

SEP Report

1. Student Information

Faculty/Major	Faculty of Engineering (Chemical Engineering)
Host University	Technical University of Denmark (DTU)
NUS Semester and Year of Exchange (eg. AY14/15 Semester 1)	AY15/16 Semester 1

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**

- In DTU, each course constitutes a 4 hour block of class, that includes both a lecture and tutorial. There are also breaks approximately every 1 to 1.5 hours during the 4 hour block of class. If there are 2 courses in the same day, it means that I have to be in school from 8 to 5 pm. It is quite tiring, especially on days where there are project meetings after 5pm.
- There is a huge emphasis on self-study as the professors often went through academic content at a rate that is quicker than students can absorb. For the tutorials, there is also a lot of individual learning required too.
- For most of the courses that I took, they were very heavy in terms of project work, and project work means that one has to find a time to meet with other group members (sometimes with highly different schedules).
- Advice: Do not overload too much on exchange. For DTU, I had to do masters modules, which required a lot more time and effort to complete the homework and to study for the exams. The module registration process for DTU was pretty simple and the registration for the modules occurred like a month before school started.

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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
28121	Chemical Unit Operations Lab	5	CN3108	Chemical Engineering Lab II	4
28150	Introduction to Process Control	5	CN3121	Process Dynamics and Control	4
28361	Chemical Engineering Model Analysis	7.5	CN3421	Process Modelling and Numerical Simulation	4
28420	Separation Processes	7.5	CN3132	Separation Processes	4
28852	Risk Assessment in Chemical and Biochemical Industry	5	CN4XXX	Dummy Technical Elective	4
42171	System Safety and Reliability Engineering	5	CN3135	Process Safety, Health and Environment	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?

- For me, I lived in an on campus accommodation (DTU Campus Village).
- For DTU, the application for accommodation for exchange students is made to the DTU Accommodation Office, which allocates both on and off campus accommodation to students. There is an option on the application form to indicate a ranking for the various student accommodations available; however, the actual accommodation depends on whatever is available.
- DTU Campus Village is recommended as the public transport costs in Denmark are very expensive, so staying on campus will cut down on the expenses. The downside is that one has to share a container with 8 to 10 other housemates and the walls of the container are pretty thin.
- There is a shortage of housing for exchange students in Denmark, so do apply and submit the application for accommodation early to the DTU Accommodation Office. Do accept whatever the DTU Accommodation Office offers as it is very difficult to search for accommodation in Denmark by yourself (my friend and I tried to do so because we only received the accommodation offer from the office very late)

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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?

- DTU organized an orientation for incoming exchange students that took place in the first week of school. It was a good time to get basic information about the university, the country and it also included some time for sightseeing. Also, the orientation groups are inter-nationality, so it is a great opportunity to meet people from other countries and cultures.
- There is also a huge range of societies and clubs that one can join in DTU too.
- There is also an ESN (Erasmus Student Network) organization that organizes activities and outings to various places (in and out of Denmark). However, it is very difficult to get the activities as the registration is on a first-come –first- served basis and the popular activities are full in a matter of minutes when the registration for the activities open.
- Check out ‘Timetravels’ for student prices for tours to Lapland (Northern Finland)

4. Cost of Living

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

Please list travel expenses separately.

Living Expenses: About S\$7000 for 5 months, including airfare, student visa, accommodation, transportation, daily expenses.

Travel Expenses: About S\$9000. But it really depends on how much one travels.

5. Challenges

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

- Meals. One of the biggest challenges is having to prepare and cook all our meals. It is very expensive to eat out in Denmark; street food is about S\$15, so you can imagine how much more it would be to have a meal in a café or a restaurant. Do find a group of people to cook together so that you have fresh food to eat (unless you are the kind that doesn't mind cooking once for the week and eating the same thing every meal). Cooking and cleaning up takes a lot of time but it's all part of the exchange experience. Do exchange food cultures with the other exchange students too, that way you get to try a greater variety of cuisines.
- Independent. Do read up extensively on issues such as registration for different kinds of permits, visas, documents, identity cards that are needed. You don't have your parents to rely

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on in a foreign country, so do your due diligence and find out these important information before you go on exchange.

- Climate. In winter, the sun sets very early (like about 3.30pm). It affected us on exchange as we often felt more tired and gloomy due to the longer hours of darkness. But it can also be a good thing as one can sleep in more.

6. Overall SEP Experience

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

My exchange experience is one that I will look back on fondly for many years to come. It was a time to experience living in a new country for an extended period of time; it feels very different from going on a short vacation. It was a huge growth opportunity, learning to be independent and also to pick up important life skills such as cooking and doing chores. With regards to academics, it was also a huge eye opener into the different working and communication styles and practices as I did projects and reports with students from other countries. A huge part of exchange is also about being able to travel and to see so much more of the world and its beauty.

7. Suggestions for future outgoing students

Please share any other suggestions for future outgoing students.

- Do link up and get to know the other people who are going to the same partner university as yourself, it is quite likely that these are the people who you will be spending lots of time with, whether it is living or travelling together.
- Prepare and do your research before you embark on your exchange, as getting used to a new environment and settling so many errands during your first few weeks of exchange can be pretty daunting.