

SEP Report

1. Student Information

Faculty/Major	Architecture
Host University	University of Innsbruck
NUS Semester and Year of Exchange (eg. AY14/15 Semester 1)	AY14/15 Semester 1

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

The classes are conducted in different ways. Most of the lectures are conducted with a small group in a classroom. However, some compulsory courses will be conducted in lecture halls to accommodate the big group of students. For Architectural design course, we have Design Studio every Wednesday from 9am to 6pm. Students will have to present their findings and review the literature that was given by the professor.

What I like most is that I get to read up a lot of literature on Western Architecture, summarised and reviewed the readings, and wrote a book with my partner where we discuss about the future of architecture when technology has changed.

What I dislike is that for a particular class, the professor could be very late for class, or cancel the class unexpectedly. The professor will delayed the lecture for up to 2 hours with no prior information / notice given by the department. Sometimes, the lecture would be canceled without informing the students too.

I also had trouble registering for modules at Innsbruck. I reach Innsbruck at the end of September, a week after the registration of modules. When I told the International Relation Office's coordinator that the registration of module is over and she recommended that I approach the coordinator from the Architecture Department or email the professors personally. I sent out several emails to different professors and went to look for help from the Architecture Department too. I was hoping that the Architecture coordinator would be able to help me (pre-allocate some modules for me/at least recommend some modules), but her only advise was to look at the courses on the website and email the professors personally. Hence, module registering and module mapping was a struggle for me during the first few weeks in Innsbruck.

- ➔ If any students would like to come to University of Innsbruck of an exchange program, they should look through the module catalogue carefully. Most of the courses are taught in German; so make sure that the lesson will be conducted in English if they need modules in English.
- ➔ If the students are really interested in the particular course, they can email the professor and ask him/her if it's possible to conduct the lecture in English (most of the time this is not possible) or ask him/her if there is any lecture slides/notes that are in English so that you also learn something when the lecture is on.

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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
822152	Design Studio M2	12,5	AR4103	Architecture & Technology Design 1 [specialization module]	8
822112	Architectural Theory 2	2,5	UD5221	Theory & Elements of Urban Design	4
847160	Building Typologies M	2,5			
848150	Building Design M	2,5	AR5321	Advance Architectural Technology	4
847173	Topographies	2,5			

2. Accommodation

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

Would you recommend this accommodation to future outgoing students?

Do you have any other suggestions?

Students can access <http://housing.oead.at/en/accommodation/innsbruck-en> for accommodation.

There are several choices for the students to choose from. I chose Tirolderheim | Home4Student because this dormitory is just 10-mins walk away from The University of Innsbruck- Technik.

The location of accommodation depends on the student's major. For example:

1. For Architecture and Astro-physics students, it will be better if they stay in Tiorlerheim because it is nearer to the school
2. For Humanities and Science students, I would recommend Rossel in der Au | Home4Student because their lessons will be conducted in the main building of University of Innsbruck.

Students should check the location of their studies, whether at the main building or Technik School, when deciding where to stay.

Students may also choose their accommodation by comparing the prices in the website. 😊

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 are a lot of different activities happening in Innsbruck. They have a student group called ESN- Erasmus Student Network (which also includes International Students) that always plans activities for

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university students (especially pubs gathering at night). However, the participants have to pay for their own expenses.

I joined several activities organized by the ESN:

- A trip to the AlpenZoo (the only zoo in Innsbruck),
- To a pub once
- The International Dinner, where students from different countries brought home-cooked food and had a get-to-together!

The best activity is the International Dinner because you get to eat different kinds of food from different countries without cost! 😊

Besides the activities from ESN, my class had a trip to Venice for 3 days to attend the Venice Biennale. I am majoring in Architecture and my class project was related to the projects exhibited at the Venice Biennale. Although the trip is organized by the professors, but it is not a school activity and hence we had to pay for our own expenses. Although I was disappointed that the school did not take up the cost for this trip, the study trip is a fun and fulfilling one. I attended an exhibition that attracted different architects, artist, students, etc. from around the world and was able to look at different projects and themes from different countries. At the same time, I was travelling, so everything went well. 😊

4. Cost of Living

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

Please list travel expenses separately.

House:

Rent - 301Euro per month x 5 = 1,505Euro

Groceries- 100Euro per month x 5 = 500Euro

Bed sheets/ Pillows/ Blankets /utensils from IKEA = 50Euro

Transport:

Semester Ticket for Student = 127.50Euro

Food & Drink:

Take-out/Café = 175Euro

Misc.:

Books = 35Euro

Shopping = 70Euro

Printing notes/drawings = 30Euro

Travel:

Tickets-Accommodation-Food= 300Euros (Find cheap train tickets while travelling, it helps!)

Total = 2,793Euros ~ 2,800Euros

That's about it for my expenses. 😊

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5. Challenges

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

Beside the module registration, I did not face any challenging issues during my SEP. It was a fun, enjoyable and relaxing, a smooth and sailing journey.

6. Overall SEP Experience

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

SEP allows me to experience the different teaching methods in a different country. This experience allows me to appreciate the way NUS conducts lessons and the intensive workload every semester more. This way, I feel that I have learnt something. In University of Innsbruck, the workload is not as intensive as in NUS. But I learnt more about Western architecture and culture that I would not have been able to learn in Singapore.

SEP allows me to explore more of the outside world other than Singapore, and I got to meet more international friends. We get to share about our own countries, the environment we live in, the law and politics in our country, etc.

SEP allows me to travel to a lot of different countries and see a lot of amazing sights, scenery, and people. There are many kind Europeans who will give you a hand whenever you're in need, but there are also some people who are eyeing your valuables. After experiencing how unsafe other countries can get, I am thankful that Singapore is a safe country.

7. Suggestions for future outgoing students

Please share any other suggestions for future outgoing students.

Travel Tips:

-When you're in Innsbruck, do check OBB if they have any discount price for the train tickets if you will like to travel around. Normally, they will have a period of time where they sell discount tickets and you can get it at half of the normal price.