

SEP Report

1. Student Information

Faculty/Major	Faculty of Engineering/Industrial Systems Engineering and Management
Host University	Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
NUS Semester and Year of Exchange (eg. AY14/15 Semester 1)	AY16/17 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**

Studying at Karlsruhe is fairly different from studying in NUS as there are no module bidding or tutorial balloting prior to the start of the Semester. At Karlsruhe, students merely have to register for the modules that they are interested in before the semester starts. The professors will then switch preassigned venues for the lectures if the class size is either underwhelming or overwhelming. Students register for tutorials in parallel to the lectures and often, there is only one tutorial slot for each module regardless of the class size. It is important for students to take note that registration for exams are mandatory if the student wants to take the module on a graded basis. Registration for the lectures only do not render students a spot during the exams. Exam registration periods for every module varies and students are advised to look out for information found of the university's website or department website. If no information can be found, contacting the student's own department is usually sufficient as the international relations officers working there have a good command of English and the usually respond in a prompt and precise manner.

Flexibility is probably the biggest strength as well as the biggest weakness of the university. Flexibility enables students to register for as many modules without the obligation to sit for the exams. This allows students to sit in for classes and decide if the module is right for them or if they can cope with the workload before they fully commit to the module. No W grade or F grade will be awarded to the student if the student does not drop the module by a certain period. At the same time, flexibility has led to the University being slightly disorganized in my opinion as professors do not have a certain outline to follow and every module can be taught in totally different styles. For example, within the same department, certain professors prefer their modules to have consistent tutorials and lectures every week while other professors prefer to complete covering all the lecture content before summarizing the content in merely one tutorial or practice session. A huge variance in teaching styles can be a disruption to the students learning process.

SEP Report

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
2550484	Graph Theory and Advanced Location Models	4.5	IE4887	Exchange Elective	3
2560550	Auction & Mechanism Design	4.5	IE4123	Exchange Elective	3
2511106	Nature-inspired Optimisation Methods	5.0	IE4003	Exchange Elective	3
2511308	Service Oriented Computing	5.0	IE4013	Exchange Elective	3
2511310	Semantic Web Technologies	5.0	EX3613	Exchange UEM	3

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 a student's dormitory (HaDiKo) that is located perhaps only 1 to 2 kilometers from the university campus. I would recommend future students to also apply to stay at this residence due to its premium location as well as the cheap rental fees. As NUS is a partner university with KIT, students from NUS will be guaranteed a place at the dormitory and I would advise students to apply to stay at this residence. If students miss this opportunity, it will be hard for students to find accommodation as a foreigner in Karlsruhe. HaDiKo also allows students to be exposed to a unique German living environment and presents the chance to improve one's German proficiency as well.

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?

ERAMUS will organize activities before and even during the semester for students from all parts of the world to get to know each other through various activities. Activities come in different forms and genres and can range from nearby wine hiking to backpacking in neighbouring cities/countries. Do

SEP Report

join at least a few of such activities to get to know some international friends and of course to have a break during the tiring semester.

4. Cost of Living

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

Please list travel expenses separately.

Total: 6000 Euro
Accommodation: 1300 Euro
Travelling: 3000 Euro
Groceries + Internet + Miscellaneous: 1700 Euro

5. Challenges

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

Communication was a challenge in certain situations as some people in Germany cannot speak English well. Even with a decent command of German, it can be hard to completely understand the people well due to their stark accents and usage of dialects.

I overcame these obstacles by speaking to them politely and requesting them to speak slower for me to understand. At the same time, I attempted to brush up my German during my free time in the dormitory.

6. Overall SEP Experience

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

Overall, exchange was a fruitful and fulfilling one as I've made many international friends who have become my friends for life. At the same time, I could experience studying abroad at a University with a language medium that is not my first language. I was also able to experience the culture of Germany and Europe when I went around travelling win the continent.

SEP Report

7. Suggestions for future outgoing students

Please share any other suggestions for future outgoing students.

Have an open mind towards meeting different students from all over the world. Some of them may behave differently and have different mindsets from you but with an open mind, one can gain many insights from them and have one's horizons expanded. At the end of the day, exchange is all about enjoying the global experience!