

# My Experience Studying Medical Biotechnology at IMU

Andrew Octavian Sasmita started his studies in medical biotechnology at IMU in 2014. He shared with us his experience of studying this programme.

“Three years of being a part of the Medical Biotechnology (MB) programme has truly been a great journey for us within the MB1/14 cohort. The programme itself sees many field visits to relevant industries within the field at a rate that no other programmes could mark up with. We visited the Tissue Culture Labs of Hospital UKM, Yakult Factory, and Port Dickson, but my favourite would have to be our visit to the Malaysian Genome Institute (MGI) in Kajang. The MB1/14 students also assisted in holding a fun and the IMU first Science Discovery Challenge event in 2015 whereby high school students were given a platform to compete on their basic science knowledge to promote interest in the fields of science. In our final year of academic studies, we eventually had the opportunity to perform a community service project whereby we conducted a field visit to SJK© Salak South to gather biological samples across the communal spaces within the

school. These samples were then processed to extract the potentially harmful bacterial components and characterise them via microbiological and molecular techniques, allowing us to give back to the community the best we knew how.

The curriculum is solid and intensive, especially coming into the second year whereby more of the modules are becoming core biotechnology modules which are essential within our field of studies. We study topics ranging from microbiology, pathology, immunology, cancer biotechnology, and even bioprocess engineering, to strengthen our foundations especially for the coming years where we are going to be employed.

Not only that, a unique component of our programme is the existence of the Graduate Employability, Adaptability and Reshaping (GEAR) programme - a collaborative effort between IMU and Bioeconomy Corporation that outlines a series of training workshop sessions for the students of Semesters 3 and 5, which cover communication skills, teamwork, and general business and entrepreneurial spirit. The MB1/14 cohort which I am a

part of also had the privilege to attend the BioMalaysia event annually to familiarise ourselves with the present statuses of biotechnology-related industries. These efforts could not have been made possible if there is not a great team of lecturers who work strenuously not only to teach us but also to improve ourselves as better functional members of the society.

I am currently undergoing an industrial training at Cancer Research Malaysia within the Head and Neck Cancer team, and given all the knowledge that has been imbued during my time in IMU, I couldn't be more excited to face what's coming my way.”

At the IMU, the curriculum of its medical biotechnology degree is developed to meet international standards and is accepted by renowned international Partner Universities (University of Newcastle, Australia or University of Strathclyde, UK) for credit transfer into relevant programmes. Students can also complete the entire degree at IMU. IMU is also the first Malaysian university that provides a complete and specialised undergraduate train-

ing in Medical Biotechnology. Graduates of these degrees can undertake postgraduate degrees in any related disciplines.

The Medical Biotechnology programme in IMU expose you to industrial attachments locally or abroad, giving you the opportunity to gain valuable industrial experience and required skills to be immediately ready for employment. This would also give you a distinct and an added advantage in your career.

The next commencement date for this programme is in July. If you have pre-university qualifications and have an interest in Medical Biotechnology, apply online now and join the University in your pursuit of a promising and rewarding career.

If you have just completed your SPM and do not have pre-university qualification, consider enrolling in the one-year IMU Foundation in Science (FiS), the preferred foundation and direct route for entry into any of the University's local degree programmes.

For more information, please refer to [www.imu.edu.my](http://www.imu.edu.my) or email us at [start@imu.edu.my](mailto:start@imu.edu.my) or call IMU at 03 - 2731 7272.



Andrew with his course mates