

SEP Report

1. Student Information

Faculty/Major	Arts and Social Sciences/Communications
Host University	University of New South Wales
NUS Semester and Year of Exchange (eg. AY14/15 Semester 1)	AY15/16 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

Classes are generally conducted in a similar fashion as that of NUS. There is one lecture and tutorial for each module. For the lessons that I attended, the tutors encouraged active discussions among the students and are willing to listen and add on to the opinions of the students. Such a method of teaching probably works better here than NUS since Australians generally are willing to speak up more and share their opinions.

For two of the modules that I took, there is a need for me to share my opinions and lead the discussion for my classmates in a particular week. Such a method is quite effective as the teachers will add on to my opinions and proceed to ask the rest of my classmates what they thought. As I will have to constantly reflect on the topics of that particular week during the discussion, I felt that I definitely learnt and understand more about the topic.

In addition, many of the teachers are very casual and friendly towards the students. They will joke around with us and I did not really feel a sense of hierarchy at all in the classroom. There are times where the teacher will bring us outside to the lawn to conduct their lessons instead of a typical classroom setting. I thought that was quite cool as you hardly see this in NUS.

One thing I dislike however is that the workload for the level one modules I took is actually heavier than the ones I took in NUS. There is a need to pass up an essay outline before the actual essay, which is unusual in Singapore. There are also many quizzes and tests for the level 1 modules that I took.

There was once a person-in-charge (from the FASS exchange programme) that advised me to pick modules (based on two graduation requirements) on a 3:1 ratio for Australian universities. In UNSW, we are only allowed to study 4 modules that are worth 6 credits each. Hence, with a 3:1 ratio of modules (eg 3 UEs and 1 major mod), the credits transfer in NUS will be similar to that of 16 MCs of UEs and 4 MCs of your major.

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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
ARTS1360	Philosophy, Morality and Society	6	PL1XXX	(Dummy code)	4
ARTS1900	Gendered Worlds	6	SC2XXX	(Dummy code)	4
ARTS3093	Media Power	6	NM3XXX	(Dummy code)	4
CRIM1010	Criminology: An Introduction	6	SC2741	(Dummy code)	4

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?

I stayed in an off-campus accommodation (BE Apartments) as I was not selected for on-campus accommodation. However, I would probably not recommend this particular accommodation for future students. The current rent is too high and I personally feel it is more worth it and convenient to stay on campus (unless you are sharing an apartment with a group of friends - it is probably more worth it that way)

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?

1) Activities organised by the MOB, a club in UNSW that organised activities for exchange students at a cheaper price compared to activities organised by the school. I went on a trip with the Mob to Blue Mountains and Hunter Valley. They are both at a reasonable price. I think it is very worth it for the trip to Hunter Valley as Hunter Valley is not easily accessible except by car and the trip includes wine tasting in two wineries as well. In addition, students that participated in activities by the Mob are

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usually students on exchange as well. Hence, it is a great way to meet more people and make new friends.

2) Activities in the Roundhouse. The Roundhouse in UNSW is a place where you can drink and chill with your friends. There are many activities organised at the Roundhouse (usually every two weeks or special occasions?). I attended their apple cider festival, halloween event, movie night and roller skating event. They were all extremely fun with a bunch of friends.

3) Various clubs and their own internal activities. UNSW has many MANY clubs and societies, even more so than NUS. So be sure to join some of their activities and make more friends. Oh, and many of the clubs and societies offer free food so as to lure students into participating their activities. I attended many events just so to get free pizza in the end (ho ho ho)

4. Cost of Living

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

Please list travel expenses separately.

Perhaps 10k including everything

Perhaps 2k-3k for travelling expenses

5. Challenges

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

I got quite homesick 2 weeks after staying in Sydney. Being the only one in NUS staying in my apartment (while the rest of my friends stayed in school), there are times where I feel lonely and got a case of FOMO (Fear of Missing Out). Thankfully, loneliness went away when I surrounded myself with my friends and my friends also included me in some of their activities. I definitely learnt and appreciate being alone during my SEP stint.

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6. Overall SEP Experience

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

Exchange experience was fun and I definitely did not regret it! I tried much new stuff (such as surfing and paddleboarding) and get to have new experiences that is not possible in Singapore (?) (such as roadtrips to out of Sydney). I made a lot of new friends, whether they are locals or international friends and learnt alot about their different cultures. I definitely put myself out there and became more open and enthusiatic in meeting new people. The school environment in UNSW is also definitely a refreshing change to NUS- canteens are less crowded and students there have more activities and free food. This is perhaps something that NUS can work on. Lastly, I got to travel a lot as well to other parts in Australia such as Melbourne, Gold Coast and Tasmania. I really enjoyed myself and I felt that I definitely grew as a person.

7. Suggestions for future outgoing students

Please share any other suggestions for future outgoing students.

Don't be afraid to try new things and appreciate the beaches at Sydney more! They are beautiful.