

# SEP Report

## 1. Student Information

Faculty/Major	Industrial and Systems Engineering
Host University	KTH – Royal Institute of Technology
NUS Semester and Year of Exchange (eg. 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

Similar to NUS, KTH conducts classes in the form of lectures, tutorials, seminars and lab sessions. As most of the engineering courses that can be mapped are on the Masters level, there is more emphasis on independent learning, hands on practices as well as the understanding of practical applications of theories to industries. Unlike NUS, KTH has two terms within a semester. While most courses last for only one term, there may be others which span across the semester. Another difference is that timetable for the lessons may not be fixed every week for some courses. The schedule can be checked using the KTH system called **BILDA** (somewhat similar to IVLE).

What I liked about the academics at KTH is that the final exams are usually between three to four hours, allowing ample time for students to think through their answers before penning them down. Most lecturers are also generally very helpful and will try to make effort to make the class as engaging as possible. What I preferred KTH to have would be webcast lectures as there are times where there are clashes in the timetable.

Module registration should not be a hassle for exchange students going to KTH as the international coordinator will promptly assist to any queries the student may have. For the exchange students, module registration is done through communicating with the international student either via email or online form. Similar registration process is used during add/ drop period. However, it is to be noted that KTH has an additional step which requires students to register for exams when it is close to the exam period.

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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
AK1213	Swedish Society, Culture and Industry in Historical Perspective	7.5	EX2xxx	Exchange UEM	5
AK2003	Technology and Ethics	7.5	EG2401	Engineering Professionalism	3
ME2054	Purchasing & Supply Chain Management	6.0	IE4xxx	Exchange Elective	4
MG1007	Contemporary Maintenance Technique	6.0	IE4xxx	Exchange Elective	4
MG2103	Industrial Process Engineering	6.0	IE4xxx	Exchange Elective	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?**

I stayed in an accommodation which is located at Ekebergabacken 4, Farsta. It is approximately 45 minutes ride from the main campus and is located south of KTH. While the accommodation may be a far stay, it is located close to a shopping centre called Farsta Centrum where you can find most of the supermarkets (ICA, Hemkop, Coop & Lidl). Farsta centrum is 5 minutes bus ride or 15 minutes walk from the hostel. Other useful facilities near the the hostel include basketball court, mini football field and a lake with bbq pit. The area around Farsta can be condusive and scenic for morning jogs when the weather is not too cold.

The hostel room I got was a large single room with private toilet. The hostel is equipped with facilities such as washing machines and dryers. Students also have a personal cupboard space in the Kitchen to store their utensils and cooking ware. As each kitchen is shared by approximately 8 - 10 people, you may need to wait to use the stove when everyone happens to cook at the same time. I would recommend going to IKEA to buy the home furnishing and cooking wares (if you do not wish to use the shared common wares in the kitchen).

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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?

Before the semester starts, the student union in KTH, also known as THS, will host a wide range of events for the international exchange students. Events include city tour around Stockholm, traditional Swedish dinner, ice breaking games, pub crawl and many more. These events allow exchange students to easily interact and make friends with other international students.

## 4. Cost of Living

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

Category	Amount	Comments
Eating	\$755.46	
Entertainment	\$128.51	
Groceries	\$1137.53	
Personal	\$716.59	
School	\$3646.23	<i>Includes accommodation fee</i>
Shopping	\$530.71	
Transport	\$1871.98	<i>Includes roundtrip air ticket</i>
Travel	\$5543.83	
Total	\$14330.83	

## 5. Challenges

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

A challenge I faced would be adapting to my independent life in Sweden. Eating out can be really expensive in Sweden as each meal costs about SGD 15. As such, it is not uncommon for exchange students to cook their own meals and prepare their lunchbox. Buying groceries, making preparations for cooking and cleaning up afterwards can take up considerable amount of time, especially at the beginning when you are not used to it. As such, it may seem like you have lesser time than you would normally have in Singapore (that is, if you don't usually cook your own meals in Singapore). To overcome this challenge, one will need to gain experience and keep on practicing. After cooking for a couple of weeks or so, you will be able to know what groceries to buy and how to cook them efficiently, thereby reducing time spent in cooking.

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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.**

Overall, my exchange experience was a great one. In terms of academics, I have become exposed to a different educational system and gained new perspectives through interactions with the lecturers and other international students. The exchange experience has also allowed me to appreciate what is good in both the educational system in Sweden and in Singapore. On the individual level, I have become more independent. I have learnt how I can better make plans and better manage my finances. By having an SEP in Sweden, I was able to travel to other parts of Europe during my free time and that was definitely an eye opener for me. The travels have allowed me to be immersed in the culture and history of the countries I have been to.

## 7. Suggestions for future outgoing students

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

- Bring instant noodle and premix condiments and spices to satisfy cravings
- Get a radiator / heater there if you cannot handle the cold during winter
- No need to pack too many sets of clothes
- Download offline map on google maps in case you don't have wifi / data
- Bring a travel backpack (or 40L backpack) if planning to travel to other places without check in luggage
- Be vigilant while travelling