

# SEP Report

## 1. Student Information

Faculty/Major	Engineering/ bioengineering
Host University	University of Nottingham
NUS Semester and Year of Exchange (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

I took a GEM module, one core module and three Technical Electives modules. Thus, I had the opportunity to learn with the Arts and Science students. In my opinion, the learning culture is very grade-independent which is different from NUS. In NUS, anything ungraded would be done half-heartedly by majority of the students. For one of my modules, I had a poster assignment that was ungraded but it was done with great effort by all the students. I was impressed with how passionate they were for the subject that they were studying. In addition, there is a culture of asking questions and healthy debating in classrooms for both the Art and Science modules which I took. Students were not shy to share their opinions in classrooms and the interaction made the lessons very interesting.

There was only one examination that forms 100% of the grade for many of the modules. This was good because it was less pressurizing in the early part of the semester and it allowed me to focus on travelling and taking part in other co-curricular activities. But the downside was that I had to make sure that I did well in my final examination.

With regards to module registration and module mapping, the advice that I would have for my juniors would be to start planning and looking out for modules early as it can be very time-consuming to find the right modules to map. There are also many things to consider such as the amount of modular credits that can be transferred back to NUS, the potential time-table clashes and also whether the module that you are keen to take can be mapped at all.

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
M13217	Gender and Development	20	GXK1000	Group B GEM	4
MM3HTR	Heat Transfer	10	BN3501	Equilibrium & Kinetic Bioprocess	4

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MM4SB I	Spinal Biomechanics	10	BN4201	Musculoskeletal Biomechanics	4
C42443	Developmental Biology	10	BN4109	Special topics in Bioengineering	4
C72ISM	Introductory signals and Metabolic regulation	10	BN4403	Cellular Bioengineering	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 one of the many halls in University of Nottingham. Mine was Florence Boot Hall which is one of the university's oldest halls. It has a very "Harry Potter" feel. I would definitely recommend staying in this hall as it is clean and with a good location which is within the campus. The only complain I have about this hall is that the hall food is really bad and there is no kitchen where you can actually cook. There is a pantry but it does not have a stove, only a heater and microwave oven are available. But to be fair, I have heard that the food served in other halls is equally bad as all the halls follow the same menu.

## 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 tried the static-line parachuting course organised by the UON Skydiving Club. I had to go for a day training and if the weather is good, the first jump could be done the very next day. It was an amazing experience and I am very proud to join this course and literally take the plunge.

Although it seems scary, the training is adequate and the skydiving centre which organised the course has a good reputation. The course fees are affordable compared to a tandem dive in Asia where one jump could cost up to SGD400 SGD. The skydiving course and the jump together was £175 which amounted to SGD312.27 which is affordable. Thus, I would highly recommend this course to exchange students to University of Nottingham. Moreover, the experience of jumping out of a plane which goes against all your instincts and floating around in the sky watching over the fields is just one that cannot be replaced.

## 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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Accommodation: SGD 5500  
Flight: SGD 1400  
Travel expenses including : SGD 8000

## 5. Challenges

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

Thankfully my SEP went quite smoothly. After I arrived in Nottingham, I had a serious bout of homesickness that lasted for a day. I had a partner from NUS who was also on exchange to the University of Nottingham and having one Singaporean friend throughout my exchange really made my exchange life more fun as we planned trips together and we were also each other's home away from home.

## 6. Overall SEP Experience

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

Going for exchange was one experience I knew I had to have even before entering NUS. On many occasions, the exchange opportunity also served as my motivation to work hard before exchange as grades were one of the factors considered during the selection process for exchange.

The main reasons I wanted to go for exchange were to travel, meet people from other countries and to learn to live independently. I went solo-travelling, jumped out of a plane for my static-line parachuting course, made new friends from all around the globe and had an amazing time seeing iconic locations with my childhood friends who flew to Europe during the Easter vacation.

I also learnt to appreciate Singapore even more in terms of how safe I felt walking around at night in Singapore as compared to when I was travelling in Europe. I also missed Singapore food so much during my exchange. Now I appreciate the wide variety of good food in Singapore after months of eating hall food in University of Nottingham.

Overall my exchange experience was unforgettable and it has simply deepened my love for travelling and exploring new places.

## 7. Suggestions for future outgoing students

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

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One important thing is to plan all modules that is to be mapped back to NUS properly. Exchange experience, no matter how great it is, is not worth it if you have to overload in your next semesters or you have to delay your graduation in order to accumulate sufficient credits that could have been cleared if proper module planning was done initially.