

SEP Report

1. Student Information

Faculty/Major	FASS / Sociology
Host University	Yonsei University
NUS Semester and Year of Exchange (eg. 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

The teaching staff in Yonsei were all really friendly and approachable. Unlike in NUS, they do not conduct lessons in the lectures/tutorials as there are usually only around 30 people in each course. Yonsei's module registration, similar to NUS', is by bidding (and appealing).

What I liked about the academics in Yonsei is that the professors tend to aid students during course registration. They would see to it that most exchange students will get the courses they desire (they allow the class capacity to be exceeded in most cases), which is especially important for me as English courses are limited. The professors also consult students and input students' opinions in setting the course outline (e.g. to have individual or group assignments).

What I dislike about the academics in Yonsei is that they do not have a fixed exam timetable. It is only written that it could be between two dates (e.g. final exam in Yonsei this semester lasted from 8 Dec to 21 Dec). We are only informed by our professors at the very last minute. The worst situation I experienced was in this course I took which did not inform me of the exam details (venue, date and time, exam format) until 2 days before the exam when I emailed the professor. Also, Yonsei university seem to be encouraging rote learning not only by releasing exam details late, but also by setting questions which only require regurgitation of information rather than critical thinking.

Module registration was smooth for me, and even if an exchange student is unable to get the course through bidding, appealing to the professor would usually work out. Module mapping was relatively simple as well between Yonsei and NUS as one course in Yonsei is usually of equal MCs as one module in NUS. The problem I encountered at the beginning was the lack of English courses I was able to take to fulfill my major requirements. This year, they cancelled all 2 of the English courses under Yonsei's sociology department, so I almost couldn't have any modules to clear. Further, I advice future exchange students to Yonsei to not hope to get courses under Underwood International College (UIC). UIC, which conducts courses in English, tend to restrict their courses only to UIC students. Thus, unknowingly, I had applied for Yonsei thinking there were numerous English courses I could take under UIC, only to realize that they were not available to me.

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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
ANT1001	Cultural Anthropology	3	SC2218	Anthropology and the Human Condition	4
CLC3723	Peace, Freedom, Justice: the Cultural Ethos of the Democratic Constitutional State	3	SC3XXX	Sociology level 3000 dummy code	4
ANT3115	Special Topics in Anthropology	3	SC3XXX	Sociology level 3000 dummy code	4
IEE3121	Traditional Korean Society and Modernization	3	SC2XXX	Sociology level 2000 dummy code	4
BIZ1101	Principles of Accounting	3	GXK1000	GEM B level 1000 dummy code	4

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?

On campus. I would recommend staying on campus at the International House for those looking for cheap accommodation and do not wish to clean their own toilets. International House has a shared toilet and bathroom, so it is cleaned every weekday.

Other alternatives include staying on campus at SK Global, for those who do not wish to share toilets. I am not sure if the toilets will be cleaned by the cleaning staff as it is within the room.

Do note that on-campus accommodation is quite inconvenient as it is a half-hour walk from the subway station and around 15 minutes walk to the main part of Sinchon.

Thus, another alternative is to stay off campus in goshiwons or rent an apartment. Goshiwons will usually be quite small, and apartment requires a relatively huge amount of deposit.

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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?

Yonsei has several student groups assisting foreign students such as Yonsei Global and International Yonsei Community. Yonsei Global was the most active group. I recommend participating in the Language Exchange as this is the only programme that really allows you to have a buddy one on one. The buddy programme is less private with five Yonsei students to around 25 exchange students. The buddy programme will at times hold activities, but it depends on how engaging the Korean buddies want to be.

4. Cost of Living

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

~10,000KRW

5. Challenges

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

Language barrier, but I got used to speaking in broken Korean and body language, with the use of online translator.

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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.

My exchange experience has been an amazing one filled with self-discovery and understanding. I do believe that through this experience I have indeed grown up a lot more. One skill which I developed the most during the trip is time planning. There was so much I wanted to do apart from school, and so I learnt to juggle both and make the most use of the limited time I have. Rather than giving up on something, I learn to make everything work as best as possible. Even then, when plans do not go accordingly, I learn to let go and not hold on to the regrets. I think this exchange experience has shown me so much more to living, and it has been truly the best experience of my life thus far.

7. Suggestions for future outgoing students

Please share any other suggestions for future outgoing students.

Keeping a diary helps to remember what you have done so far.