

# Nicole Foo: My memorable five-year journey at IMU

NICOLE Foo who graduated with a Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons) degree programme from the International Medical University (IMU) in 2022 wrote this article:

"I chose IMU as my study platform back in 2017, when I first started my Foundation in Science (FIS) as I believed that IMU is not just a well-known and well-established health sciences university, but a university that is alive and full of joyous, warmest, and compassionate people who will guide and walk together with me throughout my journey at IMU.

"The first one year at IMU, doing my FIS was the hardest initial phase of my journey, but it indeed became an unforgettable year which successfully prepared me for my next journey in life.

"After I completed my FIS, I finally started the BPharm (Hons) programme in September 2018, when I realised that I was one step closer to my dream.

"Although there were times when I felt like giving up or stopping in the middle, I kept myself motivated as there were always people around me who pushed me forward and kept me going throughout the way.

"I always believe that IMU BPharm (Hons) programme not only instilled in me the skills and professionalism that are crucial for my future career, but also attitude and self-esteem, that are important in life.

"I still remember before the pandemic struck, the first two years of my undergraduate life in campus was indeed exquisite! – meeting new 'friends' day by day, cracking our heads after tutorials, leisure at the library, endless discussion before exams, etc. When the pandemic struck, everything had to be shifted online and the students and lecturers adapted to the online environment very quickly although we did face some difficulties during the transition.

"The online learning experience enabled the students to be more independent in their learning at their own pace and indeed drew a closer relationship between students and lecturers.

"When I recall the times when exams were getting closer, not just students who were nervous and worried but in fact, the lectures were worried too, and they prepared us with everything they could do for us.

"This truly touched me as the care



and perseverance that the lecturers have portrayed proved to me that IMU is not just an institution that prepared me for my future career, but it is a home that has grown me up and instilled in me with all the qualities that I needed in life.

"In my final year of the BPharm (Hons) programme at IMU, we had the opportunity to undergo attachments at the hospital and community pharmacy settings and from the experience during these attachments, I realised that community pharmacy was interesting as this is where I got to meet different customers with different conditions every day.

"The experience at the hospital pharmacy attachment was different, where there were endless patients every day with different complications, and

they all required the help of a team of healthcare professionals.

"These exposures indeed put me in a dilemma when it came to deciding for my journey ahead.

"To overcome that, I sought opinions from lectures, pharmacists, family members, friends, and peers and in the end realised that there was no right or wrong decision and it is all about having faith in yourself and knowing what you want to achieve in life.

"Finally, I decided to work in the hospital pharmacy setting, as I wanted to challenge myself and be a part of the team in the hospital with the knowledge and professionalism that IMU has instilled in me for serving the community.

"Fortunately, I was awarded a scholarship in my Semester 8 which I could never forget. The hard work and determination all these years had finally paid off. Now, I have the opportunity to work and continue learning in a private hospital pharmacy setting. So, why not have faith in yourself, enjoy every moment in life, and live the best you can," she said.

At the International Medical University (IMU), students have the options to complete the entire pharmacy programme locally at IMU or credit transfer pharmacy programmes to the University of Otago, New Zealand or University of Tasmania, Australia.

These international partnerships are a clear testament of the alignment of IMU's innovative education to global standards.

Additionally, students who opt to complete the entire degree in Malaysia also have the opportunity to go overseas for elective placement.

The commencement for the Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons) programme is in July and September.

If you are inspired on a diverse career that is involved with the safe and effective use of medicines, make an online application today to study our pharmacy programme.

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

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