in Nottingham is rather affordable if we cook our own meals. With this, you will get to know more about your friends because of their extraordinary cooking skills. I am staying with three buddies off-campus and it is such a gratifying experience. This is because we learn and pick up daily skills, from handling our own utility bills to buying groceries, etc. This will definitely be etched as wonderful memories of my university life.

“Study hard, play hard!” is always my motto. I would not say that 4 years of Pharmacy course is going to be easy but I am pretty sure that you are going to enjoy this course. I am looking forward to seeing you in the future and be part of the healthcare team together.



Zhong Li visits the Giant Causeway, Northern Ireland, UK.

**Achieve your potential as a future pharmacist or pharmaceutical scientist**





## Kong Shin Wei, MPharm Year 4

**Shin Wei has secured a pre-registration placement in Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Trust, Nottingham UK.**

I have always heard people saying that time flies, but I am still surprised by how quickly this year went by. Bittersweet is the word I would use to describe my final year in university. It is by far the most challenging yet rewarding year. The final year was designed in such a way that it provided us with a platform to strive to possibly be the best by challenging our intellectual and emotional capacity. Every module in final year is well integrated with one another, allowing us to consolidate and apply knowledge which we had learnt from the previous three years. The problem-based learning, simulated activities and research elements of final year course had built a conducive learning environment thereby equipping me with a critical thought process and shaping me into a confident individual.

One of my fondest memory in final year is the opportunity to work in a team. My team consists of students from the UK, Vietnam and

Malaysia. The diverse cultural background and positive team dynamics had allowed me to know everyone at a personal level. This was especially important to me. The genuine friendship which we had built had supported me through every stressful period of final year, making this year special as I experienced the true essence of teamwork.

It still feels strange to think about graduation, but it is less than 2 months away (Editor: Shin Wei has since graduated in July). Excitingly, I will be joining Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Trust in August as a pre-registration pharmacist. In fact, I have already been given the exact training plan for the first three months! Just by looking at the training plan, it is already evident how relevant final year modules would be, and how much it would help in real life practice. It would be interesting to see everything in real-life setting!

Overall, this year had not been easy, but it was the most rewarding. I am beyond grateful how well this year had turned out to be. It was indeed a metamorphosis for the better.

Shin Wei (second from left) with her final year team mates in group D08.



## Teo Yeong Yeu, MPharm Year 4

**Yeong Yeu will undergo pre-registration training at Evergreen Pharmacy at Bullwell, Nottingham. Bullwell is a small town 20 min away from city centre.**

My 2018 has been a fruitful year as it marks the end of my student life at the UoN. Coming to the end of my journey as a student and switching to a working life, it will be a new chapter as a pre-registration pharmacist at an independent chain community pharmacy here in Nottingham, UK.

Nonetheless, there are concerns raised regarding the possibility to secure a pre-registration position in the UK. I would say it is not hard as most of my friends in the same cohort who applied have successfully secured placements. With the newly introduced ORIEL system, international students are given more opportunities to apply for pre-registration training at UK. Besides, the placement staff and pre-registration team are more than willing to support and provide guidance during the whole application process. Keep calm and never give up trying!

In the final year, School of Pharmacy did a great job in designing and allocating modules such as the Pharmacy and Leadership Management and the Integrated Pharmaceutical and Patient Care modules. The final year syllabus provides us with an opportunity to apply the skills and clinical knowledge learnt from the past three years. The holistic teaching of these modules prepare us in developing the responsibilities and accountability as pharmacists in the future. There are lots of commitment in our final years - we worked in groups in most of the modules and such group interactions include peer teaching, drug discovery and pharmacy simulation games. We managed to pull through all the challenges via amazing teamwork in working closely together, effective communication and playing hard as well.

Fret of not having personal achievement?

Personally, I ticked off some of my bucket list of 'must dos' in my final year. I am glad that I finally accomplished my NAA module by joining the public speaking team of UoN. It is an incredibly wonderful experience to brush up and hone my communication skills, which in turn help to boost my confidence level. Also, after completing my Year 3 summer placement at a community pharmacy, I had the opportunity to work as a dispenser assistant at the pharmacy during my Year 4. It is indeed a good experience as this has improved my counselling skills as well as providing a platform to work on my weaknesses.

Yeong Yeu with coursemate during PharmSoc's Year End Ball 2018.





## Rachel, class of 2017

**Rachel completed her pre-registration placement in a small-chain community pharmacy at Cheltenham, UK in July 2018 and plans to work in a hospital soon.**

I am now one step closer to becoming a qualified pharmacist. The thought of becoming a responsible pharmacist and carrying out the final accuracy and clinical check is sometimes daunting but I am excited to use the skills and knowledge that I have developed during pre-registration training year to deliver excellent patient care.

