

SEP Report

1. Student Information

Faculty/Major	Faculty of Engineering
Host University	INSA-Lyon
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

Classes were conducted in lecture format in Amphitheatre, Tutorials in small classroom sizes and Labs in laboratories. We are expected to look at and attempt questions before tutorial starts but are still given time to solve them during tutorial time. We are also expected to revise all concepts before lab starts.

I liked that the professors are helpful in most cases when they see that we do not speak French well. However, as a student who understands nothing in the start both because of the language of instruction and the difficulty of the subject, it is very intimidating to ask a professor to spend time to teach personally from the beginning.

Module registration and module mapping is a very complicated process as I went back and forth between university departments. All modules must be approved by both university's departments, where both departments have many different restrictions which I needed to abide by.

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
GMC-AUTOM 2	Système Asservis Linéaire	3.0	ME 2142	FEEDBACK CONTROL SYSTEMS	4.0
GEN-3-	Transfert Thermique par	2.5 &	ME	HEAT TRANSFER	4.0

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ray & GMD-4-THERM I	rayonnement & Mécanisms de transfert de chaleur	5.0	3122		
GMC-3-MGME C2	Cinématiques des machines	3.0	ME 3663	TE	4.0
GMC-3-CMCO N2	Construction mécanique 2	4.0	ME 3662	TE	4.0

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 on campus, Residence E and I recommend it to outgoing students if you want to meet many exchange students from all over Europe. However, it would be more slightly more difficult to make good friends with the locals. Therefore, I joined student clubs to interact with the locals during club activities. As a result, I had managed to forge strong bonds with several French students.

The kitchen only has one heating plaque to be shared by 3 students in my room including me. The cooking space is highly limited as well. Therefore, we resorted to only cooking food that required little time and preparation. Most of my meals towards the 2nd half of the semester were salads that did not require cooking. I also resorted to eating baguette and cheese for dinner which also did not require cooking. On other occasions, I made pizza by cutting them into slices and putting each slice on a pan, covering it with a large plate. To cook pasta, I merely cooked the pasta and poured over premade sauce bought from the nearby Carrefour.

There are no utensils or any cooking equipment provided other than the heating plate.

It is very walking distance to the tram or my classes.

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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?

I recommend joining their "Nuit de ..." type of activities which are basically events in the night where I played a particular sport the whole night in friendly competition format.

The student shows in La Rotonde are excellent and very affordable if not free. They are all in French. Most of the shows are not common in Asian culture so they were an eye opener.

24H INSA is a huge festival of carnival games in the day and clubbing music in the night, for 3 consecutive nights. It is the biggest event in INSA and is open to the public, resulting in almost every student and young adults in Lyon coming for the mega event.

"La semaine de..." is where different ethnic cultures in INSA will organize a week of cultural activities all around INSA. Asian, African, Moroccan are some ethnic examples of this type of event.

4. Cost of Living

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

Please list travel expenses separately.

Excluding traveling expenses I spent 9000SGD. In total I spent 13000SGD.

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5. Challenges

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

French language was a problem as I went without a reasonably high ability to comprehend the language spoken colloquially. To overcome it, I always asked my French friends to explain everytime they used a term that deferred from "classroom french".

6. Overall SEP Experience

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

This exchange experience opened my world view on the lives of people living in Europe. They are facing different problems, living in a different value system, different life goal. They allowed me to make a comparison of how our society function compared to theirs, our history compared to theirs and understand how their history gave rise to the current society. It made me question which are the views of my own and which are those given to me by society. The idea of freedom, immortalised by the French, yet in my opinion, led to many problems that became too big in France. The lack of it in Singapore, yet we live in a prosperous country compared to our neighbouring countries. The idolizing of western culture by fellow Singaporeans, not consciously aware that it is not a bed of roses or the greener grass. To conclude, going to France has made me realised the beauty of architecture, the importance of healthy and good tasting food, the importance of being politically aware, but also the problems of a society that arises from western ideals. In contrast, I also learned more about how lucky we are as Singaporeans to have such a successful rapid rise in economic stability, highest standards of safety, vibrant landscape. I also see where potential problems will arise in Singapore with our current mindset and attitude. However, we are very lucky because we have not had such a long history and traditional thinking like the European powers. And so we are free to change and innovate upon an already well established system without the shackles of history.

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7. Suggestions for future outgoing students

Please share any other suggestions for future outgoing students.

Expose yourself to everything, especially if you do not know anything about it. Ask questions about everything, including “why”. The world is not linear as it had been since we were born and spent the most part of our lives guided by our schools. The world is not black and white, as dictated by our society. The world is not all good, as experienced in our safe country. But the world is not as hopeless, as there are positive people all over who are talking and working on creating a better future in all facets of life.

Having an open mind, learning to listen and discuss even the most fundamental common sense would prove that nothing is completely right or wrong. This is good because this is the moment where one finds oneself and finally craft a unique individual which has one’s own views, stands up for what one believes in and lives with its consequences of its decisions with no regrets.