

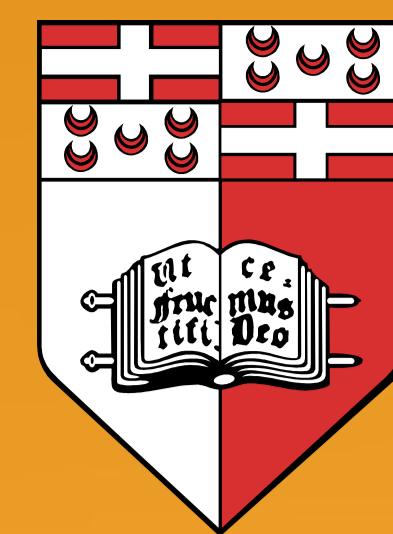
# ENHANCING LEARNING THROUGH JOB SHADOWING EXPERIENCE

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## INTRODUCTION

Mater Dei Hospital is Malta's only acute general public hospital. Its close location to the University campus and strong networking with the academia within the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery at the University of Malta enhances and strengthens the clinical opportunities required to integrate clinical practice into theory. The Department of Pharmacy at Mater Dei Hospital works in close collaboration with the Department of Pharmacy at the Faculty of Medicine & Surgery, University of Malta, to offer opportunities for experiential scenarios.

## AIM

- To expose undergraduate students following the pharmaceutical technology course and the pharmacy course to hospital pharmacy through a job shadowing experience.

## METHOD

In August 2017, undergraduate students were sent an email inviting them to participate in a job shadowing experience. The experience was offered on a weekly basis, Monday to Friday from 8.00 to 14.00 during the recess in September 2017. Students willing to participate were asked to indicate their availability. During the job shadowing experience, the students rotated amongst the 5 pharmacy sections namely dispensary, stores and distribution, chemotherapy and reconstitution, quality assurance, and clinical pharmacy practice unit which incorporates medicines information and clinical pharmacy. Within each section, the student shadowed a pharmacist. At the end of the placement, students were asked to complete an evaluation form via google forms in an anonymous manner using a 5-point Likert scale ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree.

## RESULTS

- Thirteen students participated (n= 12 female).
- The evaluation form was completed by 8 students.
- Half of the respondents were willing to participate in further practice-research experiences in collaboration with the hospital pharmacy.
- There were no strongly disagree and disagree responses.

Table 1: Summary of results obtained through the evaluation form (N=8)

Statement on job experience	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral
Met expectations	1	6	1
Better understanding of hospital pharmacy role	5	3	0
Linked theory into practice	0	8	0
Recommend the experience	2	4	2
Repeat the experience next year	3	4	1
Encouraged hospital pharmacy as career	0	4	4

## DISCUSSION

The results indicate that the job shadowing experience was well received and beneficial to students. Through this experiential job shadowing experience with the hospital pharmacy, students gain a learning hands on experience on the various aspects of hospital pharmacy taking into consideration the interdisciplinary approach a hospital pharmacy service offers.