Transitioning from university into the working world has posed a lot of challenges at the beginning. A lot were expected from me and within three months of starting my training, I was asked to support the management of the pharmacy in the absence of a fixed pharmacist. I delegated jobs, ensured that

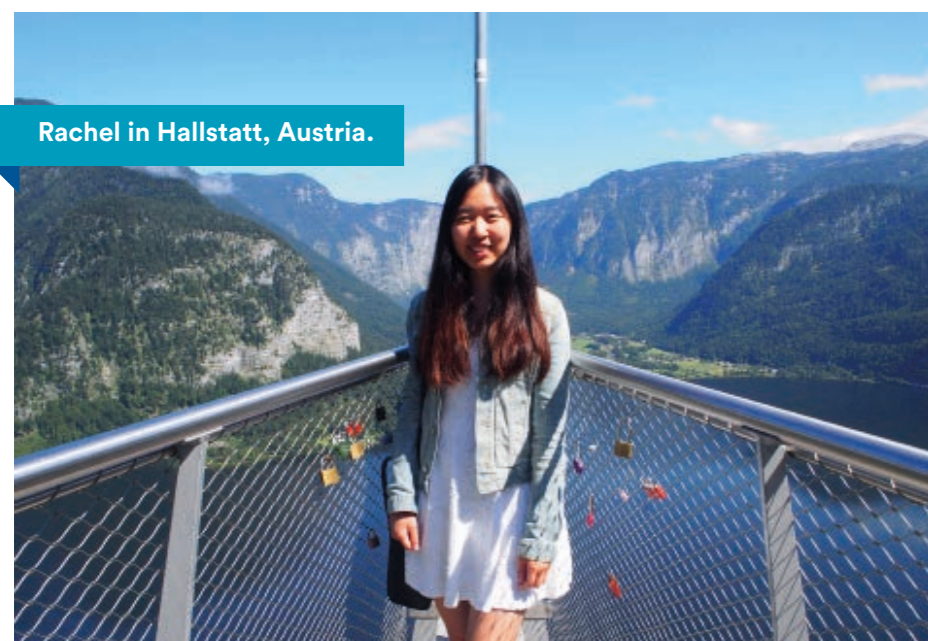
the pharmacy's targets were met and trained new staff. I was also tasked to conduct medicines reviews, be part of the clinical decision-making process and liaise with other healthcare professionals. Regardless of the challenges, my confidence in dealing with patients has greatly improved throughout the year and I have definitely seen a huge self-development.

Completing my degree at the UoN is a decision that I will never regret. The advantages were obvious when I started my training year. The School of Pharmacy's ranking at the 6th position in the world really speaks volume. The pharmacy course itself provides a great platform where students are constantly able to put their knowledge into practice. Particularly in the fourth year, students are required to run a simulated pharmacy and work on case studies that do

not only hone their clinical and communication skills, but also help to develop skills such as speaking up to prevent harm, empathising with people and innovating to improve patients' quality of life.

The pharmacy and GP surgery placements that I have completed (some arranged by the university) and the weekend job that I took up at Nottingham University Hospitals also helped me with settling into the working world. I will definitely recommend undertaking as many placements as you can as they are golden learning opportunities. I have now secured a job as a resident pharmacist at the Royal Cornwall Hospital so that I can contribute in initiating treatment plans for patients and developing new treatment guidelines.

It takes a lot of hard work and perseverance working your way up from university to getting your desired job but it is not impossible. Studying in the UoN certainly improves your employability and helps you with the transition. Also remember to always add value to your degree and stand out from the crowd. With that being said, I hope you make the right choice and enjoy your Pharmacy degree as much as I did.



Rachel in Hallstatt, Austria.

## Wong Sin Yee, class of 2017

**Sin Yee has secured a 3-year working contract (including the pre-reg year) at Wellbeing Pharmacy, Alfreton.**

To begin with, congratulations on your offer to study at Notts! I am Sin Yee and soon I will be completing my pre-registration training at Wellbeing Pharmacy. Having the opportunity to graduate from one of the most prestigious universities in the world is one of my proudest achievements in life so far. The sensibly designed modules offered by UoN had equipped us with all the basic skills and knowledge we need to thrive in our future career. While the first two years of university impart a thorough foundational knowledge of drugs and diseases, the last two years emphasise more on practical and clinical skills to ensure a post-graduation smooth transition for us. The holistic approach to learning would mould you into a confident, critical and independent individual. During our final year, my colleagues and I were randomly assigned

to a group of 5-7 students. In these groups, we had to complete several tasks throughout the year ranging from drug designing, peer teaching to operating a simulated pharmacy together. This provided the perfect opportunity for you to work closely with the local students, exchange ideas and apply the clinical knowledge that you have learnt.

Was it hard to secure a pharmacy job in the UK? - you might ask. The good news is that almost everyone who applied for a pre-registration position has secured one. Life as a pre-reg pharmacist has never been easy. You have to learn how to juggle between work and study when you are working full time at the same time as studying for your licensing examination. It takes a bit of discipline as you always have to allocate some time to do your studies. Everyone has a different way of doing it, I, personally prefer to study one to two hours before bed every night so that I will have time for my friends and badminton during the weekend. Bear in mind that

it is important to take time to look after yourself as well. Eat healthily, keep hydrated and exercise regularly. It is all about time management and dedication! Welcome to adulthood!

