

SEP Report

1. Student Information

Faculty/Major	Engineering/Biomedical Engineering
Host University	Zhejiang 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

If the learning material of a module is in Chinese, they call it Chinese module; whereas the material which is in English but the lecturer taught in Chinese, the module will be under “Double language module” (双语课程 shuang yu ke cheng). There is another type of module is called “Completely foreign language module” (全外语课程 quan wai yu ke cheng), which is fully conducted in English and through my roommate experience, normally this kind of module is about general knowledge or language module.

For my major, all the modules I had taken there were like technical modules, and all the lecturers taught in Chinese no matter the learning materials were in Chinese or English. Hence, I feel it is very useful and quite important to have basic Chinese knowledge in terms of speaking, listening, reading and writing. My mother tongue is Chinese and since young I had been studying Chinese until graduated from high school. So I was very grateful that I can understand what the lecturers were teaching, even though when I was in doubt, I can communicate with the lecturers and my classmates smoothly. So knowing Chinese can add credits. Besides, through my own experience, my lecturers, tutor assistants and classmates treated me nicely and were willing to help or explain things to me when I was in doubt. However, I cannot guarantee that for every module there as I heard some different stories from others.

About the module registration (选课 xuan ke), exchange student can only register modules in the last round because the system needs your matric no. which will only be given to you after you reach the school and complete student registration. By the time, it is the final round and you need to rush to register the module you want because it is on first come first serve basis and you will not be able to get the module by the round if the quota is full. There is still a round to appeal for modules (补选 bu xuan), and I heard usually the appeal will be approved for exchange student (indicate you are exchange student in your appeal reason), but it will be your first week of school which your lesson might start already, so still the best is to get them during the registration round. Also, exchange student can only retrieve module information from the same system as module registration after gotten the matric no. So be clear about the module you want to map and quickly search for the possible equivalent module, quickly send your generic mapping form to NUS to get approval. You will have only 3 days to finish all these include module registration, and another one day to appeal for your desired module.

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
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Module code	Course title	ECTS Credit	Module code	Course title	Modular credit
15120450	Biomedical Sensors and Measurement	3	BN3401	Biomedical Electronics and Systems	4
13120620	Biosystem Transmission Process	3	BN3501	Equilibrium and Kinetic Bioprocesses	4
18122880	Informatics & Statistics in Biomedical Engineering	2.5	BN4109	Special Topics in Bioengineering	4
15120593	The Principles and Application of Magnetic Resonance Imaging	3	BN5207	Medical Imaging System	4
13192220	Computer Image Processing and machine vision	2	EE3206	Introduction of Computer Vision and Image Processing	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 on campus accommodation and they do not have single room. The room and the facilities in the room are appealing. The room is spatial and the bed is very wide and comfortable. The room also includes air-conditioner (it can be heater during winter), wardrobe, many cabinets (our room got 8), study desk, toilet (and bathroom). I highly recommend this accommodation because it is so nice and much much cheaper if compare to NUS accommodation fee. Take note that the water bill is monthly bill, and need to topup electricity once it runs out.

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 are cca booths during week 1 to recruit new members. There are various kinds like baking, planting (small plants that can be a decoration in your room), design, nature-related, movie, dance and etc.

I did not join movie organization, but the event they organized is so cool! Sometimes they will give out free movie ticket. And throughout the semester, every week will play a hot movie that is new released for 2-3 weeks, the movie ticket in school is a lot cheaper than outside and the theater in school is nice too. I highly recommend student to follow this organization.

There is an international student group too. They organized sports event like badminton, table tennis competition and Chinese quiz competition and so on. I saw these from poster and sadly I did not join but I guess it will be interesting and fulfilling and healthy.

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4. Cost of Living

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

Please list travel expenses separately.

During SEP, I spent around 4000 SGD.

The living expenses in school is not costly because the food price in school canteen is subsidized by government. You can have a healthy nice meal for 5 RMB in canteen which is about 1 SGD.

The costly part will be travelling. Remember to always bring your passport and student identification (学生证 xue sheng zheng), it looks like a smaller and thinner passport (do not mess up with campus card (校园卡 xiao yuan ka)), so that you can have discount for tourist spot entrance fee (usually is half price).

The most expensive trip I went is 5-day Beijing trip. I went to Forbidden City, The Great Wall, Old Summer Palace, Prince Gong Mansion, Temple of Heaven, Houhai. The total cost of the trip is around 200 SGD (1000 RMB).

2-day Nanjing trip I went to Ming Xiaoling Mausoleum, Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum, Nanjing Fuzimiao. Total cost is around 60 SGD (300 RMB).

4-day Guilin trip I spent around 150 SGD (750 RMB).

5. Challenges

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

In Zhejiang University, the school bus is unlike NUS school shuttle bus that comes once after 6-min interval. The school bus is campus to campus school bus. Take me as example, I stayed in Zijingang campus but I had lessons in Yuquan campus, then I would need to take the school bus to go Yuquan campus. However there is no school bus shuttle around campus, so if I have lesson in Zijingang campus, the best solution is to cycle. Almost everyone cycles or ride scooter in campus. I knew how to cycle but the challenge was I did not know how to cycle with one hand because sometimes it will be raining and you need one hand to hold an umbrella. How I overcome was very simple: Just do it. There were few times that I almost fell down but fortunately I cycled very slow when using one hand so it was easier to brake and stop. Stopped then tried again. So slowly I know how to cycle with one hand now. Note: It is a skill to help myself, but not to show off because almost everyone there has this skill.

6. Overall SEP Experience

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

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It was the first time for me been to China and the overall experience was very outreaching and fulfilling. I am satisfied with my module mapping, mapping 2 core modules and 3 technical electives, and I am satisfied with my results. I got to make many nice China friends who help me with my homeworks, who do project work with me while making so much laughters, who have lunch with me every week and so curious about me, who rush lab reports with me, who play badminton with me. I also got to know Singapore friends who are exchange students too from SMU and we always travelled together. So, I also travelled to many places that I was longing to go, especially The Great Wall. Overall, I love my SEP experience and I am very grateful that I had been offered to Zhejiang University for SEP.

7. Suggestions for future outgoing students

Please share any other suggestions for future outgoing students.

- 1) Most of the China men tend to spit. There are women spitting too. I heard that because they smoke a lot, so they will have more sputum generated and thus they tend to spit. Do not be so shocked when you see someone spitting as it is very normal phenomenon there.
- 2) Unlike NUS mailbox always full with any kind of information including events, academics etc., I rarely receive school emails in Zhejiang University. So when you are in doubt (academics, accommodation..), please ask the person in charge, they are willing to help.