

SEP Report

1. Student Information

Faculty/Major	Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences/English Literature
Host University	King's College London
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 studying culture at KCL is quite independent, although the school makes all the necessary supplementary information easily available to you. Most of my modules came with a course pack of the secondary readings that I had to collect from my department building.

Three out of four courses had their lesson outlines hosted on the online learning system 'KEATS' (their version of IVLE) which was easy to access. Submissions are also done online. I had one hour of lecture and one hour of tutorial for each of my modules. The professors were knowledgeable, engaging, and approachable.

Module registration and mapping is quite straight forward for the English department. I got my top 3 choices for modules and another one was maybe my 5th or 6th choice. The level 6 modules (their year 3 modules) are more difficult to get; I think due to small class sizes. So, all my modules were level 5 modules, but they are comparable in difficulty to NUS Level 3000 modules.

The professors at KCL also took advantage of the campus' location in London in order to bring the literature to life. My Jacobean performance module arrange for us to go on a trip to the Globe Theatre and my medieval London literature professor also replaced two lectures with historical walks down the Strand to imagine what the journey of the texts we study may have seemed like. We also called Bruce Holsinger via Skype, the author of one of our texts during a separate lecture session.

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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	Module credit
5AAEBO42	A Mad World My Masters: Performing Culture in Jacobean London	15	EN	Dummy Exchange Module (British Lit Before 1800)	5
5AAEBO43	Comedy & Revolution	15	EN	Dummy Exchange Module (British Lit Before 1800)	5
5AAEBO61	London Literature 1380-1450	15	EN3225	Late Medieval Literature and Culture	5
5AAEBO71	Yeats and his Contemporaries: Poetry 1880-1939	15	EN	Dummy Exchange Module (British Lit After 1800)	5

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 with my aunt while I was on exchange. She lives in the south east about a one hour bus ride away from the Strand Campus. Sometimes the bus journey might take up to 1.5 hours, but I think it was worth the £2000 I saved on accommodation fees.

I bought a monthly bus pass and a student rail card and student oyster card which helped me save 30% off peak travel on the Tube and also national rail train services when I was travelling around the UK.

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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?

I joined KCL Ultimate Frisbee. They were welcoming and they have a very well-organized social calendar (I think most clubs do). We had a coach from one of London's top ultimate teams, and I also represented KCL at the Women's Regional Indoor Competition, which was a great experience.

There are many degree-seeking Singaporean students in the KCL Frisbee team, so it's a great way to connect with fellow Singaporeans.

4. Cost of Living

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

Please list travel expenses separately.

£80 a month on transportation (I'm not sure how much you'd spend if you stayed at the KCL campus accommodations, but as most of them except for 2 are quite far away, it might still cost a lot)
I also shared my expenses with my aunt, so I'm not sure how much my household expenses were.

Total spending, including travel: £4000

5. Challenges

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

If you join clubs/societies, it might take a while to get used to their culture of going to pubs quite often and socializing with drinks. This is both quite expensive and may not be to everyone's comfort. I realised that the locals don't mind if you don't want to drink, they are just happy enough for your company. Or a great light drink to go with the evening's fun is cider. They play plenty of fun games, so it can be fun even without drinking.

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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.

Exchange was everything I imagined it to be and so much more! I got to study English Literature in the place of its birth and learn in an environment that treats it as the national treasure. It was interesting to learn among locals who see English Literature as their heritage. The classes at KCL were more varied and came at literature from interesting angles.

I also got to make a couple of great new friends while attending classes and putting myself out there by joining an ultimate Frisbee club. Joining a club is a great way to meet new people with the same interest and have the experience of socializing in a Western, and far more liberal context. I got to attend a boat party, attend a fun dress-up Christmas practice, as well as work in a team at a competition.

London itself had so much to offer culturally. I visited the V&A Museum, the British Museum, and the Museum of London, not to mention the museums that I didn't get to go to: The Natural History Museum, the Tate Modern, the Freud Museum, and so many more! I did get to watch 5 musicals and enjoy the beauty of the West End.

7. Suggestions for future outgoing students

Please share any other suggestions for future outgoing students.

Buy your stationery in Singapore! The stationery collections there are limited and are often more expensive. MUJI is also more affordable at home.

Great places to get cheap home furnishings: Tiger, Argos, and Primark. IKEA is also great, but it's a bit out of the way as it is out of Central London.

Use 'Citymapper' an app to get around London – the tube lines, buses, and bendy roads can be quite confusing at times. City mapper tells you the bus/train arrival times, alternative routes, as well as how much each route costs!

£5 Matilda tickets (with questionable seating) are available from Tuesday to Sunday if you queue early at the box office before they open at 10am. It's recommended to reach the queue at 8.30 am.

If you intend to travel a lot, get a £10 Coach Card with National Express for 30% of coach journeys. Coaches are a really convenient way to get between central London and the airports. (Check out Megabus for their fares also, I'm not too sure). For intercity travel, a £30 Rail Card may also save a lot of money (30% train tickets), but it depends on how many train trips you intend to take. It may not be worth it.

Remember to always carry your letter of acceptance from the host university with you when travelling in and out of the UK, as the type of visa they issue for <6 months requires that you "reapply" every time you re-enter at immigration. Your student ID will not count.