Thankfully, my pre-registration placement did not differ too greatly from what we were taught at University. Operating a simulated pharmacy back in year 4 has definitely boosted confidence and strengthened my communication skills. I enjoyed going the extra mile for my patients, trying my best to accommodate to their needs and bring a smile to their faces. And the most rewarding thing? They remember your name (albeit the fact that I do not have an English name!) and come back looking to speak to you in particular. That is when you know that you have made a difference in their lives!

And here are some advice from me - seize every opportunity that comes your way to enrich your student life and broaden your horizon! Get a part-time job and get involved in some charity work (volunteer abroad). There is so much more to explore in the UK and Europe other than academic studies. My life in the past five years have been a whirlwind but the experience was definitely a fruitful one. And here I am, ready to embark on the next chapter in my journey!



Sin Yee (right) with her boyfriend during the Pharmacy Ball 2017 organized by PharmSoc.



## Yeshmita Buxani, class of 2017

**Yeshmita completed her pre-reg training at the United Lincolnshire Hospital NHS Trusts, UK. She plans to continue practising as a Band 6 Hospital Pharmacist once she qualifies.**

As an international student from Hong Kong, enrolling myself onto the MPharm course at UNM has given me excellent academic and experiential exposure. Being able to complete the course in two very diverse countries has not only prepared me to take on the role as a pre-reg trainee with the United Lincolnshire Hospital NHS Trusts, but has also shaped me as a well-rounded, open-minded individual.

The shift from Malaysia to the UK was extremely exciting for our entire cohort. We were all nervous, yet enthusiastic to continue tackling the challenges of the course, in a completely different cultural setting, much further away from the warmth of the equator. Alongside the geographical change, the practice of the pharmacy in UK was also of great interest to us.

During the two years in the UK, all of us MPharm students were very lucky to gain experiential exposure via self-specified and university arranged work placements. The placements across the community and hospital setting place us in a much more informed position to apply for a pre-reg position, as we are able to better comprehend the similarities and differences between the primary and secondary care settings, whilst also understanding the requirements and competitiveness of the industrial sector.

Having experienced the application procedure, I strongly advise students to get involved during placements, and begin looking to apply for prospective pre-reg positions by the second semester of Year 3 at the latest, as this is the ideal time in the course to consider the wide spectrum of opportunities.

UoN prepares us very well to secure a position we desire. It provides us with the opportunity to seize every moment to develop ourselves into competent professionals to successfully tackle the challenges of the pre-reg year. While the informative academic modules, busy laboratory sessions, research projects and

assessments in various forms provide the core competence, I believe getting involved in extra-curricular opportunities truly set you apart as an individual.

The extra-curricular opportunities across both campuses are endless. They are well-suited to individuals with varying interests. From cultural events to charitable occasions or sports competitions, the advantages that result from a little bit of time management and stepping out of our comfort zones provide us with an enjoyable study break and a chance to meet people from across the world, which is truly priceless.

Upon arriving at UoN I took on the role of the 2+2 MPharm representative, to make sure the transition during the Year 3 was comfortable and smooth for all the students. By arranging activities, answering questions and appropriately signposting students the Pharmnotts committee takes an active role in making sure the move is as easy as can be. In addition, upon arrival each student is allocated a third-year buddy from the UK campus to further provide a local introduction to the beautiful campus and logistics of the overwhelming number of offices, which I find extremely helpful.

Having completed the course, I suggest all students to take on challenges, meet people, seize every opportunity to work in a pharmacy, learn from the excellent academics and mentors across all sectors of care, as everyone I have met till date, is more than happy to share valuable knowledge so don't be afraid to ask!



**Yeshmita introducing Pharmnotts as a student body at UNM in 2015.**

## Eric Tee Wei Seong, class of 2016

**Eric is currently working at an independent chain community pharmacy at Coventry, UK.**

Welcome and congratulations on being offered the opportunity to study pharmacy at UoN! UoN is one of the most reputable universities in the pharmacy sector and I have never been prouder to be a UoN graduate. The 2+2 course is surely one of the highlights as it provides an opportunity to experience student life in both Malaysia and the UK.

I can contentedly say that my years at the university have been challenging yet highly satisfying. The pharmacy course at UoN has equipped me with the knowledge needed to be a professional pharmacist in a wide range of sectors, including community, hospital, the pharmaceutical industry, research and academia. In addition, the pharmacy course has also sharpened my transferable skills such as communication skills, leadership skills and team-working skills.

I completed pre-registration training at Wellbeing Pharmacy in Coventry, and eventually secured a pharmacist and pharmacy manager position with the same company. As a pharmacist, I am constantly using my clinical knowledge and perfecting soft skills to improve patient care whilst dealing with patients from various backgrounds. I have an enjoyable and memorable time working in this forward thinking independent chain community pharmacy.

