

# SEP Report

## 1. Student Information

|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Faculty/Major  | MECHANICAL ENGINEERING          |
| Host University  | WARSAW UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY |
| NUS Semester and Year of Exchange<br>(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

Teaching in WUT is unlike NUS. Lectures are mostly conducted in blackboard style. Most lecturers do not use slides, and for those who use, the slides are typically not uploaded anywhere. Hence, you would have to attend lectures to follow up or read the textbook if you happen to miss a class. Many lecturers/tutors mark attendance for tutorials and you can only miss two tutorials else you will fail the class (unless you are taking another class with a clashing timeslot).

One thing I was not used to and have a little dislike would be the academic weeks. Unlike NUS where there is a recess & reading week, and only 13 weeks of study, WUT has 15 weeks of classes. Midterms are generally held in the 6-8 week, and finals after the 15<sup>th</sup> week of class. This means that there is almost no “rest” time if you take a lot of modules across the week. Hence, try to cramp lessons or take modules which are on the same days so that you are able to free yourself up.

Module registration here is very different from NUS. You do not have to worry about getting outbid. Most students are able to any course they want, and even if you do not manage to get it, you can attend the classes and ask the Professor / Lecturer for approval. Generally no issues with taking certain modules here, as Professor and Dean’s office are very flexible.

There are classes with varying ECTS, from 2-5. It does not really make any sense to us as the difficulty does not vary with the number or does it vary with the hours (maybe a little). In general, just be aware of module mapping back to NUS. That will be all that matter.

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 |
| ANK425          | Heat Transfer in Aerospace (Masters Mod) | 4           | ME3122         | Heat Transfer         | 4              |
| ANW115          | Mechanics II                             | 5           | ME3112         | Mechanics of Machines | 4              |

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|            |  |   |            |                         |   |
|------------|--|---|------------|-------------------------|---|
| -          | Automation Systems (from SIMR faculty) | 3 | ME214<br>2 | Feedback Control System | 4 |
| ANS534     | Advanced Renewable Energy Source       | 3 | ME3XX<br>X | Dummy TE                | 4 |
| ANK34<br>2 | Finite Element Method I                | 4 | ME429<br>1 | Finite element          | 4 |

## 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 on campus in a dormitory called Tulipan. I was initially offered Riveria, a dormitory which is located within walking distance to the Faculty of Aerospace and Mechanical. However, the dormitory was in a bad condition and after contacting NUS and the exchange coordinator in WUT, I was reallocated to Tulipan. It takes about 15 minutes to get to school via tram from Tulipan. The dormitory is quiet, and most of the students there are Polish. Room is slightly smaller or same size as Raffles Hall double room (Note: most students will be allocated to double room because single rooms are limited and are reserved for the locals/graduate students). It would be good to stay either in Tulipan or Pineska, as the other Singaporeans and I stayed here and had a good experience. Good location, not far from school, you can reach the city centre within 15 minutes, and 40 minutes away from Chopin Airport by local bus. Dormitory price is also significantly cheaper than renting an apartment/room.

## 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 is the Erasmus programme which you should join. Even before school starts, the Erasmus committee will start to organise events, similar to orientation in Singapore albeit a very different kind. It is more of a get together thing. There are events such as walking tour, bar hopping, bubble soccer, weekly dinners, etc. Would be great to participate as there are probably only going to be at most four Singaporeans in the university – which means you should engage and make friends with other Erasmus students!

## 4. Cost of Living

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

**Please list travel expenses separately.**

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Hostel from University: <\$200 SGD a month (You can rent a decent room with fairly good location for about \$500 SGD a month, slightly more than NUS single room prices)

Local transport, obtain the student travel concession card once you have the official student card  
1 month for 55 zloty, or 3 months for 140 zloty

Food is generally the same or slightly lesser than Singapore if you eat out, and cheaper than Singapore if you cook.  
~\$10 SGD a day

## 5. Challenges

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

There were quite a number of challenges faced. The first would be the dormitory. Along with other Singaporeans (1 other NUS & NTU), we were allocated to a dormitory room with bad conditions. Thankfully, NUS IRO Office assisted us in the matter and we managed to get a room within the next three days.

Module mapping is another issue because unlike NUS, they have faculties instead of departments for the different Engineering disciplines. Hence, to take modules in another faculty, you would have to be enrolled separately. This was a little complicated but the coordinators & dean's office in other faculties are very friendly and flexible. It just takes a little more time on your end to find the proper modules you would like to undertake.

## 6. Overall SEP Experience

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

I chose WUT as my third choice two years ago without knowing much about Poland or the university. Poland was practically foreign to me. There was a tinge of uneasiness as I left home for exchange in a foreign land with only one Singaporean friend, unlike in other universities where there are huge groups of Singaporeans. Armed with zero Polish language, I was afraid conversing would be difficult. Thankfully, most Poles understand and speak English (though they are shy about it). Slowly, and over time, I grew to love Warsaw. I felt safe throughout my entire stay in Warsaw and in Poland, locals are friendly and hospitable, prices of most stuff are cheaper than Singapore, and I made quite a number of Asian friends through Erasmus. After I grew comfortable, I started to delve out of Warsaw to discover other parts of Poland – through road trips to cities toured only by locals, and to several other cities. Every other Polish city I visit never fail to amaze me with its rich history, culture, or beauty. My only regret for this exchange is that I should have explored Poland even more, especially skiing in Zakopane during the winter. I would advise every other student heading to Warsaw or Poland for exchange to really visit as many Polish cities as possible!

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## 7. Suggestions for future outgoing students

Please share any other suggestions for future outgoing students.

For NUS Students going to WUT,

- 1) Open a Citibank account in Singapore to use the ATM in Poland. Citibank is quite big in Poland, with several branches in prominent locations in Warsaw. Good exchange rates, especially from SGD to local currency.
- 2) Email about modules to the university about a month in advance so that you do not have to worry about it when you are here
- 3) You are generally allowed to take Masters modules and most modules
- 4) Get the student transport card asap as it saves you a bulk taking local transport, and note that you can get 50% off ALL local bus/trams/metro/railways in Poland (not just Warsaw).
- 5) Take the time to tour and travel Polish cities instead of other European countries and notice how beautiful Poland it 😊 (Krakow / Gdansk / Sopot / Olsztyn / Poznan ...)