

SEP Report

1. Student Information

Faculty/Major	FoE
Host University	Shanghai Jiao Tong University
NUS Semester and Year of Exchange (eg. AY12/13 Semester 1)	AY 12/13 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

1. Instead of mass lectures as conducted at NUS, classes are divided based on the preference of the conducting professors and available class slots. Students get to choose their professors for the various classes they are interested in. All classes of the same module are conducted at the similar time slots, similar to the examination dates. The only difference is that the classes are taught by more than one professor, in adjacent venues.
2. Lessons can be conducted in Mandarin instead of the specified language of teaching. This occurs if the majority of the class turnout is locals or if the class is scheduled for video broadcast. (I.E Webcast) However, negotiations with the professors can be made for examinations to be taken in English. The professors are very accommodating, which in most cases, they will provide question papers in translation. Some modules may be conducted in Mandarin, but the answering is to be done in English.
3. The professors understand that it can be difficult at times for exchange students to keep up with the classes at times as it is a whole new environment, needless to speak of the new education system. They will pay more attention and even offer advices on the materials and concept to be covered in the various courses of study. One can easily approach the professors after lessons for short consultations or even schedule a time slot to visit them in their offices.
4. Exchange students are basically doing the minimal study at the host university. The average NUS student will be covering 5 modules which is about 13-15 MCs depending on the lecture hours involved. Locals on the other hand are covering up to 33MCs per semester. This is almost the juggling of 11 modules a semester.
5. It should be noted that certain lessons, could be scheduled for lessons on weekends. Make up lessons are commonly held on weekends in the event of holidays. Students are expected to read the notice boards in their hostels or inquire about the make up classes from peers.
6. Module mapping should be roughly done prior to departure to the host university. There is a list of previously successfully mapped modules available on the NUS Faculty website. Map modules in excess, just in case modules that one is interested are not available for the semester of study in the host university.

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7. Upon arrival in the host university, it is crucial to pay the host university IRO a visit to inform of one's arrival and acquire instructions for module registration related stuff.
8. There will be handlers available to assist in the verification of the availability of modules that are intended for study in the host university. However, it is important that one does research on the module prior to this meeting with the handler. The handlers will converse in mandarin to inform one on the professors teaching the modules and class slots.
9. Similar to NUS, lessons can be dropped within the first 2 weeks of school. The only difference is that one does not need to be registered for the class to attend, one can attend to learn more about the module prior to selection. (Applicable only to exchange students) The first 2 weeks will be rough coverage of the module and not into detail, this is for the students to decide if the module fits their choice of study.
10. The registration of modules is to be done online at the university website. Similar to CORs. However, one will be required to "appeal" for the module as the class slots are most probably full as local students have already selected the classes one to two semesters in advance. Special exceptions will be granted to exchange, masters and graduating students. This appeal is to be performed individually to ensure the assignment of modular credits upon completion of the module.
11. It is to be noted that it is a norm that one will be referred to different personnel to get the registration completed. Therefore, it is crucial to grasp the gist of the process and complete it instead of grumbling over the trouble involved. One can check back on the status of the appeal on the 3rd or 4th week of school. Attendance taken in classes will also affirm one's registration in the class.
12. Class attendance can form a percentage in the final scoring in a module as impromptu quizzes can be conducted in lessons. Students are expected to fill their answers and submit before leaving the class. This acts as a form of attendance and also, a learning practice in the school education system.

Please list the courses that you took during SEP.

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Host University			NUS Equivalent		
Module code	Course title	ECTS Credit	Module code	Course title	Modular credit
PO407	Finite Element Analysis	3	ME4291	Finite Element Analysis	4
ME204	Heat Transfer	3	ME3122	Heat Transfer	4
EM357	Mechanical Vibration	3	ME4213	Vibration Theory and Applications	4
IO203	Production Planning and Control Process	3	MEXXXX	Dummy Technical Elective	4
ME011	Robot Design and Production	3	ME3102	Mechanical System Design 2	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 received a university level exchange status, thus allocated an accommodation within the compounds of the university. Accommodation was basically a hostel designed for all foreign exchange students. The accommodation consists of a shelf, study table, television, wardrobe, private toilet with heater and air-conditioning. Laundry washing facilities are available on the ground level. There is also availability of a kitchen for students' usage.

The accommodation has a level of security as there are handlers who will recognize one as a resident. Unknown personnels will be questioned upon entry into the building. Also, one will carry a student card which carries a scanning protection into the hostel. There is also a study lounge at the ground level. For discussions or casual meetings, there is a café on the ground level too. Food and drinks can be purchased up till dinner time.

This accommodation is highly recommended for exchange students. The quality of the rooms is much better as compared to the locals. In these rooms, one will be sharing the space with another roommate. One can purchase the difference to acquire the room as a single. However, for the locals, the common space is much smaller and 4 people are living in a single room with no common washrooms and facilities. Therefore, the accommodation for foreign students is considerably much better, or the best in the entire school compounds.

