



Dear PHARMACIST,

The **International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF)** and the **Canadian Association of Pharmacy Students & Interns (CAPSI)** would like to invite you to participate in the **IPSF Student Exchange Programme (SEP)**.

### **What is IPSF?**

IPSF is the leading international advocacy organisation for pharmacy students. It aims to promote improved public health through provision of information, education, networking as well as a range of publications and professional initiatives. Today, the federation represents over 500,000 pharmacy students and young graduates from more than 100 countries worldwide. IPSF is a non-profit, non-political and non-religious organisation run entirely by volunteer members.

### **What is CAPSI?**

CAPSI is an association of pharmacy students, pharmacy interns, and undergraduate pharmacy organizations across Canada. The Association was developed to promote and advocate the interests of Canadian pharmacy students before organized bodies in pharmacy, healthcare, government, industry, hospital and community settings. CAPSI also serves to prepare pharmacy students to be professionals ready and willing to provide the best healthcare possible within pharmacy's realm of expertise, and to enhance the profession as it continues to develop.

### **What is SEP?**

The IPSF Student Exchange Programme (SEP) has allowed IPSF student members to explore pharmacy in another country since 1953. Last year alone, over 1000 international exchanges took place and this year we anticipate that number will continue to grow.

Mobility in pharmacy education is an important factor in preparing pharmacy students to work as health professionals in the dynamic global healthcare environment. In many countries, lack of opportunity is often compounded by limited access to educational resources and innovative teaching methods.

Through the Student Exchange Programme, IPSF works to increase opportunities for improvement in pharmacy education by establishing experiential learning opportunities for students and young pharmacists around the world! Positions vary based on setting, and include everything from community, hospital to research and industry.

The aim of SEP is to promote understanding and cooperation amongst pharmacy students and other healthcare professionals. The exchange programme offers a unique educational and cultural experience for students and hosts alike!

### **What benefits can you expect as a SEP host?**

- Promotion of your pharmacy and/or company to more than 100 IPSF member organisations across the world
- Opportunities to build professional relationships with pharmacy organization and schools overseas
- Exemption from legal and administrative work (e.g. visa, health and travel insurance) and logistical arrangements such as off-work activities, accommodations and transportation
  - CAPSI will take care of ALL these tasks



- Finally, your international student will be:
  - Enthusiastic and eager to learn about pharmacy in Canada
  - Delighted to give you an insight into how pharmacy is practiced in their native country
  - Possess excellent communication skills, including proficiency in English and/or French

### **What could I expect as a SEP host?**

- Through an online questionnaire, you will nominate a period and length of time you would be willing to host an exchange student – SEP runs throughout the year but most exchanges take place between May and September.  
NOTE\*\* Each exchange lasts between 2 weeks to two months in length
- Students must work  $\geq 40$  hours during their exchange. While scheduling varies, most work 4-8 hours/weekday
- Once all details of the exchange have been agreed upon, a contract between the host and CAPSI will be outlined stating the terms of the exchange
- Exchange students may require a letter from you (i.e. host) in order to confirm the validity of their exchange when applying for entry into Canada. A template will be provided if this is required
- After the exchange, we will request that you complete a short survey in order for us to obtain host-specific feedback. The information gathered from the surveys will guide future program improvements
- A participation certificate will be issued to your pharmacy and/or company at the end of the exchange
- **The SEO and/or Local Exchange Officer (LEO) will be in constant contact with you before, during and after the exchange to assist you with any queries and/or challenges throughout the process**
- **OPTIONAL:** Provide room or board for the student for the duration of their stay. If you choose to do this, please contact the Student Exchange Officer (Cassandra Voit - [seo@capsi.ca](mailto:seo@capsi.ca)) with details of the arrangement.

As there are many students who apply to the programme, we strive to select only the best for our Canadian hosts. Based on your preferred criteria, applicants will be pre-screened by CAPSI on your behalf. The top two or three candidate applications will be sent to you for review and final selection. The application materials will comprise of 1) application form, 2) Curriculum Vitae and 3) motivational letter. Ultimately, you decide whether you want to accept the SEP applicant or not.

We look forward to hearing from you about participating in this meaningful and exciting programme! Please do not hesitate to contact us for more information.

Yours sincerely,

Jenna Melanson  
Student Exchange Officer  
[seo@capsi.ca](mailto:seo@capsi.ca)