Inevitably, I have been through many ups and downs over the past six years. Nevertheless, these experiences have given me strengths to persevere on and I am willing to try and improve myself every day. Here I would like to leave a couple of words for you – seize every occasion and opportunity to broaden your horizons. I sincerely hope that you enjoy your time at the university as much as I did.



**Eric looking smart for the End of Year Ball 2016 organized by the PharmSoc.**



## Cheng Jian Hao, class of 2016

**Jian Hao is working as a community pharmacist in Boots Pharmacy, East Lincolnshire.**

It has been 2 years since I have graduated from the UoN. After completed pre-registration year in Edinburgh, I started my career as a community pharmacist in Boots Pharmacy, the largest pharmacy chain in the UK. In fact, there are 9 of us from the same cohort working with Boots at the moment, just in the East Lincolnshire area. There are lots of opportunity as long as you are working for it.

Here comes the story how we made it till today, and why we studied Pharmacy in the UoN. First of all, the Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) degree in UoN has a good reputation in UK. UoN is involved in many medical trainings here in England. I started to realize that the skills and knowledge we learned from the workshops and practical sessions from the university has built very strong basics to apply in our profession, which made it easier to pick up skills at real-life work. UoN provides top quality teaching materials and the lecturers are always there to help and guide, even after we graduated.

As a bonus, both Nottingham Malaysia and UK campuses are perfect places for you to study and enjoy the scenic environment. Nottingham is a great city to live as well, right in the center of England, fully accessible by public transports. You will find the way soon to explore Europe!

Regarding the new syllabus for pre-reg exam and working visa, our batch was the first batch of students having the new pre-registration pharmacist assessment syllabus. It was not complicated, basically the new syllabus focused on clinical knowledge and patient-centered care, where you will surely be prepared when the time comes. We were also the first batch of international students subjected to the Tier 2 visa sponsorship issue. I must admit that it was brain-racking at first, but we managed

to find ways to go around it. By the end of Year 3, we started receiving emails from the lecturers about pre-registration application and preparation, with lots of opportunities and directions to get a pre-registration pharmacist position in pharmacies in England, Scotland and Ireland.

I would also like to use this opportunity to thank the School of Pharmacy for supporting and guiding us with all they might. Almost all who wish to stay have successfully secured a pre-registration place in the UK, and plenty of us got a pharmacist job secured!

Wishing everyone all the best and I hope you all enjoy life in the UK!



Jian Hao (left) and girlfriend Yin Teng (right) working in Boots pharmacy serving the community.

## Toh Phang Sum, class of 2016

**Sum graduated with a MPharm in 2016, completed pre-registration training at Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital UK, proceeded to work as a Band 6 Clinical Pharmacist at Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust and then pursued further study postgraduate Fellowship in Nutritional and Environmental Medicine (FINEM).**

Continuous Professional Development (CPD) - if you are about to join the exciting world of pharmacy you will soon have an intimate relationship with CPDs for the rest of your professional career. The world is constantly changing with new medical breakthroughs, discoveries and ideas, therefore you must also continuously adapt, learn and improve yourself.

After completing the UoN 2+2 undergraduate MPharm, pre-registration training in a UK hospital and working as a UK hospital clinical pharmacist, I embarked on CPD by taking up a postgraduate Fellowship in Nutritional & Environmental Medicine (FINEM). Although only mainly medical doctors undertake this postgraduate fellowship program, my UoN MPharm degree enabled me to learn alongside senior medical doctors the newest healthcare information from Dr Sreekumar, Senior Consultant in ENT & Head and Neck Surgeon with more than 34 years of clinical practice and has been actively practicing Nutritional, Environmental & Cellular Medicine since 2001.

The UoN MPharm undergraduate degree has prepared me well, I felt at ease working alongside other healthcare professionals during my pre-registration year and as a hospital clinical pharmacist, managing patients' medications and contributing to patients' healthcare plan. The MPharm undergraduate degree also empowered me with the necessary knowledge, skills and tools in order to successfully complete the postgraduate FINEM course.

Some advice for my juniors; go that extra mile, put yourself out there, do everything within your power and capabilities to raise your standards, create network and meet new people, and get involved in a society, summer placement, part-time work or pick up a unique hobby. Learn from your mistakes and experiences, in my first two years at Nottingham Malaysia, I failed to become a PharmNotts committee member as I lacked public speaking skills during elections. Hence I joined the Public Speaking Club to overcome this shortcoming. Since then, I have spoken numerous times in front of hundreds of people, was elected as TravelSoc President and PharmSoc BPSA Contact Rep as well as lobbied for a motion at a national level BPSA annual conference. The motion which was passed unanimously without any objection was regarding international students in the UK should be supported to obtain a pre-registration place.

Do strive to be the best that you can be, keep on pushing forward and continuously improve, remember that the world is your oyster and sky is the limit.



Sum obtaining his Fellowship certificate in Nutritional and Environmental Medicine (FINEM) in 2018.



