

SEP Report

1. Student Information

Faculty/Major	FASS/Sociology
Host University	Australia National University
NUS Semester and Year of Exchange (eg. AY14/15 Semester 1)	AY15/16 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

Classes were mainly conducted through lectures and tutorials, with certain modules providing hands on experiences during tutorials. For one of my modules there, Introduction to Archaeology, our weekly tutorials consisted of us applying knowledge learnt during lectures to tutorials, where we often had to identify different artifacts and specimens our tutors brought to class. Tutorial discussion can be very dynamic, as students often participated in the discussion. It was also very different from NUS, as students often addressed professors on a first name basis, which was a little shocking initially. Many of the classes also required students to be independent, as the professors sometimes made students source for their own required readings, either online or at the library.

I really like the huge variety of modules which was offered by my host University, in particular, modules on archaeology and anthropology, as there were limitations on these modules in NUS. I was really spoilt for choice when I had to pick 4 modules to enroll in at the start of the semester, as there were too many which I was interested in. Furthermore, there were few restrictions in taking such modules, which allowed me to take anything I wanted in ANU. I would advise future students to confirm their modules before the semester starts, as many of them were subject to changes (similar to what we experience in NUS).

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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
ARCH111	Archaeology Uncovered	6	Hy1000	Dummy Code	5
ANTH2005	Traditional Australian Indigenous cultures, societies and environment	6	Sc3000	Dummy Code	5
GEND2035	Gender in Cross Cultural Perspectives	6	Sc3000	Dummy Code	5
SOCY1002	Self and Society	6	Sc3000	Dummy Code	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?

During exchange, I stayed in Fenner Hall, which was a hall on campus. Even though it's supposedly on campus, it is actually outside of campus, but there were buses running to and from the hall and campus during the semester. It was a really homely accommodation, as people were really friendly there. Food was self-catered, but there were weekly bread night for us to get free bread on Wednesdays, and there were often free food events (or desserts). Yes I will recommend this accommodation to future outgoing students, as the student community is really strong there, which made it easier to assimilate to Australian student life. I had a really active Senior Resident (SR) on my floor, who tried his best to involve everyone on our floor, and even though I was an exchange student, I did not feel unwelcome there. Furthermore, this hall is pretty near the city centre (20 mins walk), and also near Lonsdale/Mort Streets, which were where the hipster cafes and shoppes are. However, as the hall is located in an unsavoury neighbourhood, this made it a little inconvenient when we had to go out while it was dark. We also had to keep in mind the bus schedules (which often stopped early on Sundays), if not we had to walk back.

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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?

The hall I stayed in had many activities, and one of the activities I was involved in was the Fenner Hall Musical, and we produced Grease the musical. I was one of the musicians involved (I played the piano) and it was really fun to have done some music making while I was in Australia. It was also really interesting to talk to others about our different experiences, whether in music or daily lives, and I felt that really allowed me to understand Australian student lives better.

We also had many activities for international students, which were organized by the global programmes department in ANU. At the start of the semester, there was a Nature Day event, where we hiked at Tintidbilla Nature Reserve, and made friends who were also on exchange. This was a really good event to attend, as it allowed us to explore the nature aspect of Australia while making new friends.

There were also often free food events organized by the University, and one common event was Free Lunch on Thursdays, where barbequed hot dogs were often given out. For students who want to save on lunch that day, this is a common way of getting a free meal every week.

4. Cost of Living

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

Please list travel expenses separately.

Rent: \$4025
Living expenses: \$3150

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5. Challenges

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

My SEP stint was pretty smooth sailing, though there were certain bumps at times. One thing I had to get used to was how friendly people were in general, as many of them often strike up a conversation at any point in time, and this was very different from how we are in Singapore. It was also a little weird to hear friends starting the conversations with “Hey, how’s it going?” as I was initially unsure how to reply. After spending some time observing how others responded, I finally realized that it didn’t take much to reply, a simple “fine, thank you” will suffice (especially for acquaintances).

6. Overall SEP Experience

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

I had a really fulfilling and interesting exchange experience last semester, and I’m really grateful to my parents for providing me with such a wonderful experience. I embarked on this journey, unsure of what I was heading towards, as I wanted to keep an open mind to the entire experience. Living independently was a little unnerving initially, as I had lived at home for the past 21 years. However, it was really interesting to plan my daily meals, and to google recipes which interest me, which I had no opportunities to cook in Singapore. It was also really nice to have a room of my own, where I could decorate and personalize in the way I liked. I also made many friends from all around the world, and understood more about different cultures and societies. Even though ANU was not my first choice for exchange, I believe that the time I’ve spent there was first class and absolutely memorable!

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7. Suggestions for future outgoing students

Please share any other suggestions for future outgoing students.

Having fellow Singaporean friends are helpful while on exchange, and it also act as a bridge to home when you converse in Singlish, but it is important to branch out and interact with other people.