Overall, I feel that my four weeks summer exchange at Hanyang University in Seoul has given me something invaluable. I was able to see and immerse myself in the culture, society, lifestyle other than that of Singapore. Learning about how differently things are perceived, how things are done and taboos of another society truly opened up my mind greatly. Only by living in another society would one be able to truly understand the motivations and reasons as to why a society runs and functions in a certain manner or system. During my time at Hanyang University, I took the Korean Language as one of my modules. From the lesson, I learn that the Korean language had multiple forms, and two contrasting forms are the formal and informal forms. I was taught that we had to be cautious about the choice of words in Hangul, especially when conversing with my elders. Being able to differentiate between formal and informal forms of language is very important and could mean the complete difference between respect versus contempt. Aside from learning about the technicalities of the language, just from the use of language alone, one could infer that respect, seniority and mannerisms are very much scrutinised in Korea and the Korean Society. Moreover, through the interactions I had with locals over in Korea, this is something that I observed over and over again, and I was able to put the knowledge I learnt in class to practice in daily life during the exchange. Being able to learn about Korean language and society in class at Hanyang University, while experiencing it and putting knowledge to use in my daily life in Korea complimented each other perfectly. I believe this at Hanyang University gave me more insight into life and society in Korea than any books or Korea trips could provide, as well as the priceless knowledge that I could put to use in
the future, be it for future trips or interacting with Koreans locally in Singapore or abroad.

Moreover, the time I spent in Korea taught me an invaluable lesson about living independently away from home. In Singapore, I could seek assistance or aid easily from relatives, friends, governmental bodies, etc. However, such assistance was not readily available when I was in Korea, and I had to rely on myself and my roommates. Moreover, the language barrier meant seeking assistance from official bodies or even locals in Korea was much more difficult. Being able to shake off the reliance I had in Singapore and go it alone to solve problems I had during the trip allowed me to grow into a more confident and calm individual. I had to shake off the anxieties I had with regards to the problems surfacing during the trip, approach and resolve issues with confidence. Overall, being able to live away from home has given me the room and chance to grow as a more steadfast and sensible person.

The financial assistance I received help to alleviate some of the financial burdens and cost on the expenses incurred during my time in Korea. The trip was not a cheap one when it came to cost, and the NASA Enhancement Bursary helped to address the concern I had with regards to expenses. With the bursary, I was able to go for this summer programme with lesser worries and fully enjoy the experience. I would highly recommend Hanyang Interna-tional Summer School (HISS) to other NUS students. The HISS team had planned the programme very efficiently. Modules were planned and carried out smoothly, like the curriculum, although very packed, did not feel rushed. There was ample time for the lecturers and professors to introduce the module content, as well as revision or preparation for assignments and tests. Moreover, classes had students from all over the world, and it would be a good opportunity for Singaporean students to study with other foreign students. Personally, I was able to interact and learn together with students from USA, Oman, and many others. Through those interactions, I was able to learn much about their lifestyles and societies from their country of origin. However, the highlight of the programme was the field trips that the school had planned out for the programme. The trips were a rare opportunity to experience events and activities that would take a great amount of effort for one to plan for his/her trip. On top of that, one would be able to enjoy it with friends from all over the world and build lasting friendships around the globe. Personally, I felt the Boryeong Mud Festival was the highlight of my activities during the exchange. It was something new, foreign and fun all rolled into a convenient package by the school for us. The trips would remain a fond memory that I would carry with me and reminisce about from time to time.