

# SEP Report

## 1. Student Information

Faculty/Major	Sociology
Host University	Trinity College Dublin
NUS Semester and Year of Exchange (e.g. 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

Trinity College Dublin's classes are conducted in the same format as back in FASS, with lectures and tutorial slots for several modules. Tutorial classes are very interactive and provide a lot of opportunities to listen to the different views of other international students. I find it very interesting how personal opinions and curiosity are central to the discussion, in contrast to the reading and theory-inclined discussions we have back here in NUS; and I really loved how stimulating the discussions at TCD were. It actually promotes spontaneity and encourages us to think on our feet, as well as solidifies a personal opinion rather than regurgitates theories.

Regarding module registration, it can be a little confusing at the start. You have to physically go and sign up for classes once you reach TCD – a timeslot and venue will be given, so don't miss it! Professors are very approachable (like ours in NUS!) so don't hesitate to set an appointment to visit them if you have any queries.

Explore TCD's modules and have fun with your choices! They offer a reasonable variety of subjects that you would never get to study here in NUS, so make the best out of that if you're not tight on module constraints!

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
SO423B	Economic Sociology of Europe	10	SC37xx	Sociology Dummy Code	-
SO425B	Conflict Studies	10	SC37xx	Sociology Dummy Code	-
SO325B	Race, Ethnicity and Identity	5	SC3203	Race and Ethnic Relations	-
BU3620	Intro. To Fixed Income Securities and Alternative Investments	5	AX1740	Business Dummy Code	-
		Total: 30 ECTS			Total: 20MCs

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## 2. Accommodation

**What kind of accommodation did you stay in during your exchange (e.g. on campus / off campus)?**

**Would you recommend this accommodation to future outgoing students?**

**Do you have any other suggestions?**

I rented a studio apartment outside of TCD with a fellow NUS exchanger. It was pretty expensive considering the fact that TCD is centrally located (it's like the Orchard of Singapore), but the plus points were that we got to walk through a gorgeous garden-park and their central shopping street on the way to school every day. If you are going during the cooler months, it is actually not a big deal at all to walk >1km to school – in fact the sights and sounds of Grafton Street (the shopping street right before TCD) is lovely, and one of the most memorable part of my exchange takeaways.

Do try to apply for an on-campus accommodation anyway, but if it doesn't work out, and it is highly likely that it doesn't, just remember to look for rentals early before going over to Dublin. Flat sharing with other international students is another alternative.

## 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 many activities and new sports / hobbies to pick up in TCD. There will be a fair before school starts to introduce you to the various CCAs they have. There are hiking CCAs and those that specifically bring students on day trips to famous landmarks – and they are always popular. For horse or riding lovers, there's also an Equestrian club at relatively low prices, so check them out too!

## 4. Cost of Living

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

**Please list travel expenses separately.**

I can't quite recall how much I spent, but I usually cooked dinner to save up for my travels. Restaurants and cafes are expensive in Dublin, so it can be common to dine home and meet later to drink out.

## 5. Challenges

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

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There were quite a bit of uncertainties before I left for Dublin – including module and accommodation related enquiries, but they all worked out in the end 😊. Everything else went smoothly, and I really enjoyed the change in culture and the international exposure!

## 6. Overall SEP Experience

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

A huge part of going on exchange is also being bold, spontaneous and getting out of your comfort zone. I really enjoyed myself when I pushed boundaries and took part in new activities, although there were days where I missed home and preferred to stay snug at the apartment when the days got gloomy with constant drizzles. But the best part was really just being out there, learning from different perspectives, talking to different people, and experiencing a different way of life.

## 7. Suggestions for future outgoing students

**Please share any other suggestions for future outgoing students.**

Always try. Don't be afraid. It will be unfamiliar at first, but take that first step, smile, and just enjoy yourself and go with the flow. There will be at least one thing that you will really enjoy and take away from this entire experience, so just ride the wave and enjoy the ride 😊.