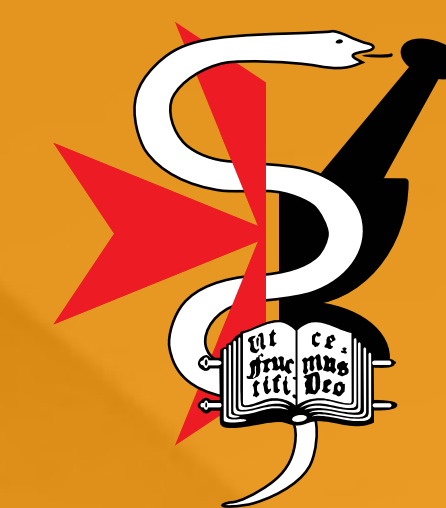


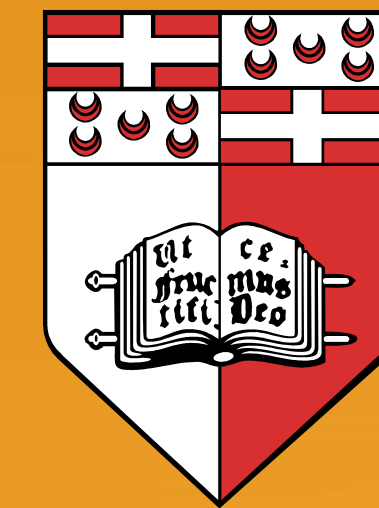
# INDUSTRIAL PHARMACY VISITS FOR PHARMACEUTICAL TECHNOLOGY STUDENTS

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## INTRODUCTION

Academic visits to pharmaceutical industry sites are organised as part of study units related to pharmaceutical production processes. The introduction of academic industrial visits as part of the study units related to the pharmaceutical production process of the Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Technology course were introduced when the course was launched in 2011. These visits are held to introduce students to the real pharmaceutical scenario and to expose them to experiential learning. During visits students are shown how the daily activities are performed at the different pharmaceutical settings. Students have the opportunity to see and learn more about the equipment used for pharmaceutical processes and analysis. They are also exposed to the documentation system used and the importance of documentation in these settings.

## AIMS

To evaluate students' perception towards the industrial pharmacy visits

## METHOD

Students evaluated three industrial pharmacy visits by means of a short self-administered questionnaire. Visits were held at an active pharmaceutical ingredient manufacturing company, a solid oral dosage form manufacturing company and a company which tests finished goods.

The questionnaire consisted of seven closed-ended questions (Figure 1). The questions were rated using a 5-point Likert scale, ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree.

The questionnaire evaluated the relation between the site visited and subjects studied. The students' expectations and knowledge gained during the industrial pharmacy visits were also evaluated.

Sites visited related to the subject studied

Useful to help in the application of what was learned during lectures

Experience the importance of following GLP/GMP guidelines

Gained more knowledge related to the application of instrumentation

Understand better how the system works

Visits met expectations

The activity was educational and enjoyable

Figure 1: Statements used for the evaluation of the industrial pharmacy visits

## RESULTS

Six out of 10 students following the study units answered the questionnaire. All participants agreed that the sites visited were related to subjects studied in the respective study units.

All students found the visits to be a useful means to apply principles learned during lectures (n=6). The industrial visits were found to be a good means to experience the importance of following Good Laboratory and Good Manufacturing Practice guidelines (n=5) in the pharmaceutical industry scenario.

All participants (n=6) agreed that through the visits they gained more knowledge related to the application of instrumentation in the pharmaceutical setting.

Five participants agreed that the industrial visits helped them understand better how the daily operations within the pharmaceutical industry works.

Five participants agreed that the visits met their expectations, while one participant was neutral. All participants (n=6) agreed that the industrial pharmacy visits were an enjoyable experience.

## CONCLUSION

The industrial visits help pharmaceutical technology students to better understand concepts and processes covered during the course. The students have the opportunity to familiarise with activities performed in this setting.