

SEP Report

1. Student Information

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Faculty/Major | Fass/Chinese Studies |
| Host University | Nanjing 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

I took a total of seven modules in Nanjing University. The classes conducted in Nanjing University were slightly different from NUS. In Nanjing University, there were only lectures and had no tutorials. Similarly, their lectures also range from two to three hours. Class participation in Nanjing University were also very minimal. During lectures, professors seldom took the initiative to ask the class questions and the local students were also often seen keeping quiet when questions were asked by their professor.

Other than that, the modules offered by my host university were mainly classical Chinese literature. Being a fan of Chinese literatures, I really enjoyed the modules I took in Nanjing University. The modules offered in the host university by the Chinese department were widely range. Hence, through going for exchange in Nanjing University, I really get to gain a lot of knowledge as some of the modules I took were not offered in my home university and department.

Module registration in my host university was quite a tough job. Unlike other universities, module registration for exchange students in Nanjing University were not computerized. Exchange students in Nanjing University were not allowed to log in to the school portal to register for the modules they were interested in. We were instead given module registration forms to register for the modules we would like to take. Other than that, we were also required to look for each of the professor that were teaching the modules we were intending to take to sign the module registration form. Hence, module registration in Nanjing University can be quite a hassle for the exchange students.

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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 |
| 91020010 | 明清中国社会 | 2 | CH3882 | Topics in Chinese History I | 4 |
| - | 鲁迅研究 | 2 | CH2246 | Lu Xun and Modern China | 4 |
| 021109201 | 晚明至晚清的中国城市 | 2 | CH3000 | *Dummy code | 4 |
| - | 中国戏剧史（下） | 3 | CH3222 | Chinese Drama | 4 |
| - | 汉语音韵学 | 2 | CL3208 | Chinese Phonology | 4 |
| - | 现代汉语（下） | 2 | CL3210 | The Grammars and Lexicons of the Chinese Dialect | 4 |
| - | 语法学专题 | 2 | CL2103 | Chinese Grammar | 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 lived on campus during my exchange in Nanjing University. Even though I need to walk at least twenty minutes from my campus to class daily, I would still recommend outgoing students to stay on campus. I lived with another foreign students during my course of exchange. The reason why I would encourage outgoing students to Nanjing University to stay on campus was because the accommodation fees is definitely more affordable and cheaper compared to living off campus. Other than that, there were also quite a lot of facilities in the school which were catered for students living in school. Canteen and mart were built near every dorm in Nanjing University, which thus provide convenient for the students living on campus.

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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?

In Nanjing University, the 蓝鲸户外 is a student group, who will organize trips to other parts of China during weekends and holidays. Students who are interested may sign up for their trips through WeChat. During my exchange in Nanjing University, I have once participated in one of their trip to Zhejiang and Anhui regions. The main purpose of the 蓝鲸户外 student group was to bring students to non mainstream places in China, whereby it may be difficult for people to navigate alone in those places. Hence, I would recommend outgoing students to participate and join for their trip if they would like to explore the rural and non-commercialised parts of China. However, they must be prepared of the long travel journey as such places are often located at the urban fringe of the region.

4. Cost of Living

**Please provide an estimation of how much money you spent during your SEP?
Please list travel expenses separately.**

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As Nanjing's standard of living is relatively lower than Singapore, I did not spend a lot during my exchange if travel expenses were being excluded. I spent an estimation of 3500SGD (excluding travel expenses), which includes my accommodation fees, air ticket fees and basic necessities expenses.

As for my travel expenses, I spent an estimation of 2500SGD. During holidays and certain weekends, my friends and I would organize a short trip to places which are located near Nanjing. However, sometimes we do travel to places which are far from Nanjing, such as Inner Mongolia.

5. Challenges

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

During my exchange in Nanjing University, I have definitely experienced challenges due to their inefficient and unfair system towards exchange students. As mentioned previously, being an exchange student in Nanjing University, we were forbidden to log in to the school portal for module registration. Module registration has to be done manually. Other than that, as I am unable to log in to the school portal, I was also deprived of using the school's wifi, and were also not able to check my exam timing and venue online. Moreover, I was also not allowed to borrow books from the school library unless a certain amount of deposit was paid to the school. Having faced such difficult situations, the staffs in Nanjing University did not offer a helping hand to us, and instead hold a passive attitude. When contacted the staffs in school with regards to us being deprived of using the school wifi in all school compounds, most of them hold a cold attitude, and insist that we could use our handphone data plan to go online. However, given the limited data plan we have, we were not able to log in to the internet. Having experienced such unpleasant stuffs in Nanjing University, we were glad that we met good friends and classmates during our course of exchange, which help us to overcome the problem. They were generous and helpful enough to allow us to log in to their school portal so as to enable us to use the school wifi. Our classmate in NJU also took the initiative to inform us about the exam timing and schedule. Hence, I am indeed grateful to have met such kind and good locals and foreign students in Nanjing University, which help my friend and I to overcome our problems.

6. Overall SEP Experience

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

Other than gaining knowledge from the modules I have chosen in Nanjing University, I have also get to learn more about the Chinese culture during my exchange. Through interacting with the locals in China, I get to have a deeper understanding about their tradition and lifestyle. Not only that, I have also get to make many new friends from Taiwan and Hong Kong, which thus help to expand my social circle. Moreover, during my exchange in Nanjing University, it not only allow me to gain knowledge, but has also enable me to mature as a young adult. Being in a foreign country alone, I was required to be independent. Therefore, my exchange to Nanjing not only allow me to improve on my personal development, but also enable me to step out of my comfort zone.

7. Suggestions for future outgoing students

Please share any other suggestions for future outgoing students.

- Go on exchange with an open heart.
- Be prepared to step out of your comfort zone.