## Lim Sui Lun, class of 2015

### Sui Lun works as a relief pharmacist in Cornwall, UK.

It has been just over 8 months since I became the store-based pharmacist for a Boots Pharmacy in Cornwall. This experience was challenging but just as rewarding as I had the opportunity to manage and improve performance for one of the busiest stores in the region. I am looking forward to taking up managerial roles and possibly other positions in the pharmaceutical industry and healthcare business consultancy in the future.

As a Responsible Pharmacist practising in the UK, I am enabled to make clinical decisions about everyday situations in the pharmacy, from dispensing prescriptions to delivering services such as emergency supply of prescription medications, minor ailment Patient Group Directions and emergency hormonal contraception. The other big plus point for me is being able to fully utilize my clinical knowledge when carrying out Medicine Use Review and New Medicine Service consultations and helping patients make the most out of their medications. Also, with Boots, I am provided with abundant resources for Continuous Professional Development (CPD), in terms of hard skills (clinical knowledge) and soft skills (e.g. coaching, leadership).

Thinking back to my university days, I would not have been as interested in pharmacy if it wasn't for studying at the UoN. The school has provided me a solid foundation for developing

knowledge as well as ample opportunities to be involved in professional activities and events. During my involvement with the British Pharmaceutical Student Association (BPSA) in the UK, I was able to grasp the ongoing issues surrounding pharmacy and appreciate the need to network and keep myself updated with the latest developments in the field. I would strongly recommend future students to consider this aspect of their pharmacy education.

Good luck!



Sui Lun attending the flu vaccination service training by Boots, UK.

## Vivian Tan, class of 2014

### Vivian completed her postgraduate pharmacy diploma (PGDip) whilst working as a resident pharmacist and a clinical rotational pharmacist in Cambridge University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (CUH). She is now working at Royal Marsden Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (RMS), the world-leading specialist cancer hospital, as an oncology specialist pharmacist.

I chose to do a Master degree in Pharmacy mainly because I wanted a job that had the below criteria:

- Good job satisfaction: At that point pharmacy was ranked as top 10 jobs in the market.
- Versatility: I dislike routines and the pharmacy degree I would be spoilt with the vast variety of career paths.
- Job security: Pharmacy is a profession sought after all over the world, which means I could work in different parts of the world.

Not only does pharmacy fulfil all the above criteria, serendipitously, to enter the course, I had to be good in chemistry and math, which were my favourite subjects!

I decided to study in UoN because it was one of the best schools of pharmacy. Furthermore, it had a 2+2 course, which meant I could experience studying as a local student in Malaysia and as an international student in the UK.

UoN has a huge variety of clubs and societies. There will be something for everyone. I personally have been actively involved in Pharmacy Society activities. When I was a student, I worked as the British Pharmaceutical Student Association (BPSA) representative – hosting a variety of competitions and promoting student awareness about BPSA and continuous professional development (CPD) activities hosted by students.

About the School of Pharmacy, it values student opinions and makes an effort to ensure student views are voiced through the Learning Community Forum (LCF). Throughout my four years with UoN, I have been representing student views at LCF. During my final year, I had the added pleasure of being the School Education Representative and indeed the school has been listening to student views and has always been taking needed measures to ensure the quality of teaching.

The academic and administrative staffs are friendly and helpful. Some of our academics even have their own little band and sometimes perform for the students at events. I met so many people and made friends so close I consider them family. Indeed, the four years with UoN, I had my own ups and downs, but I believe it only made me a better person. If I had the choice to go back in time, I would do the exact same thing again.



Vivian Tan (with the Tare Panda) with her family members during graduation in July, 2014.



## Tan Shu Kuan, class of 2013

### Currently working as a hospital pharmacist in the Singapore General Hospital.

First of all, congratulations on being offered the opportunity to study pharmacy at the UoN! Trust me, the 2+2 programme is a great opportunity to experience campus life in Malaysia and UK.

‘Why study pharmacy?’ and ‘why did you choose this/that university?’ - I believe these are common questions that you may be frequently asked. No one can be certain if your current decision is the best, but rest assured you do not need to place yourself in such a dilemma. It is enough just to know that the future will depend on your present or whatever you are currently doing. Hence just do your best and enjoy your current undertakings.

I graduated in 2013 and did my pre-registration training in an independent community pharmacy in West Bromwich, UK. Following that, I took up the challenge to practice as a hospital pharmacist – a totally different environment! I am now working at one of the government hospitals in Singapore. Community pharmacy and hospital settings are very different, not to mention the working culture in different countries. Regardless of whether you are a pharmacy student or a pharmacist, you will surely encounter different challenges. Having the right learning attitude is therefore

very important to give meaning to what you do.

I have the deepest appreciation for all the UoN lecturers for their guidance, coursemates and friends for supporting me throughout the 4-year MPharm, and colleagues both in the UK and Singapore for giving me such wonderful experiences throughout my career pathway. Please use the opportunity to make acquaintances especially during your time at University, and try to get involved in activities and learn as much as you possibly can from everyone you meet! Always remember that learning is a never ending process. I would like to wish all of you the best, enjoy the moment, and good luck!



