

Inside UiTM's Pharmacy Program Interview: Discovering Tomorrow's Pharmacists

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The Faculty of Pharmacy at Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) successfully conducted an interview session for prospective students of the Bachelor's in Pharmacy Program (PH240) from June 20 to 23, 2024. The event, held at the UiTM Selangor Puncak Alam campus, attracted over 1200 applicants eager to join the esteemed program.

From this large pool of applicants, 608 were selected to attend the interview. The session was meticulously designed to assess the academic capabilities, critical thinking skills, and personal attributes of each candidate. This year, the Faculty of Pharmacy continued to implement the Multi-Mini Interview (MMI) model, a novel approach to student selection in Malaysia's pharmacy education sector.



Online interview for prospective students from

Developed by the faculty in 2016, the MMI model serves as a structured interview instrument. It assesses candidates across four major domains: communication skills, ethics and morale, critical thinking, and interest in pharmacy. Rubrics for evaluating these four attributes were thoroughly developed to ensure a fair and comprehensive assessment. The MMI involves six stations, four of which are active interview stations, while the remaining two are rest stations. Each active station assesses one of the four major domains. The MMI circuit allows for concise and objective interviewing of multiple candidates at the same time, minimising bias and ensuring a fair assessment of each candidate's non-cognitive attributes.

Dr. Hanis Hanum Zulkifly, Deputy Dean of Academic Affairs, emphasised, "We are looking for students who not only excel academically but also demonstrate a passion for the field of pharmacy and a commitment to community health." During the MMI process, candidates faced challenging problem-solving exercises and personal interviews, evaluated by expert faculty members. An impressive 91.9% of students who were called for interviews attended the session, reflecting the applicants' enthusiasm and commitment.

Professor Dato' Dr. Abu Bakar Abdul Majeed, Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy, remarked, "We're highly impressed by the strong performance of the candidates during the interview session. It was also an insightful experience for all of us who were involved, as we had the opportunity to speak to the candidates on various topics. We also wish to thank the parents and guardians for their support." Applicants voiced their satisfaction with the MMI process, noting its fairness and thoroughness. The structured assessment allowed them to demonstrate their knowledge and passion for pharmacy, leaving them hopeful and excited about the possibility of joining UiTM.

The high number of aspiring applicants augurs well for Malaysia, which is facing a growing demand for healthcare professionals, including pharmacists. The nationwide shortage of healthcare workers has highlighted the need for enhanced training and education in healthcare-related fields, making programs like UiTM's Bachelor in Pharmacy (PH240) more crucial than ever.

The Bachelor in Pharmacy Program at UiTM is renowned for its comprehensive curriculum and strong emphasis on practical training. Graduates from this program are well-equipped to pursue various career paths in the pharmaceutical industry, healthcare settings, and research institutions, thus contributing significantly to Malaysia's healthcare needs.

The interview session marks an important step in the admissions process, demonstrating the Faculty of Pharmacy at UiTM's commitment to maintaining high standards of education and training. The faculty is excited to welcome the new cohort of future pharmacists, who will play a crucial role in addressing Malaysia's healthcare challenges, and will announce the selected 240 candidates in the coming weeks.

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