Unlocking the Path to PRP Academia: Your Gateway to a Bright Career!

By: Dr. Nur Wahida Zulkifli

When discussing the provisionally registered pharmacist (PRP) training sites among final-year undergraduate pharmacy students, most opt for hospital or community pharmacy. Only a few choose academia as their training site. This reluctance stems from the perception that academia is a challenging path with limited career opportunities.

What are the real benefits of choosing PRP academia? It presents a fantastic opportunity for PRP as it accelerates their journey to obtaining a master's degree while completing their compulsory one-year attachment. Furthermore, PRP academia also provides a platform for enhancing teaching, presentation, and research skills, which are essential for effective communication and knowledge dissemination. The invaluable benefit is the sense of fulfillment derived from making a positive impact on students' lives, advancing knowledge, and contributing to betterment of society.

If you're genuinely interested in pursuing PRP academia, you need to take certain steps. Firstly, choose a field you're passionate about, as research may span one to two years, requiring dedication and enthusiasm. Next, select the right supervisor and navigate your journey. As a postgraduate researcher, independence is the key, and you must be proactive in your learning. Your supervisor becomes your ally, as you'll be in constant communication for an extended period. Finally, plan your career trajectory. A master's degree adds value to your career prospects that sets you apart from your peers. This qualification opens up opportunities in various sectors such as private hospitals, community pharmacy, overseas employment, industrial pharmaceutical companies, and academia.

To gain insight into the requirements for successfully completing the PRP academia program, you can visit the official website of the Pharmaceutical Service Division and review the PRP logbook (Academia). This logbook will provide you with an idea of the criteria that must be fulfilled. The program consists of 40 weeks of research and development (R&D) training modules, as well as 12 weeks of fundamental pharmacy practice. By examining the PRP logbook, you will gain an understanding of the requirements you need to meet. It is helpful to think of this project as similar to your undergraduate final year project but with added level of depth and complexity, making it comparable to a master's project.

Don't let fear hold you back! Embrace the world of academia, and you'll discover its hidden beauty."



^{*} Disclaimer: The pictures are from the PRP Bootcamp, where students were briefed about the PRP academia roadmap if they choose PRP academia for their training

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