Shu Kuan while holidaying in Croatia.



MPharm students working in the Chemistry Lab.

## Lim Shi Hao, class of 2012

### Currently working as Policy Manager at PhAMA (Pharmaceutical Association of Malaysia) and sitting on MPS-YPC (Malaysian Pharmaceutical Society - Young Pharmacist Chapter) Advisory Board, was a Council Member of MPS (Malaysian Pharmaceutical Society) and Vice President of AYPG (Asian Young Pharmacist Group).

Welcome to the world of pharmacy!

From the conventional point of view, a pharmacist license enables you to join government service, private hospital, community pharmacy, pharmaceutical industry or academic. You have a wide selection of career paths and the main difference between us and other jobs is that our license is required and as license holder, we distinguish ourselves as professionals.

Other than the career options aforementioned, we can do so much more, and the job functions of pharmacists are ever expanding. Apart from developing own business, we can become enforcement pharmacist, business development managers or even a consultant.

After a fruitful pre-registration training year in Nottingham, I returned to Malaysia and worked as a community pharmacist holding various roles. Subsequently I joined PhAMA and get involved in policy work and high-level engagements.

During your four years at Nottingham, treasure the opportunities and time to expand your horizon. You need to have faith that your future is not and should not be defined by conventional wisdoms. I look forward to meeting fellow Nottingham alumni in the working world with endless opportunities awaiting!



Portrait of a charismatic looking Shi Hao.



6th in the world for pharmacy and pharmacology in the QS World University Rankings by subject, 2018





## Heng Chen Chuan, Class of 2012

**Chen Chuan owns a pharmacy shop in Kluang, Johor. He returns to UNM regularly to meet our MPharm students as a teacher practitioner.**

Welcome on board, our pharmacists-to-be! You have made a brilliant choice to join the School of Pharmacy in UoN, which is ranked among the best in the world for pharmacy education.

After graduated with an MPharm degree in 2012, I went to Plymouth, a lovely port city in Devon, for a pre-reg position in a community chain pharmacy. After I qualified as a registered pharmacist in the UK, I decided to return to Malaysia to serve as a community pharmacist.

After working for a couple of years in a community chain pharmacy, I was offered an opportunity to set up a brand new community pharmacy in my hometown, Kluang. I took up the challenge. It was indeed very tough at the beginning, I spent 7 days a week, 14 hours a day in the shop, to build my team and to manage the operation of the shop. It was extremely stressful at the beginning, but encouragement and support from customers kept me going.

In addition to running the community pharmacy, I sometimes return to UNM as Teacher Practitioner, assisting the teaching of professional dispensing classes and OSCE workshops. Many friends are often curious what motivates me to travel from Kluang to UNM (approximately 250 kilometres in distance): my reason is that I enjoy guiding students and sharing my experience in community pharmacy with my fellow juniors, assisting them to build their knowledge and confidence, shaping them to be outstanding pharmacists.

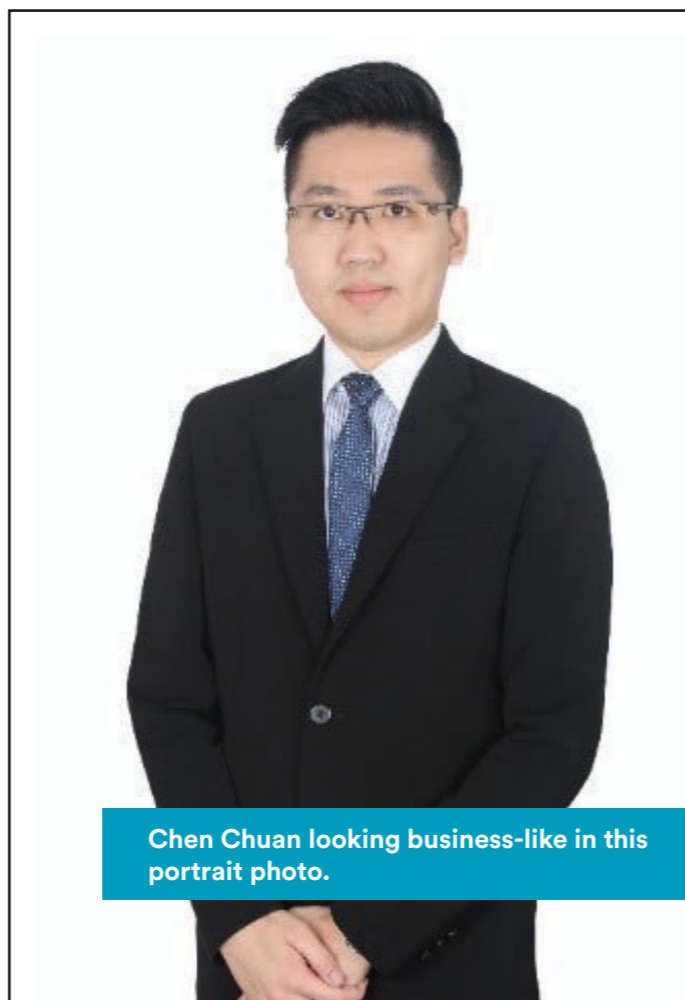
The four years of my life spent at the UoN has definitely equipped me with the knowledge and skills needed to become an excellent pharmacist, ranging from the technical knowledge, personal and professional skills, to a nurturing and ethical outlook as well as the essential attitude to serve. It has also allowed

me to widen my network and meet highly talented people from all around the world. Needless to say, it is most personally satisfying and professionally rewarding to be able to learn about different cultures and engage in meaningful conversations with people from a huge range of diverse backgrounds.

