

# SEP Report

## 1. Student Information

Faculty/Major	Business / Accountancy
Host University	Simon Fraser University
NUS Semester and Year of Exchange (eg. AY14/15 Semester 1)	AY16/17 Semester 2

## 2. Study at Host University

Please provide information on the academics at your host university:

- Studying or learning culture at your host university. How were classes conducted?
- What did you like most or dislike most about the academics at your host University?
- Advice on module registration and module mapping

In SFU, most of the classes are conducted in the same way as classes in NUS – with the lecture/tutorial and seminar (sectionals) system. However, perhaps the most noticeable difference is the timings, with one of my modules having a 4 hour lecture but no tutorial and 4 hour sectionals instead of the normal 3. The learning culture itself is much more relaxed, compared to the competition-driven NUS. Many of my friends have a very holistic experience, with them having part-time work or courses outside of university.

Canadians are often well-known for their hospitality and friendliness, and after studying in SFU for a few months, I can say for sure that is indeed the case. Most of my groupmates are extremely welcoming and cooperative, which made my group projects a very nice experience.

For module registration and module mapping, the instructions in the NUS faculty websites are extremely clear. Perhaps one advice is that for accountancy students, it is better to go to SFU in the second semester of their second year, as they would be able to map the core business modules instead of taking UEs. However, this does not apply for students that are doing (double) specializations.

Please list the courses that you took during SEP. (Please take note that the list of modules available to exchange students at the host university are subject to change. This table merely serves as reference.)

Host University			NUS Equivalent		
Module code	Course title	ECTS Credit	Module code	Course title	Modular credit
ECON105	Principles of Macroeconomics	4	BSP2001	Macro & Int'l Economics	4
BUS478	Strategy	3	BSP3001	Strategic Management	4
BUS303	Business Society and Ethics	3	MNO2007	Leadership and Ethics	4
BUS473	Operations Management	4	DSC2006	Operations Management	4
BUS315	Investments	4	FIN3102	Investmt Anlys & Portfolio Mgt	4

## 2. Accommodation

What kind of accommodation did you stay in during your exchange (eg. on campus / off campus)?

International Relations Office (IRO)

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**Would you recommend this accommodation to future outgoing students?**

**Do you have any other suggestions?**

During my SEP, I stayed in one of the townhouses of Simon Fraser University, up on Burnaby Mountain. I would definitely recommend this accommodation to future ongoing students due to several reasons.

Firstly, the location of my townhouse was reasonably near to my classes and the dining hall, which was very convenient. If I decided to stay below the mountain, the journey to the university could take around 45 to 90 minutes. Secondly, the townhouse itself was in a very good condition, and despite being rather pricey (CAD\$2,800 per semester) with a very large bedroom, comfortable washroom, a kitchen and a living room. My roommates were very delightful to be with as well (I stayed with a Canadian, and 2 exchange students from Spain and UK). Last but not least, other than staying in the townhouse, I also applied for the meal plan, which was an extremely good deal (a 7-day all you can eat and the dining hall is open for 24 hours for around CAD\$2,000).

## 3. Activities during SEP

**Were there any activities organized by school/student group/external organizations at your host university which you would like to recommend to other students?**

There were some activities organized by SFU that targeted exchange students. One particular activity that I participated in was the Snowshoe Tour in Mount Seymour for Chinese New Year. It was my first time going up a mountain (and a snowy one) to sightsee and listen to stories regarding the mountain itself from the tour guides. It was a great activity that allowed me to interact with other exchange students as well to talk about our experiences so far.

Other than that, while I did not join this, I would recommend other students to join the buddy programme for incoming exchange students to SFU. Through that, one can get to familiarize with Vancouver and SFU much more easily, while also having a friend to travel or do any other activities with.

## 4. Cost of Living

**Please provide an estimation of how much money you spent during your SEP?**

**Please list travel expenses separately.**

Around CAD\$8,000 in total

Airplane (\$2,000 round trip), townhouse (\$2,800), dining plan (\$2,000), transport fees (\$160), textbooks (\$100), personal use – outside food, travelling, tours (\$1,200)

## 5. Challenges

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**Did you face any challenging issues during your SEP stint? How did you overcome it/them?**

Perhaps one particular challenge for me was the weather. This year's winter was Vancouver's largest and longest cold snap in a few decades. I have never seen snow before and thus it was rather hard for me to acclimatize to it and it was very difficult for me at first to move around. I was also staying on top of Burnaby Mountain and the only road leading to SFU was sometimes blocked due to snowfall (or even blizzards) and it was rather troublesome if I need to travel down the mountain.

Another challenge was managing my budget and expenses. As I have never travelled to Canada before, I did not have any rough estimate of the expenses that I would have to pay (other than accommodation and flight expenses). Hence, I need to adapt my budget accordingly there.

## 6. Overall SEP Experience

**Please write one paragraph about your exchange experience and attach some photos that represent your exchange experience.**

Overall, my exchange experience was the highlight of my university life so far. It was well worth all the hassle before the trip, the cost incurred and other compromises made. Not only did I get to experience an education in a new and stimulating environment, I also got to learn about the culture there and obtain positive takeaways from their ways of life. Having never been to other countries outside South-East Asia, this experience is truly a major point in my life which I will cherish forever. I could not be more grateful for getting an opportunity to go on exchange, let alone to a country which turned out to steal my heart.

## 7. Suggestions for future outgoing students

**Please share any other suggestions for future outgoing students.**

Try to gauge the expenses that will be incurred, plan the travel itinerary carefully, choose an accommodation that is most convenient.