

SEP Report

1. Student Information

Faculty/Major	Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences/Geography
Host University	University College Dublin
NUS Semester and Year of Exchange (e.g. 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 differently, with greater emphasis on self-learning and lectures, with hardly any tutorials. If there are any questions for the professors, they are usually answered only during specifically allocated time slots during the visit to their office. I really enjoyed how the learning was very dependent on your own interest and initiative, and the assignments or finals are very open-ended, giving students a chance to further explore a particular part of the module they are more interested in. However, most of the modules draw on more Irish or European contexts which may prove a challenge to some.

Module registration is extremely easy as it can be done online and manual registration is also flexible, even for exchange students. Module mapping is not too difficult as they have quite a range of modules and the staff in UCD are very efficient and helpful.

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
ARCH20170	Discovering Ireland: Landscapes	5	GE3742	Dummy Code	3
GEOG20130	World Urbanization	5	GE2741	Dummy Code	3
ARCH30540	Wetland Archaeology	5	GE2742	Dummy Code	3
GEOG30020	Historical Geography of Ireland in the Nineteenth Century	5	GE3741	Dummy Code	3
GEOG10020	Geography of Cities	5	GE2204	Cities in Transition	3
IR10050	Irish for Beginners	5	LAX1741	Dummy Code	3

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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 stayed in Merville Student Residences, one of the on-campus residences, which is located 2 minutes away from the School of Law. I would definitely recommend future students to stay on campus as they not only get to save on transportation and time, but it is also extremely easy to fully immerse yourself in the school culture and activities, especially when clubs and events late in the evening. The residences also plan many activities, even during the weekends, so it is definitely worth it despite the steeper price.

My suggestion would be to try as many new things and do not be afraid to meet new people and friends. The semester will pass by quickly and there are many things to do in Ireland as well as Europe so just be adventurous. Also, unlike NUS, clubs and societies do not require a high commitment, so join as many as you are interested in and get to know people from different countries and cultures.

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 would definitely recommend students to join the various tours or outings that the school organises as it is much cheaper than going on your own and will allow you to make new friends at school as well. Highly recommend to join the International Students Society and Erasmus Student Network clubs as they plan weekend getaways often to various parts of Ireland!

Most of their clubs and societies also have substantial discounts for their lessons or classes; such as horse-riding, snowboarding or skiing and are very worth the money if you are interested in picking up a new skill!

4. Cost of Living

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

Please list travel expenses separately.

Total: SGD15,000

Pre-departure expenses: SGD 5300

- Return air tickets

- On-campus Accommodation

Monthly Expenses: (est. 700 euros)

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Food: 350-400 euros (depends on if you cook)
Transport: 100 euros
Phone bills: 20 euros
Miscellaneous: 50 euros
Social/Events/School trips: 130 euros

Travel Expenses: (6 countries) 3,500 euros

5. Challenges

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

One challenge would be getting to know the local students there as most of them live off campus and some are even commute out of the city everyday so they do not usually come to school as often. One way to get to know more locals is to join clubs, especially those with regular trainings or meetups.

Another challenge was to get used to their academic system and their style of learning. The library is a great resource to look up information or places that are unfamiliar. The professors are extremely helpful but with their office hours policy, help for assignments should be asked in advance.

6. Overall SEP Experience

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

Overall, I had an amazing exchange experience. Getting to know people from different backgrounds and cultures, especially in UCD which has a huge international student community, I have learnt from their vastly different experiences and viewpoints. Being on exchange forced me to be more outgoing and less afraid to try new things (like camping out in the cold) and I have made many irreplaceable friends along the way. Although I entered UCD feeling alone and slightly out of place, after the semester, I felt like I had made a home and a life there and would definitely go back to visit it in the future.

7. Suggestions for future outgoing students

Please share any other suggestions for future outgoing students.

Academically, be disciplined and take ownership of your own learning as they really emphasise on self-learning. However, remember that the teachers and students are always there to help and are extremely friendly and easy to approach!

Be proactive and get out of your comfort zone to fully experience life on exchange! 😊