Regardless of which year of the course you are in, do enjoy and cherish the great time you have at the UoN. You will find it a most meaningful experience.

"Serve With Passion, Treat With Medicine, Heal With Love" I love my job as a community pharmacist and teacher practitioner. Would you be the same in future when you are a pharmacist?

I wish you all the best.



Chen Chuan looking business-like in this portrait photo.

## Dr Sivaneswary Genapathy, Class of 2010 and a PhD in 2015.

**Currently working as an Industrial Scientist at Medimmune, Cambridge, UK.**

My journey started just as you twelve years ago realising my interest lie in the science behind medicine. During the early years of MPharm, the UoN provided me with many opportunities to explore the best of pharmacy education, and equipped me with the knowledge and skills of various sectors of pharmacy. Upon graduation, I undertook an industry-hospital split pre-registration training at GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) and Princess Alexandra Hospital, NHS Trust. The training at GSK was an eye opening gateway into the world of industrial research and global manufacturing facilities. The training at the hospital was a comprehensive rotational program with an emphasis on clinical pharmacy.

If you ever wondered what else one can do with a pharmacy degree, my advice would be to look beyond the horizon. The vast majority of pharmacy graduates will work as pharmacists in large retail chains and hospitals, nevertheless the pharmacy degree (and the optional professional registration) is an excellent

gateway to sought after careers in biomedical sciences, academia and pharmaceutical industry.

Upon qualifying as a Pharmacist in the UK, my passion dictated me to pursue a career in research and development. I was fortunate to be awarded with the prestigious International Research Excellence Scholarship by the UoN to pursue a doctoral degree in medicinal chemistry at the School of Pharmacy. My research involved chemical design and evaluation of macrocyclic peptides as antimicrobial agents. Since graduating with a PhD, I have been working as an industrial scientist in peptide and protein engineering at Medimmune, the biologics arm of Astrazeneca, in Cambridge UK.

Looking back now, I can contentedly say that I spent many enjoyable years (most of it at the UoN) of learning and developing the professional and intellectual skills invaluable for my future. As I look forward to a long and rewarding career in the world of pharmaceutical industry, I wish you the very best time at the UoN and in life.



Dr Siva Genapathy with her parents during the PhD graduation ceremony at the UoN, UK.



## Meet Our Lecturer

**Dr Valerie Shang, an alumni of UoN graduated with MPharm in 2009 and a PhD in 2016. She is currently teaching at the School of Pharmacy, Nottingham Malaysia.**

I shared stories to students at random corridors, that my young self was not at all fond of the idea of becoming a pharmacist. I might have just did a tick on my UCAS form blindfolded. To date, I still struggle to justify reasons in joining the profession. I cringe at the typical reason that being in healthcare helps you to help others. Aren't just any jobs in the world as noble so long they meant well?

In all honesty, the fact that I am an MPharm graduate from the UoN today was due to logistics reasons. Nottingham is only a dual carriageway away from Derby where my beloved aunt was, and still is. Upon graduation, I was a clinical pharmacist at the NHS. I experienced working in various wards specialty, completed a fully sponsored Postgraduate Clinical Diploma at Leicester's De Monfort University and built rapport as well as friendships with people around me – nice. However, I was constantly on the lookout for a career that allow intellectual exploration. Just before Christmas in 2011, I received a call to join research at School of Life Sciences, UoN that comes with a full scholarship. Instead of geographical coincidence, this time, the decision to return to my alma mater was based on the confidence for its quality of education. Whilst receiving my PhD training, I was also a teaching assistant at the School of Pharmacy on casual basis. This has helped to keep my knowledge on current pharmacy practice abreast and earned extra quid to fund my travels around Europe.

The transition from hospital pharmacy to research was relatively smooth, as UoN Pharmacy modules then had already prepared me with the flexibility to pick a side between the two professional directions. In 2012, the MPharm degree at UoN experienced programme restructuring. The University was the first, or if not, one of the earliest to introduce 'integrated modules'; with sciences studies and clinical components merged and categorically presented

based on disease management. Lecturers at UoN's School of Pharmacy in Malaysia and the UK are hence, amongst the most experienced to deliver the degree in such mode. This, I believe, aids transfer of knowledge into practice even more efficiently.

