

# SEP Report

## 1. Student Information

Faculty/Major	Electrical Engineering
Host University	Delft University of Technology (TU Delft)
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

Class formats:

1. Lectures – 2 hours with a 15min break
2. Exercise sessions – 2 hours individual working sessions, lecturer present to answer questions
3. Lab – 4 hours spontaneous sessions, TAs available to help

Exam formats:

1. Oral – short one to one or one to many discussion, results released on the day itself
2. Written – 3 hour papers, plenty of time to spare usually

TU Delft has a quarterly academic schedule, which means splitting each of NUS' semesters into two periods. Some courses span more than one quarter, but most end in one. This means the pace is very fast during the term. Also, there is no "reading week" nor mid-semester holiday between quarter 1 and quarter 2, which means there is very little chance to catch up if one falls behind.

I usually follow the curriculum closely in NUS but since there is so much travelling to do while on SEP, following with the TU Delft schedule can be challenging, not to mention failing papers is much more common in TU Delft as there is no academic penalty as long as one passes on a retake. This results in a less competitive learning environment which is beneficial for some but not for those who thrive under pressure. The thing I like the most is therefore the freedom and spontaneity in the learning culture, while the thing I dislike most would be the lack of structure in courses as well as the ill-defined assessments.

There is no module registration required for many modules, only exam registration. For these modules you can go for the lessons first and decide very much later on whether you really want to take the exam or not. For those modules that have continual assessments, or group projects, it is advisable to enquire the course coordinators, who are usually the professors teaching the course and also register for the course as early as possible.

Just a point to note, there are certain modules that require very early pre-registration, which makes it rather impossible for exchange students to take them. Alternative reasons that may get in the way include protection of the interests of their local students. The conclusion is that no mapping can really be confirmed unless there is a confirmation from the course coordinator, even if you have signed up for

# SEP Report

a team on Blackboard, the IVLE equivalent.

**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
EE3310TU	Telecommunication Techniques	3	EE3131C	Communication Systems	4
ET3034TU	Solar Cells	3	EE4510	Solar Photovoltaic Energy Systems	4
WM0320TU	Ethics and Engineering	3	EG2401	Engineering Professionalism	3
ET4247	HighTech Startups	5	EE3031	Innovation and Enterprise I	4
EE3039TU	Marsrover Project	4	EE3032	Innovation and Enterprise II	6

## 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 on campus, in container boxes called "Spacebox", arranged by the school in mediation with the housing agency DUWO. Spacebox will apparently be closed in 2016, due to old age.

I would recommend choosing a location that is not on campus but not too far, for ideal accessibility to marts as well as daily travel to school.

Housing in Delft is extremely competitive, many people stay in surrounding areas like The Hague or Rijswijk, which makes travelling everyday extremely expensive. Therefore it is crucial to do the administrative matters starting from the exchange application as fast as possible, as it takes a long time for their side to process things. TU Delft is in a rapid expansion process and their administration as well as that of the housing agencies have not been able to keep up.

Many students have been forced to stay in hostels temporarily before they could find housing.

It is also advisable to look for places to stay through friends and other platforms online but scams are also rampant.

# SEP Report

## 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 available to students on campus, whether in the cultural or sports section. There are also many events, mostly held in pubs. There is a lot to choose from but I went for a few as travelling and studying took most of my time.

There are also travelling packages organized by student organizations to popular destinations.

## 4. Cost of Living

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

**Please list travel expenses separately.**

Living expenses:

1801 Euros

Accommodation mediation fee:

228 Euros

Accommodation:

2375.68 Euros

Visa application and residence permit fee:

307 Euros

Introduction Programme:

250 Euros

Air tickets:

1386.90 SGD + 300 SGD (return date changing fee)

**Sub-total:**

=9625.59 SGD (assuming 1.60 exchange rate)

Travelling:

Belgium – 215, Switzerland – 486, London – 826, Italy – 381, France and Portugal – 980

Total cost of travelling:

2889 Euros

**Total:**

= 14247.9 SGD (assuming 1.60 exchange rate)

# SEP Report

## 5. Challenges

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

Though the Dutch speak good English, they are not native speakers and are not used to speaking English as an academic language. Therefore discussions in class are always in Dutch among local students and it excludes foreign students like us. Despite being able to converse in English if they want to, simple mistakes are often made which result in misunderstandings. It is therefore important to put in more effort to communicate properly, especially since most Singaporeans tend to speak very fast.

Many other things are also not available in English, so it is rather important to talk to strangers for help often. The key is to open up and communicate more.

Administration on housing, modules, insurance or anything in Netherlands, or rather in Europe in general can be much slower than Singaporeans are used to, and may cause some serious problems, especially when it comes to Visa or money issues, so it is really very important to do our part fast and early and submit queries when in doubt.

## 6. Overall SEP Experience

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

The exchange has been at least as memorable and eye-opening as I had expected. Since it was my first trip to Europe, so many things I have encountered are completely new to me. The lifestyle of the Dutch can be so different from ours that I may never be able to get used to it. Their love for beer, for instance, is something I could never understand. Perhaps the most valuable skill I gained on this trip was confidence in travelling and navigating, alone in strange environments where language is a complete problem. The Netherlands has the highest statistics in English competency among countries in mainland Europe, but there are still many who cannot hold conversations in English, especially among the older generation. This thus presents a great environment to learn the native language. Of course, this trip has brought me to the various beautiful landscapes and fascinating architectures that Europe has to offer and I have only seen a small fraction. With the right mindset and preparations, I believe SEP can be one worthy investment to gain the most exposure and insight, and it certainly was for me.

# SEP Report

## 7. Suggestions for future outgoing students

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

I think it is very important to have an open heart and have a go-for-it mindset. It is impossible that everything works out as planned so you have to embrace whatever happens and treasure all of these special experiences.

Also, considerable amount of effort has to be put into studying at TU Delft to pass certain subjects. It's not all play.