

CAREERS

Interested in a career in Pharmacy?

APPLY FOR AN ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PHARMACY SCHOLARSHIP TODAY!

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pharmacy Scholarship aims to encourage Indigenous students to undertake studies in pharmacy at university.

There are also opportunities available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people wanting to train as a Pharmacy Assistant or Technician through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pharmacy Assistant Traineeships Scheme.

For more information on either scheme, go to www.guild.org.au and look under **Programs** or telephone the Rural and Professional team at the Pharmacy Guild of Australia on (02) 6270 1888.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pharmacy Scholarship Scheme and Pharmacy Assistant Traineeships Scheme are funded by the Australian Government as represented by the Department of Health and Ageing.



GOOD MEDICINE

WANT TO PRESCRIBE YOURSELF A BRIGHT FUTURE? CONSIDER PHARMACY AS A CAREER.

Simone Liddy is a 21-year-old dynamo. She is currently in her fourth year of full-time study for a Bachelor of Pharmacy from Charles Darwin University (CDU), and also works part-time as a pharmacy assistant in two different jobs.



"I can feel pretty tired at the end of the day," she says. "But it's a good tired, you know? Because I know I've spent my day learning new things and helping people."

As well as studying and working, Simone also represents the Northern Territory in hockey, and last year she became a rookie member of the Northern Territory Pearls in the Australian Hockey League. In recognition of all her hard work and achievements, Simone was last year named the 2007 NAIDOC Youth of the Year, and this year was named the Northern Territory Young Australian of the Year.

To further add to her list of achievements, when Simone graduates at the end of this year, she will become the first Indigenous graduate in a CDU Bachelor of Pharmacy course. Pharmacy is an area that sees very few Indigenous professionals, and this is partly what drew Simone to this particular career path, but it also appealed to her for the simple reason that it's an exciting field.

"When I was in high school I really enjoyed chemistry and my science subjects," she says. "I liked the fact that they involved more than just sitting behind a desk – we got to move around and do interesting things, like experiments."

As Simone can tell you, pharmacy involves a lot more than just counting tablets into a jar. Pharmacists ensure patients are given the correct medication at the correct dose for their condition and ensure they are counselled appropriately. Pharmacists have to have a full knowledge of a range of areas – everything from understanding how drugs work in the human body and their interactions with other drugs, food and herbal products to dealing with patients and offering them advice.



"My main job is a 12 week placement I'm required to complete each year at the Royal Darwin Hospital, as part of the cadetship that I received through the Northern Territory Department of Health," Simone says. "The services that we provide at the RDH Pharmacy include supplying medicines to the wards, sending orders to communities and supplying drugs and counselling patients at the hospital."

"My other job is in a retail pharmacy. I love working there! Mainly because people come in all the time and ask you for advice about all sorts of things, and you really get to help people in all kinds of ways, which gives you a very satisfying feeling."

Before she graduates, Simone will also undertake four different placements, including working with a travelling pharmacist who visits remote Indigenous communities, to help her get a taste of one of the many different avenues she can pursue as a pharmacist.

"I haven't decided exactly what avenue I'm going to take up yet," she says. "But whatever I do, I would like it to be in Darwin so I can give back to my community."

Careers – Good Medicine page 18

Preparation before reading.

Simone Liddy (21) was named 2007 NAIDOC Youth of the Year and 2008 NT Young Australian of the Year.

Juggling study, work and sport, Simone will soon be the first Indigenous graduate from the Bachelor of Pharmacy course from Charles Darwin University in Darwin, NT.

There were a lot of things that drew Simone to pharmacy as a career: she loves chemistry and science subjects; she enjoys learning about how drugs affect the body so she can make sure that correct doses are administered and she loves to work with people.

Simone will undertake four different placements before she graduates and is looking forward to working as a pharmacist in her community in Darwin.

1. Understanding what you read.

At which university does Simone Liddy study a Bachelor of Pharmacy?

What other interests does Simone have apart from studying?



In what ways does Simone see pharmacy as an “exciting field”?

What are some aspects of pharmacy that Simone is learning about?

What tasks will Simone undertake in her 12 week placement at Royal Darwin Hospital?

2. Spelling.

Re-read the text about pharmacy as a career.

The spelling mistakes in the sentences below have been underlined.

Write the correct spelling for each underlined word on the line next to it.

There are very few Indigenous profesional pharmacists.

Pharmacy is an exiting career.

Pharmacists make sure pashents are given the correct medication.

Pharmacists council patients at the hospital.



Each sentence below has one word that is spelled incorrectly.

Write the correct spelling of the word on the line next to it.

Simone's main job is a 12 week plasement.

It is part of a cadetship recieved through NT Department of Health.

Simone's other job is retail farmacy.

Simone likes to help people by giving them good advise.

3. Grammar and punctuation.

Which of the following correctly completes the sentence?

Simone currently _____ part-time as a pharmacy assistant in two different jobs.

☐

worked

☐

works

☐

working

☐

has worked

Last year Simone _____ a rookie member of the NT Pearls in the Australian Hockey League.

☐

becomes

☐

becoming

☐

became

☐

has become



In this sentence, "*rookie member*" means

- ☐ veteran player.
- ☐ first season player.
- ☐ first game player.
- ☐ second season player.

Simone says, "I'd like to be in Darwin so I can give back to my community."

Why is there an apostrophe in "I'd"?

- ☐ a word is missing.
- ☐ it indicates ownership.
- ☐ some letters are missing.
- ☐ it shows the word is plural.

In this sentence,

I'd like to be in Darwin so I can give back to my community,

the word *community* is

- ☐ a noun.
- ☐ an adjective.
- ☐ an adverb.