If one intends to stay off campus, it is advised to share the apartment with students who are currently studying in the school. Prices can vary and caution should be taken prior to the signing of any contracts. Students should also look into the available facilities such as water heaters as China is a country of four seasons. Heaters are extremely important during winter.

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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?

There will be a school trip organized for foreign exchange students. It could be a visit to any of the attractions in Shanghai. Buses will be indented for the transportation of about 120 students. Accomodation, food, ticketing will be covered in the cost price for the visit. This visit is heavily subsidized by the school. Students are encouraged to participate in it as it is a bonding for all the students as most probably everyone around your living quarters will be there. Registration is required for the trip and should be done as soon as possible when information or notices of it is placed on the notice boards in the accommodation.

Instead of just relying on school organized trips, one can actually befriend other foreign exchange students and build close relationships. During the holidays, students can explore areas with foreigners, assist with language barriers that many other students face.

Also, there is the presence of a traveling group set up by the student body. Interested individuals can attend their recruitment talks on campus. Regular trips are organized by the students to explore the country. However, these trips could be slightly costly as their accommodations are often based on hotels.

Sporting activities can be conducted in the campus too. There are various facilities accommodating sports such as football, table tennis, basketball, bowling, board games and many more. Similar to any other educational institutions, the host university envelopes sports as a de-stress avenue.

4. Cost of Living

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

Daily food expense estimation – 50RMB/SGD\$10 (within campus)
Weekly travel expense estimation – 20RMB/SGD\$4 (metro and bus)
Weekly entertainment expense estimation – 150RMB/SGD\$30 (out of campus)

Prices are subjective and average throughout the entire SEP
The following are my individual expenses:

1. Total Food/ Travel / Entertainment expenses – SGD\$2000 (21 Feb – 30 Jun)
2. Total Food/ Travel / Entertainment expenses – SGD\$2000 (1 Jul – 5 Aug)

The first portion is an estimation of short travels in between holidays and daily food expenses within campus. Accommodation was free during my exchange.

The second portion is an estimation for a 45 day travel around China, inclusive of all travels, accommodation, food, ticketing.

5. Challenges

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

The most common issue faced is the managing of relationships. One will make friends with people from various continents and countries. It is crucial to be adaptive and understanding of each and everyone's culture. One may not be fully accommodating to certain practices but should at least have the tolerance for one another to live in harmony. It is important to blend in and be humble.

Surprisingly, the issues I encountered were with a fellow Singaporean, NUS student.

Also, we should be prepared for unexpected. While on exchange, SARs outbreak arose in China. The first fatal victim was within 3km from the campus. Caution was taken on the consumption aspect. Shortly, there were news on the various foods being affected by local dishonesty issues. Beef, Pork, chicken and mutton were to be cautioned for consumption whereas fish in the area were filled with countless bones. So one basically had to be aware of the quality of food preparation and handle the situation without a panic attack.

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.

An exchange experience as a student is a one in a lifetime experience. I got to meet people from all over the world and managed to learn different cultures and languages within my short exchange. I had the opportunity to explore a country which was rich in history and nature avenues. It was truly an enriching experience. I was also exposed to a whole new educational system which placed my adaptability skills to the test. My soft skills were greatly stretched while working with people from different backgrounds, and I surely did make loads of friends internationally. I believe that this is an experience which will never fail to bring smiles and memories for anyone who has lived it.

7. Suggestions for future outgoing students

Please share any other suggestions for future outgoing students.

- Be ready to step out your comfort zone
- Let loose, lower your pride and be friendly
- Never be too early to judge another individual, you never know what surprises await
- Do your homework, research on your places of interest prior to visiting
- Do study for your exams and make an effort to socialize with both your classmates and your professors
- Professors are extremely friendly with exchange students, they are also interested to learn about our educational systems
- Never panic when things don't go according to plan, improvise, be flexible
- Make friends, not enemies
- Engage in as many activities as possible (dining with friends can be considered as one), you will never have another opportunity like this again after you finish your education
- Make positive memories of your exchange, you decide/determine the experience

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8. Report Submission

Please submit your report (including photos*) at <https://share.nus.edu.sg/goabroad/Lists/SEPReport/AllItems.aspx>. Please note that you can only upload one document. As such, please zip your report and photos into one file and name the file in this format 'Host University_Full Name_Matric No' (eg. Waseda University_Tan Mei Ling_A1234567B).

*Photo submission:

- 1 image of you with host university landmarks in the background
- 2 images of you with your exchange friends or local students
- Submit the photos in JPEG format. Good quality photos between 2MB and 5MB are preferred.
- Please name all photos in this format 'Host University_Full Name_Matric No_Caption' (eg. Waseda University_Tan Mei Ling_A1234567B_Visit to Mt Fuji with exchange friends).

Kindly note that we may share your report on the NUS/IRO website and relevant information at SEP information sessions and/or in publicity collaterals.