

SEP Report

1. Student Information

Faculty/Major	FASS/ Economics
Host University	University of Antwerp
NUS Semester and Year of Exchange (eg. AY14/15 Semester 1)	AY14/15 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

As the classes that I took at UA were mostly Master's level classes, they were all conducted in a seminar format with small class sizes of a maximum of 20 people in each class. Just as one would expect from a seminar, classes were engaging with the professor actively trying to promote discussion by quizzing us during the class.

Even though it is common for us in NUS to have class presentation, what was different in one of my classes at UA was that after the presentation, the presentors will then proceed to lead a debate/discussion on the paper that was presented and I thought that was refreshing and it really passed the onus to the students to be active and engaged in class to benefit the most.

What I like and dislike

I like the engagement we had in class as the class size was small. The workload was also really manageable and that leaves me with time to be immersed in other activities in the university and the country.

There were hardly anything to dislike about the academics at UA except that it may take some time to contact the academic office as I generally get the sensing that official office hours are pretty short.

Advice on module registration and module mapping

University of Antwerp has a very systematic and comprehensive online platform that helps exchange students on their module mapping and exchange administrations and so there is nothing to worry about except to follow their instructions and do your own research on the module.

Module mapping was straight forward as well. The main hurdle is to clear your own faculty with regards to the module you can take and from then on, module mapping at University of Antwerp is pretty straight forward.

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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
2106TE WECP	Health Economics	6	EC3353	Health Economics I	4
2108TE WECP	Monetary Economics	6	EC3332	Money and Banking I	4
2109TE WECP	Public Finance	6	EC3351	Public Finance	4
1304TE WSBX	Current Issues in Economic Policy	6	EC3000 dummy		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 on campus, at the official University of Antwerp's student hostel at Koningstraat 8.

I would highly recommend that you try to request for the official university residence if given a choice. However it can be really hard to get it as they only allocate a floor in the 9 storey building for exchange students. If you didn't get the student residence, you will most probably be allocated a room from one of the many privately owned student hostel in the University's vicinity. You do not have to worry about the administration of getting an accommodation as they are all handled together as part of your application. Private residences are not that bad but just that the landlords are not as quick to respond as the university's residence staff.

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?

In terms of University vibrancy, I personally believe that NUS is more vibrant. Especially since I stayed in Tembusu College in NUS, the amount of activities they have at University of Antwerp really pales in comparison to NUS.

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However they do have a group called ERAMUS, a student group for exchange students. They often organize very fun activities such as CANTUS, a Belgian traditional drinking event which was really fun and cultural. They also organize plenty of weekend trips to vicinity countries for all exchange students so activities organized by ERAMUS are a pretty good way to network and know more people from all over the world.

4. Cost of Living

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

Please list travel expenses separately.

I spent a total of close to SGD15,000 for my entire SEP. This is inclusive of accomdation, flights and travelling expenses.

An estimation of purely living expenses in Antwerp could be around SGD4000. Accomodation cost around SGD3000 and the rest was spent on travelling.

5. Challenges

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

The most important thing is to be flexible and adaptable. I did not encounter any major challenges but I would advice you to be vigilant as there really isn't a country that is as safe as Singapore. Be flexible and adapt to changes that you would have to make. Europe is not as administratively efficient as Singapore and so you really have to plan ahead and don't be afraid to change plans according to the situation.

6. Overall SEP Experience

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

Overseas exchange has been such an eye opening experience. Immersing yourself in another country's culture and all its little quirks, letting yourself be vulnerable by traveling alone and gorging yourself with the different culinary flavours from abroad really is the best way for self discovery and to educate yourself with the intricacies of the different cities. I would encourage all to be open, flexible and to really enjoy yourself during SEP! You will love it!

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7. Suggestions for future outgoing students

Please share any other suggestions for future outgoing students.

Keep an open mind, take care of yourself and the people around you and have fun!