There is a strong sense of community amongst students of UoN, possibly owing to campuses designs that naturally create townships. Also, credits to the Nottingham geese and ducks in Malaysian campus – these guys are the traffic showstoppers and made great excuses for lateness to lectures! Between alumni, there is almost an instant connection, as if you have met a friend of the same hometown. The Nottingham Alumni Network also plays a significant role in maintaining these contacts and offers career support beyond graduation. The Ingenuity Lab for instance, provides start-up funding for students and alumni with innovative entrepreneurial ideas.

So if what I have said earlier resonates with your further studies plan, forward your application to us and then hope for the best. Just make sure you are not blindfolded.

I look forward to seeing you on-campus.



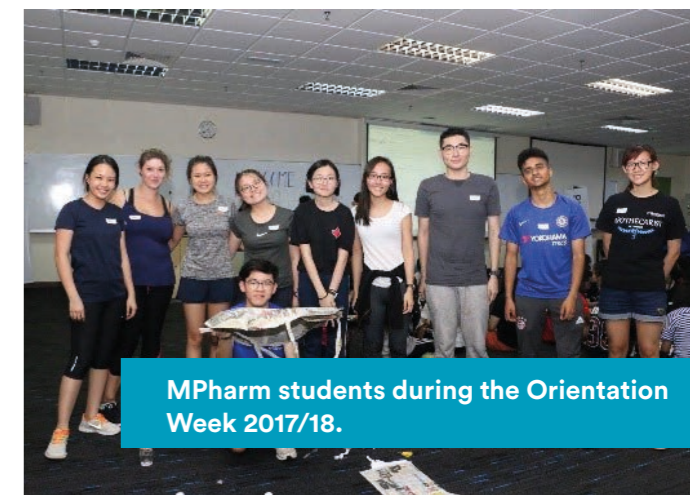
**Dr Valerie Shang (in checkered attire) who blended in well with MPharm 1 students who took wifie with her during Prince Charles visit to UNM in November 2017.**

## Settling in

**If you are concerned about finding your way around or making new friends at Nottingham, do not worry. As a new student at Nottingham you will be invited to take part in our Welcome Programme. Wong Wei Kit, President of PharmNotts 2018/19 explains:**

“Congratulations on being offered a place at the Nottingham School of Pharmacy. The University and PharmNotts (Pharmacy students' society) have arranged some activities during your first week on the campus. You will meet new friends from your course and from other countries. You will also have the opportunity to find your way around the campus and the surrounding area.”

For international students, additional activities are also arranged by the International Office to provide the guidance and support that you will need to settle into university life in Malaysia.



**MPharm students during the Orientation Week 2017/18.**

## Greetings from PharmNotts Society

**Derick Ngai was the president of the pharmacy society, PharmNotts, for 2017/18. Here is his message to those of you starting at the Malaysia Campus this year.**

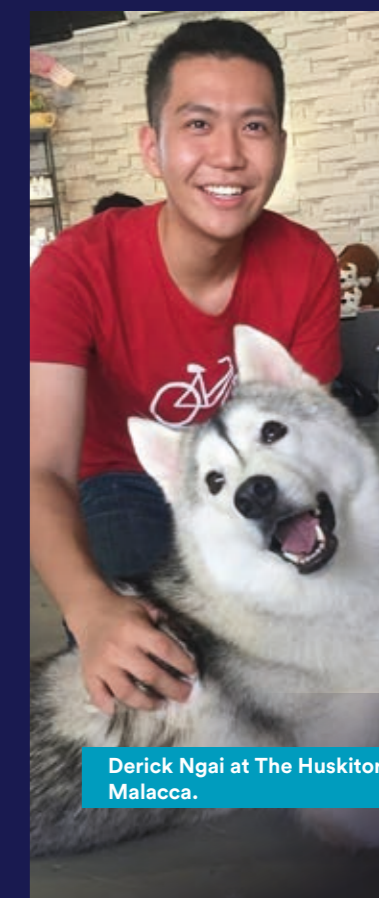
Two years have passed in the blink of an eye and before long, I will be progressing to the UK Campus with my cohort. As the outgoing President of PharmNotts 2017/18, it has definitely been a thrilling and life-changing experience.

PharmNotts is a society for all School of Pharmacy students and we organise various events ranging from health promotion such as Health Week and Public Health Campaign to PharmNotts Ball and Viva La Vida Night, where we let loose and have fun! Hence, we were awarded the Best Academic Society

2017/18. Without the contribution and support of each and every member, it would not have been possible to achieve this.

Pharmacy is not an easy course by any means but the staff and lecturers are more than willing to guide us and are passionate in educating and shaping us into competent pharmacists. Although studies are undeniably important, do keep in mind to colour up your university life by making new friends and joining various activities in this vibrant campus!

Nottingham will definitely be able to provide a life-enriching experience in a new chapter of your life. As I have said, two years will fly by very quickly. Therefore, remember to have fun and cherish the friends and memories that you will make in your university life.



**Derick Ngai at The Huskitory, Malacca.**



