

SEP Report

1. Student Information

Faculty/Major	LAW
Host University	KYUSHU 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

As part of my SEP, I was enrolled with the School of Law in Kyushu University. The classes were conducted in English and the teachers were proficient in their linguistic and educational skills. I took 5 law modules during my time in Kyushu. These modules helped me to gain better insight into the world of International Law. For example, I did International Maritime Law and International Law in Today's world. These classes provided an overview of the international aspects in these fields of law. I was also required to enroll in the Japanese Language module. The language module was conducted very well and I found myself learning a new language very quickly. This definitely helped in my assimilation into the Japanese culture. What I really liked about the academics at Kyushu University was the fact that the professors were very international. They came from various countries and as a result, I was able to experience the pedagogical experience from all parts of the world, i.e. Japan, Europe, etc. I did not experience any problem on module mapping as these were law courses from the LL.M.

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
	Bioethics and the Law	2			20 credits
	International Maritime Law	2			
	Contemporary Issues in Competition Law	2			
	International Law in Today's World	2			
	Law, Innovation and Economic Growth	2			

Additionally, I did a Japanese Language module. However, to my understanding, that module is not counted as part of my LLB.

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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 off-campus in the Campus provided International Student's house which was about 20 minutes away by bicycle. I would recommend this accommodation to future students but I also recommend purchasing or obtaining a bicycle. The accommodation was affordable and spacious. I had a roommate and the double room was very big. It came with its own attached bathroom, washing machine, refrigerator, study room, cooking stove and balcony for hanging clothes. The only downside is that I had to share a bedroom with my roommate with a small partition for privacy. Hence, if you really need a lot of privacy, you may prefer to take the single room. However, it should be noted that the single room does not come with its own attached washing machine or kitchen.

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 joined the University's Hiking Club(Green Club) and the Guitar Club (Unplugged). These were extremely helpful in my integration into the Japanese society. Also, it provided an excellent platform to practice Japanese. Hence, I strongly recommend attending the school club activities. However, initiative is needed. You have to email the club leaders yourself. Also, I was part of Hakata New Life Church and served on their worship team as a guitarist. It was really wonderful to have so many chances to integrate into the Japanese society. This really enhanced my SEP as I was not merely in a new country as a foreigner but I was LIVING in that country as one of them.

4. Cost of Living

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

Please list travel expenses separately.

About \$1500 a month for living expences, so 5 months would require about \$6000.
For travel, about \$800 per trip.

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5. Challenges

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

Initially, the language barrier was quite prominent. Of course the student helpers and staff were proficient in the English language. However, when I wanted to join the student clubs, most of the students had not much opportunity to practice their English, hence some level of Japanese speaking ability is required. At least, if you want to be a part of the school activities. However, if you would like to travel around and sightsee, language is not really needed.

6. Overall SEP Experience

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

If I could summarize my SEP experience in a few words, I would say 'life-changing'. Having been educated in the Singapore Education system for almost all my educational life, having the opportunity to experience the Japanese education system was very eye-opening. For example, students having different outlooks on life and their academic goals. They were hardworking in and out of school. Almost all of the students had part-time jobs to partially fund their education and recreational activities. Also, many had come from many parts of Japan. Some as far as Osaka, which is much further north from Kyushu. As a result, many of the students were very independent and often stayed very far from their families. Hence, many of them had very independent and adaptable mindsets towards life. It was truly a pleasure to get to meet and make friends with them. In many ways, they have impacted me and I can only hope that I too had been able to make an impact on them. Very blessed to have the opportunity to have my SEP in Japan. I wouldn't have had it any other way. :b

7. Suggestions for future outgoing students

Please share any other suggestions for future outgoing students.

Japan is a wonderful country with very sophisticated culture. Do get yourself acquainted with some of the informal rules like no talking on the phone in buses or trains, learning some formal Japanese, be aware that Japanese communicate indirectly so look out for non-verbal cues during communication. And go with the expectation that it will be a wonderful experience. I'm sure Japan will surpass your expectations, whatever they may be. :D