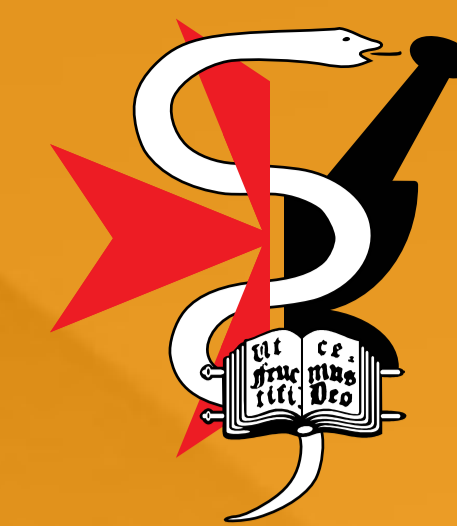


# EXPERIENTIAL CLINICAL ROTATIONS FOR STUDENTS FOLLOWING A DOCTORATE IN PHARMACY COURSE

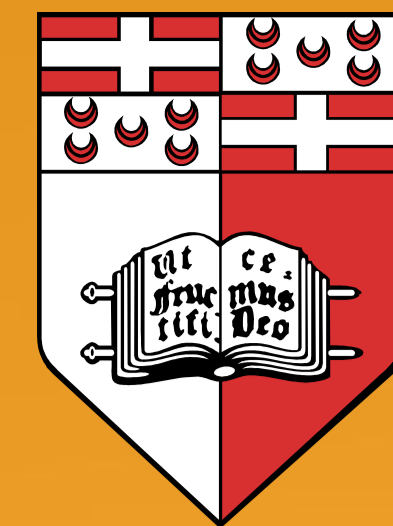
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## INTRODUCTION

The three year post-graduate doctorate in pharmacy course is designed to stimulate the profession towards innovation and leadership incorporating evidence-based medicine and medical informatics into the medication use process. The course includes advanced experiential clinical rotations in the second and third year of the course, which are run within a collaborative framework between the Department of Pharmacy at the University of Malta, the College of Pharmacy of the University of Illinois, Chicago and the Department of Pharmacy at Mater Dei Hospital, a public acute general hospital.

## AIM

- To develop an advanced experiential clinical rotation providing a comprehensive understanding of medication use process within an acute hospital setting.

## METHOD

Students are offered a 6 week experiential training within a clinical speciality of their choice ranging from Cardiovascular, Endocrine, Neonatal and Paediatric Intensive Care, Respiratory, Rheumatology and Medicines Information. During the rotations students are introduced to the clinical setting by the clinical pharmacist who briefs them on the teamwork approach and the logistic background of the placement.

### Activities undertaken by post-graduate students:

- Participation in clinician-led ward rounds
- Patient follow up and monitoring
- Participation in clinician-led out-patient sessions
- Presentation and discussion of clinical cases
- Critical appraisal of published literature
- Compilation and updating of hospital protocols and guidelines
- Participation in pharmacy continuous education sessions
- Provision of educational sessions to other healthcare professions
- Compilation of articles for publication in the hospital pharmacy newsletter

## RESULTS

Each student is assigned a preceptor and each preceptor is assigned not more than two students concurrently. During the placement each student compiles a weekly portfolio with reflections on the activities undertaken. A one hour weekly session is held whereby the students meet their preceptors to discuss their progress and activities undertaken. The student is assessed by the preceptor on the ability to integrate and apply the theoretical knowledge into the clinical scenario and the proficiency developed to sustain clinical discussions with other healthcare professionals.

## DISCUSSION

Through this experiential clinical rotation, students develop critical thinking skills within an acute care setting covering specific clinical areas and drug information based on drug use policy development. This module contributes to the aims of this post-graduate programme to develop pharmacists with advanced clinical skills, patient-centred leadership and advocacy skills.