

SEP Report

1. Student Information

Faculty/Major	SDE/PFM
Host University	University of Leeds
NUS Semester and Year of Exchange (eg. AY14/15 Semester 1)	AY15/16 Sem 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**

The people at the University are very open and are also very receptive to questions. The professors were friendly and approachable. Leeds has a very independent study system and there are no tutorials for the modules. So therefore remember to revise !

Administration wise I was considered lucky as most of my notes were printed by the professors and distributed in class (not all classes have this). Thus, my advice would be to adapt to learn read on your electronic devices if you want to save on printing which costs 0.04 pence per page.

Do the module registration early as it may be difficult to get modules especially when you have your exchange in semester 2. Most Leeds students would have already gotten the modules that they would take and exchange students get the remaining modules.

Something I dislike but have to adapt is the fact that the citation system in UK is the Harvard style instead of the APA citation we are so used to using in NUS.

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
SOEE 2670	Environmental Impact Assessment	10	ES4408	Environmental Impact Assessment	4
SOEE 3780	Sustainable Development	10	PF4305	Green Development	4
CIVE 3921	Construction Economics	10	PF2240	Project Finance	4
CIVE 2210	Building Physics	10	PF4501	Total Building Performance	4

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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 a private accommodation (off campus) and as such, benefited from the lower rental. Mine accommodation was found by a friend of friend and thus I did not have trouble searching. In terms of savings, I saved approximately 1000 pounds. My rent per month was 242 pounds and 30+ pounds for utilities and broadband. My room was bigger than what I have in Singapore and thus I was very satisfied. It is significantly cheaper than staying in a campus accommodation. If you are able to find one, go for it but make sure it is UNIPOL accredited. I have a property firm to recommend which manages the accommodation I stayed in (UNIPOL accredited), feel free to contact me. The risk is the property firm placing you in a house with tenants you do not know if you rent by a room and you might encounter problems with other tenants.

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?

Definitely plenty of activities. The university encourages students to try things that are outside of their comfort zone. Leeds' "give-it-a-go" website has various activities from touring Manchester city stadium to day trips to other cities in the UK.

There are also various trips for outdoor activities. I participated actively in outdoor hiking to various picturesque places around Leeds city and the Yorkshire region.

4. Cost of Living

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

Please list travel expenses separately.

10-25 pounds per week would suffice for basic necessities like meat, milk and eggs. Be frugal and find the best deal you can when you are in the supermarket. Buy meat from Kirkgate Market during the clearance hours and you can save a lot. For example, 10 pork chop steaks for 5 pounds which you can eat for at least 7 to 8 meals.

5. Challenges

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

Yes, definitely. I had my fair share of challenges. The accent of native English speakers vary considerably. As Leeds is a large-scaled university, there are students from all over the UK and all over the world. I had to get used to various English accents. The standard Received Pronunciation (RP) which a foreigner typically refers to as the British accent is called the Southern/London accent in the UK. However, I feel the northern accents are harder to comprehend as they are very different from what we are used to hearing. For example the Yorkshire accent and also the Liverpool accent. In addition, the Canadian and the American accent from other exchange students added to the confusion.

I tend to slur and speak too quickly. During exchange, I learnt to slow down and be more mindful in my pronunciation of the English language.

6. Overall SEP Experience

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

I am thankful to NUS and IRO for giving me the opportunity to see the world and also to learn more about places I have never visited. I gained a lot of knowledge about culture norms which cannot be taught through conventional education conducted in classes. I am glad that I got the chance to try things that I have not done in the past, for example hiking the three peaks in Yorkshire.

7. Suggestions for future outgoing students

Please share any other suggestions for future outgoing students.

Be open, be receptive, try everything and do not procrastinate in whatever you do. Do not bother to bring Asian food over as Leeds has three Asian supermarkets with reasonably priced food items.

