

# SEP Report

## 1. Student Information

Faculty/Major	Engineering / Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
Host University	ETH Zurich
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

At ETH Zurich, my class sizes were small, never exceeding 60 students in each class. There was personal contact between each student and the professor. This made learning much easier as it was easier to approach the professors, who were very eager to aid in our learning.

At ETH Zurich, my examinations were mostly oral examinations. I find that this was very beneficial as the examinations tested my grasp of the concept more as compared to written examinations. While this meant that the examinations were tougher, I had to study harder and as a result, learnt much more from the module.

Furthermore, there was no expenses spared in ensuring that we had access to the required study materials and resources needed to understand the topics. This was a huge advantage that I felt an education at ETH Zurich provided. Also, there was heavy integration of updated, recent or even ongoing research disciplines into the daily lectures. The professors opened up their research labs for us to visit and ask questions. This integration of higher research into daily lectures made engineering much more appealing and interesting to study. It made appreciation of the theory taught in class much easier.

As for the modules at ETH Zurich, I would advise juniors to map their technical electives. The masters courses available for study are much broader and wider as compared to those in NUS. The widened disciplines make it easier to appreciate global engineering issues and to learn from the very best in their respective fields.

For Chemical Engineering juniors specifically, I would not recommend the mapping over of CN3121 or CN3421 to ETH Zurich. For CN3121, the lectures are delivered in German, which meant that without a strong grasp of the language, following the lecture would be near impossible. As for CN3421 equivalent, while it is taught by a brilliant professor, the module requires the student to have a very good grasp of fundamental mathematical principles that MA1505 and MA1506 did not cover.

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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
151-0926-00L	Separation Process Technology I	4	CN3132	Separation Processes	4
151-0940-00L	Modelling and Mathematical Methods in Process and Chemical Engineering	4	CN3421	Process Modelling and Numerical Simulation	4
151-2017-00L	Nuclear Fuels and Materials	4	CN4XXX	Dummy TE	4
151-0928-00L	Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage and the Industry of Carbon based Resources	4	CN4XXX	Dummy TE	4
151-0156-00L	Safety of Nuclear Power Plants	4	CN4XXX	Dummy TE	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?**

All ETH Zurich students will have to apply for housing through the WOKO portal. As the University is right in the heart of the Zurich old town, housing is off-campus. The WOKO housing are scattered all around Zurich and travel time could take anywhere from 10 to 30 minutes.

The WOKO housing provided is good and is the cheapest option of living in Zurich for 6 months. There are all the basic amenities. Furthermore, the housing is meant mostly for international students, so it is easy to make friends.

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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?**

For ETH Zurich, there are multiple student organisations that have activities regularly such as ESN and VSETH. However, as I made friends readily at my hostel, I spent most of my free time with them instead. I would recommend exploiting the numerous sports options provided to ETH students for free.

Also, for students going in semester 2, during the summer months i.e. from June onwards, there are multiple summer festivals going on all around Zurich and Switzerland. Travelling during those months to attend those festivals is highly recommended.

## 4. Cost of Living

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

**Please list travel expenses separately.**

Total Expenditure: SGD\$21200

Total Expenditure (excluding travel): SGD\$11500

## 5. Challenges

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

For Switzerland, there can be a slightly larger number of paperwork that had to be done before I was fully settled down. However, the student exchange office was very helpful and while tedious, it was relatively stress-free.

## 6. Overall SEP Experience

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

During my exchange, I learnt a lot about myself and rediscovered my passion for engineering. I credit the latter discovery to the wonderful professors and learning environment over at ETH. I managed to learn more about myself when I was jerked out of my comfort zone. Without the support network I have in Singapore, I was forced to confront the many responsibilities that were previously dealt with by my

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parents. Furthermore, travelling around and meeting new people allowed me to broaden my horizons. Seeing how Europe reacted to the ISIS threat, the financial crisis and their outlook on life allowed me to question some of my pre-conceived notions and that allowed me to grow and gain so much more from this exchange than just photos and souvenirs.

## 7. Suggestions for future outgoing students

Please share any other suggestions for future outgoing students.

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