

The Doctorate in Pharmacy course is a three-year programme offered by the Department of Pharmacy at the University of Malta, in collaboration with the College of Pharmacy at the University of Illinois in Chicago (UIC), USA. This course is ideal for all pharmacists who are motivated to progress in their careers, by developing a professional clinical practice with a research perspective.

Being a pharmacist with a special interest in the clinical aspect of pharmacy and always wanting to specialize in this area, the Doctorate in Pharmacy course was an excellent opportunity for me since it combines the application of advanced clinical pharmacy skills with contextual research.

The first year of the course included taught study units given by lecturers of both Universities, with the final two years based on research and written dissertation. The research modules, in the form of a dissertation, assist in the development of critical analysis and evaluation of literature related to applied research in pharmacy.

During the three years, placements in different sections related to clinical pharmacy such as hospital, regulatory, ambulatory care and community pharmacy, support the pharmacist to develop clinical expertise. In one of the placements, the candidate is given the unique opportunity to visit the UIC Hospital and carry out a clinical rotation for a period of time, which helps in the gaining of knowledge on how foreign clinical entities provide their service.

Throughout my own personal experience, I can vouch that the Pharm D. course was an opportunity to broaden my knowledge in the clinical area of pharmacy and the course would not have been possible without the support and intervention of both the Pharmacy Department within the University of Malta and the University of Chicago.

The funding opportunity offered by the Endeavour Scholarships Scheme, further encouraged me to apply and complete the Pharm D course. In fact, this degree was carried out following an award of an Endeavour B Scholarship Scheme funded out of National Funds.