

# Industrial Training among Students of Faculty of Pharmacy UiTM Puncak Alam: Bridging Theory and Practice

In an increasingly competitive job market, practical experience is a valuable asset that sets graduates apart. Recognizing this, the Faculty of Pharmacy at UiTM Puncak Alam has embarked on an Industrial Training Program that not only enriches students' academic journey but also bridges the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application.

A Glimpse into the Latest PHC672 Course:

Under the course code PHC672, the Industrial Attachment Program is a credit-bearing endeavor that spans over 6 weeks, from August 14 to September 22, 2023. This initiative involves 174 students from the third-year Bachelor of Pharmacy program, each embarking on a journey to gain invaluable experience in diverse sectors of the pharmaceutical industry.

Collaboration is at the heart of this program, with 51 organizations welcoming UiTM students to their ranks. The participating companies range from manufacturing facilities in pharmaceuticals, traditional medicine and health supplements (TMHS), and cosmetics, to non-manufacturing pharmaceutical wholesaler entities, research institutes, and health-related sales and marketing companies. These organizations play a pivotal role in shaping the students' perspectives, introducing them to the practical nuances of the industry.

The students are distributed across different types of industries within the pharmaceutical sector. A substantial 43% of students find themselves immersed in manufacturing facilities, including pharmaceuticals, TMHS, and cosmetics. A further 8% are gaining experience in non-manufacturing pharmaceutical industries, particularly in pharmaceutical wholesaling. A significant 48% are contributing their efforts to research institutes, delving into the cutting-edge developments and innovations that drive the industry forward. Lastly, a dedicated 1% of students are engaged in health-related sales and marketing, exploring the vital aspect of bringing pharmaceutical products to the market.

Hailing from various states in Malaysia, the students' participation is geographically diverse. More than half of the students find themselves attached to companies in Selangor, while the remaining are distributed across other states in the country (1% to 7% of students for each remaining state). This widespread representation showcases the program's reach and its commitment to preparing students for various regional contexts within the pharmaceutical industry.



## Philosophy and Purpose:

At its core, the Industrial Training Program aligns with UiTM's philosophy of nurturing strong industry connections and fulfilling industry requirements. The program seeks to accomplish several objectives, including:

- **Enhancing Employability:** By exposing students to real work environments, the program equips them with the skills and knowledge that employers seek, thus enhancing their employability post-graduation.
- **Practical Application:** The early introduction to the real-world working environment encourages students to apply their theoretical learning in practical settings, thus deepening their understanding and competence.
- **Industry Insight:** Students gain firsthand insights into the demands, needs, and advancements of the pharmaceutical industry, which prepares them to be adaptable and responsive professionals.
- **Linking Academia with Industry:** This initiative fosters a stronger bond between academia and industry, ensuring that educational programs remain relevant and in line with current industry trends.

## Shared Responsibilities:

The program's success is a collaborative effort. Industry preceptors serve as guides, facilitating students' immersion into their organizations' workflows and offering invaluable feedback. Students, on the other hand, uphold the faculty's reputation by adhering to company regulations and effectively communicating their experiences.

The journey does not end with the training period. Students are required to write a short report about their industrial training experiences, sharing their insights and reflections. These reports contribute to the program's continual enhancement and further strengthen the relationship between UiTM and the industry.

As the Industrial Training Program unfolds, the Faculty of Pharmacy at UiTM Puncak Alam remains committed to preparing its students for the professional world. With a blend of theoretical knowledge and practical experience, graduates emerge as well-rounded professionals ready to contribute to the ever-evolving pharmaceutical landscape.

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