

# SEP Report

## 1. Student Information

Faculty/Major	FASS/ Geography
Host University	University College London
NUS Semester and Year of Exchange (e.g. 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 UK curriculum system is very structured and is actually quite different from how the NUS curriculum is structured. The modules that the students take are very close to the major that they choose and there are very little modules that can be taken outside your major due to the prerequisite required. Although the university does encourage this, this is not very common among the student population. Thus it might be quite difficult to find possible modules to fulfil UE, GEM or breath requirement even though they are available.

However, because of this, the classes are much focused. Often, you get a class full of students who are really passionate about the subject and have lots to share. Even in lectures, the professor are very happy to answer any queries that a student have. That was a very conducive and encouraging study environment for a student. It is because of the possible disruptions during lessons, their syllabus is more of a guide than something they will stick to. For example, if the students are more interested in why Ricardo was so influential as compared to Smith in the understanding of UK's past economy, the professor would be more than happy to deviate from the syllabus and dive deeper into that component. UCL professors are also very friendly and their office hours are often well used by students. Knowing that other students actively engage the professor, you as a student would also feel comfortable in approaching the professor for informal discussion.

Perhaps, the only thing I dislike is how module registration is done. Often this involve you travelling down to the office to meet a professor who will determine if you as an exchange student have fulfilled enough criteria to be able to do the module. This process is also necessary to request for alternative final examination assessment. Your module has to be converted to a continuous assessment mode because you will not be there for the final assessment held at the end of their second semester. However, the hassle of spending a day walking all around the campus looking for the different offices is also probably a good time spent exploring the campus before school starts.

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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
ANTH2006A	Theoretical Perspectives in Social Anthropology and Material Culture	0.5	SC3741	Dummy Code	4
ECON1006A	History of Economic Thought	0.5	HY2741	Dummy Code	4
			HY2721	Dummy Code	2
GEOG2024A	Cultural and Historical Geography I	0.5	GE2741	Dummy Code	4
GEOG2025A	Geocomputation and Computational Social Science	0.5	GE2227	Cartography and Visualisation	4
			GE2721	Dummy Code	2

## 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 was lucky to have a friend who was studying in London and so for the exchange I stayed with him in a flat that was rented together with other Asian students studying in London too.

Many of my other friends were staying in the university accommodation and it is often great fun because of the locals you get to meet and also the events that you are invited to attend.

## 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 was there in semester one and that gave me the opportunity to take part in many of the freshman activities that they had planned out. UCL is a university which takes pride in how diverse its students' population is, so they have a range of activities just for new overseas students. I went for several events organised by the student club such as the games night, meet-and-greet and also dinner events.

If you have any interest or hobbies, it is great to link up with groups that conduct those activities and join them too. They are often very friendly to new-comers and would welcome a Singaporean in their

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activity. I was an avid Frisbee player so I joined the Frisbee club at UCL which had weekly Frisbee sessions. Having a common interest is often an excellent environment to meet lasting friends, it was there that I made friends whom I keep in contact until now.

If you are a Christian, the Allsouls church is the place to be as a student. The Christian community is super friendly and because of the large student congregation, it is very accessible. They are also very familiar with students on exchange and are really happy to welcome people like us. This was the place that I really felt that I belong and their hospitality is something that I still sorely miss.

Since you are already on exchange, it is a great opportunity to pick up something new too, especially if it is something unique to the location. Get out there and embrace whatever you feel like doing.

## 4. Cost of Living

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

**Please list travel expenses separately.**

Return Flight from Changi (SG) to Heathrow (Ldn)	1644 SGD	
Accommodation	400SGD per month	
London Transport Cost	156 SGD for monthly concession	
Food	300 SGD per month	

## 5. Challenges

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

Homesick. It comes, earlier for some, later for others. I experienced it towards the end of my trip. When you felt like you met enough new people. When you feel irritated about repeating your life history again and again. When you just wish there will be someone here who have known you and whom you can just skip the small talk and jump straight into proper conversation. When I feel this, I cook. I cook dishes I am familiar with. Cutting up the vegetables, heating up the oil, these activities are actually very therapeutic. Most importantly, the taste and smell brings me back to somewhere familiar. That's the cure, finding something familiar again.

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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 is a once in a life-time experience. It is almost a get-out-of jail card from the academic expectations of school. For, perhaps, the first time in your life, what you are learning have little summative repercussions on your grades. The shackles of grades are released and I finally got the chance to truly enjoy the learning process. That was my experience, going from one leading university to another leading university. It gave me the opportunity to discover new interest in topics that I was too afraid to try, like the development of anthropological thought, the history of economic thought. However, the most important takeaway from SEP is the opportunity. You are a student but yet the curriculum is not what you are there for. Instead, the assigned syllabus is: the experience, the context and the culture that you are immersed in. The exchange programme is designed for you to have the chance to truly immerse in a different everyday life - get outdoors, meet locals and just participate in what they do.

## 7. Suggestions for future outgoing students

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

Nil