

SEP Report

1. Student Information

Faculty/Major	FASS / Communications & New Media
Host University	Keio University
NUS Semester and Year of Exchange (eg. AY14/15 Semester 1)	AY14/15 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

One module is valued at two credits each with a 1.5-hour session weekly. Exchange students are allowed to take classes from the International Center Courses (conducted in English) or the undergraduate classes (in Japanese – exchange students have to pass the Japanese language proficiency test at the start of the semester before they can enroll in the undergraduate classes).

The International Center Course classes are conducted in a classroom setting with about 40 students each. Most of the time, the lecturer or professor leads the class in the teaching and encourages the students to contribute through discussion and asking questions.

At the host university, I like how lesson plans and assignments are a lot simpler compared to those in NUS. The assignments are generally paper/essay-writing or presentations, and most of the materials are provided by the lecturers.

Nevertheless, some of the local students take the classes lightly and as a result they do not participate in class discussion and group projects as much as one would hope and expect. This caused me and my project group(s) problems during my stay in the host university. In terms of motivation, NUS students have the upper hand.

Advice on module registration:

We were given two weeks to finalise the classes we would like to enroll in, so try to be present on the earlier weeks to get a taste of what the class will be about. You can 'shop around' for the first two weeks and so make sure the class is what you want before deciding to enroll. After the confirmation you are not allowed to change classes anymore.

Advice on module mapping:

Work a lot with the SEP coordinator(s) of your faculty(ies) to make sure you can map the modules home. I had to go through multiple processes as I am a double degree student and I wanted to map some modules for my home degree and some others for my second degree, and I can assure you it was very complicated. What you need to make sure of before confirming your enrolment in the classes is that the class can be mapped back to NUS. There is a credits ratio calculation from Keio to NUS because 1 Keio class is just worth 2 credits. As long as you get the email from the SEP coordinator of your program that the class can be mapped back, you are good.

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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
97965	Globalization and Human Resource Management	2	MNO3313	Topics in Management and Organisation	4
24640	Cases in Japanese Management	2			
21674	Japan in the Foreign Imagination	2	NM4XXX		5
98593	Passport Members' Workshop: Branding in Japan	4	NM4XXX		5
16372	Macroeconomics	2	BSP2001	Macro and International Economics	4
44553	International Law and Economy	2			
98517	Organizational Analysis and Management Theory	2	MNO3303	Organizational Effectiveness	4
23294	Management in Japan	2			
64892	Journalism in Japan	2	NM2XXX		4
62995	Human Engineering with Focus on Japan	2	NM4XXX		5

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 at an on-campus accommodation – Motosumiyoshi Residence.

I would definitely recommend this accommodation to future outgoing students if they are looking for a peaceful living. It is a one-person apartment style with private bathroom and kitchen so there is not much opportunity for interaction with other students – there are few shared facilities like the kitchen or a dining hall. Nevertheless from my experience I got to make friends from classes so it was not a problem for me, in fact my room becomes my personal space where I can keep to myself.

The building is still new so the facilities are great and clean. Food is not provided but you can cook inside the room.

For those who seek more social life should pick the Shimoda Student Village or the other dorms with a shared kitchen. My exchange friends who lived in those dorms got to enjoy lots of social time with the other students.

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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?

There are various events and activities by the school, particularly the student group KOSMIC (Keio Organization of Student Member of the International Center) that are targeted for exchange students. There are conversation practice classes for those who would like to hone their Japanese language skills, as well as casual gatherings to provide a channel for exchange students to meet local Japanese students.

There is also the SouKeiSen (games between Keio University and her rival school Waseda University) that I highly recommend going.

Although rare, exchange students are also encouraged to join student groups (CCAs) to better mingle with the Japanese students and really feel how it is like to enjoy the life of a Japanese university student. There are various student groups in Keio (there will be a festival/open house kind of event where all the student groups promote their activities and invite students to join. Japanese language ability will be highly useful to join the groups to better accommodate the communication with the local students.

4. Cost of Living

**Please provide an estimation of how much money you spent during your SEP?
Please list travel expenses separately.**

Accommodation = ¥20,000 (deposit) + 4 months * ¥64,000 = ¥276,000
Transport (to school – using the commuter pass, 4 months total) = ¥30,000
Transport (others) = ¥15,000 per month
Food = ¥30,000 ~ ¥40,000 per month
Others (entertainment, amenities) = ¥15,000 per month

Travel = ¥50,000 per trip (flight, accommodation)

5. Challenges

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

Due to the MC transfer ratio I had to take a lot more classes in Keio than the amount I usually do in NUS. As a result, at the end of the semester I had so many submissions, papers to write and presentations to prepare that I felt somewhat overwhelmed with. I overcame it by working on them long before the due date in order to make sure I have time to finish everything. I also avoid procrastinating and just pushed towards finishing all the papers and group projects.

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6. Overall SEP Experience

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

One huge takeaway from this exchange experience is the friendship forged during those months spent together. It is the most valuable thing that I obtained there and I believe it will last a lifetime. Other than this, I also learnt a lot more about Japanese culture especially in school and also in the early working life where last year students have to go out to seek jobs. I learnt that finding jobs is not easy and that I have to work hard in order to find a good job. I learnt to cherish my school years and enjoy it in the way I would enjoy, i.e. I don't have to try to enjoy it the way other people do, for example through going to clubs, but rather in the way that I am comfortable with.

7. Suggestions for future outgoing students

Please share any other suggestions for future outgoing students.

You cannot be lazy to map modules – work hard and give yourself time to map the modules, the NUS SEP coordinators are very helpful and would try their best to give you the most credits you deserve from the SEP.

Make friends, but true, real friends whom you enjoy hanging out with – don't try to make as many friends as you can but rather make as good a friend as you can.