

SEP Report

1. Student Information

Faculty/Major	Engineering/Industrial & System Engineering
Host University	Georgia 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

Learning culture:

Studying in the U.S. is more relaxed compared to Asian universities. Professors will inform you how grading is conducted on your first day of class. Notes will be uploaded to their IVLE equivalent prior to class. Unlike NUS, the classes I attended at Georgia Tech are not like mass lectures. Class sizes are small and professors are familiar with almost every student. Thus, participation counts in case you are thinking of skipping classes. There is not much class participation as professors talk most of the time. Another difference is that there are more than 1 mid term for my classes. There was no project component for my classes and this varies from class to class. Final exams are conducted in the usual classroom at class time. This is very different from NUS.

Advice on module mapping:

Georgia Tech exchange students do not need to participate in their bidding/registration. All you need to do is to find out what classes you are taking (make sure classes do not clash using the NUSMod equivalent "courseoff") and take note of their module code. When you attend their orientation for exchange students, you will be brought to see your academic advisor who will give you the permission to take your faculty classes. You may have to talk to different academic advisors if you are taking classes from different faculties (business, engineering... etc.) It's on first-come, first-served basis. Thus, you need to be real quick once the registration window is open because by that time, not many spots are left for exchange students (full-time students started their bidding way before). You have to take a minimum of 4 classes in accordance with the school rules. If you can't get your ideal classes, you can always get substitute classes.

Advice on module mapping:

It is okay to plan modules you want to map at Georgia Tech but do not be disappointed later when you find out that they will not be offered in your exchange semester (latest modules and schedules will be released about 3 months prior to the beginning of the new semester). Also note that you can even map modules that have not been mapped by previous exchangers. As long as you got them approved, you can map them even the classes may not be offered by the same discipline as NUS. I got 2 Engineering technical electives mapped to business classes.

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.)

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Host University			NUS Equivalent		
Module code	Course title	ECTS Credit	Module code	Course title	Modular credit
ISYE4311	Capital Investment Analysis	3	IE4124	Technical Elective	4
PHIL3109	Engineering Ethics	3	EG2401	Engineering Professionalism	4
ECE2040	Circuit Analysis	3	EG1108	Circuit Analysis	4
MGT2200	Information Technology	3	IE4014	Technical Elective	4
MGT3501	Operations Management	3	IE4114	Technical 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 was selected for International House (I-House) program which offers students cultural immersion and global students. It is a close-knit community with half of the residents being full-time students and the rest exchange students. I strongly recommend this accommodation to future outgoing students because I got to know many local students and exchange students from Korea, Hong Kong, Spain and many other countries all over the world. Every Thursday, a Georgia Tech advisor will come to I-House and conduct a learning session on global issues such as American election, illegal immigration etc. Other than this, residents also form different committees including cultural, sports, language committees etc. and organize events throughout the semester. This is really a good opportunity to know more about American culture and be more "Americanized".

Staying on campus is more convenient although it is more costly compared to renting a house off campus. I-House is on east campus, which is near to school of business, library and student common. It is quite dangerous at night. Thus, staying on campus is a safe choice.

Choosing to stay in I-House is really one of my best choices made that I would never regret. The friendships forged could probably last for a life time.

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?

For those of you who are interested in finance/investment, I strongly recommend that you join their Investment Committee under Student Foundation. It is the largest wholly student-run endowment fund in the entire U.S with over \$1.2M Asset Under Management across equities, fixed income and ETF. They have bi-weekly presentations on investment ideas and it is open to public. I also took their entrance exam and got promoted to analyst. New analyst will be placed in one of their sectors (TMT, consumer staples, Macro, Energy, Industrials etc.) and prepare for pitching to investment committee.

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There are also many other student societies/interest groups that you can choose to join (refer to jacket page online and also keep a look out for recruitment drives at the beginning of the semester outside student center). If you are a sports fan, there are free games (with freebies given out many times) you can watch (think basketball, baseball etc.).

4. Cost of Living

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

Please list travel expenses separately.

All in USD

On campus housing -\$4300

Meals -\$2000

Travelling (3 days in New York City, 2 days in Washington D.C., 2 days in Savannah, 2 days in Orlando)-\$1000

Shopping-\$50

Phone bills-\$50 (I did not purchase a phone plan because I think it is sufficient to rely on data-which is everywhere on campus)

Visa-\$300

Air ticket (return)-\$1500

I saved on textbooks which are supposed to be very expensive by sharing online versions with friends. Also, not every professor will require you to purchase textbook. Thus, ask before you head down to Barnes and Nobles.

5. Challenges

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

The weather was super cold when I first arrived there in January. I did not bring gloves or scarf so I bought a scarf there. My advice is that if you go there in semester 2, do bring enough thermal wear to keep yourselves warm. Having said that, the weather will get warmer suddenly sometime in April (around 20+ degree Celsius). I did not expect it to be warm as summer, I did not bring summer and I bought skirts/shirts there. You may want to bring a few summer clothes there.

6. Overall SEP Experience

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

My exchange experience is life-changing because the people I have met. During the 4 months in the U.S., I have forged friendships which probably would last for a life-time. I made friends not only with exchange students whom I travelled with, but also the American students. I have learnt so much from

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them and the learning points would continue to guide me even as I return to Singapore. Living and studying in the U.S. has also allowed me to have a deeper understanding of their education system, their lifestyles, and their ways of thinking. In a nutshell, this learning experience has transformed my life and will remain unforgettable in my heart as always.

7. Suggestions for future outgoing students

Please share any other suggestions for future outgoing students.

For those of you who love to shop, you cannot miss the legendary **Outlet**. You can get good quality bags/clothes at over 50% discount most of the time. There are 3 shuttle buses to and from The Outlet every Sunday afternoon (1pm, 3pm and 5pm leaving from School and coming back at 5pm and 7pm). Check out school website for more accurate information as the hours may change from time to time.

8. Report Submission

Please submit your report (including photos*) at [2](#). Please note that you can only upload one document. As such, please **zip your report and photos into one file and name the file in this format 'Host University_Full Name ' (eg. Waseda University_Tan Mei Ling).**

*Photo submission:

- 1 image of you with host university landmarks in the background
- 2 images of you with your exchange friends or local students
- Submit the photos in JPEG format. Good quality photos between 2MB and 5MB are preferred.
- Please name all photos in this format 'Host University_Full Name_Caption' (eg. Waseda University_Tan Mei Ling_Visit to Mt Fuji with exchange friends).

Kindly note that we may share your report on the NUS/IRO website and relevant information at SEP information sessions and/or in publicity collaterals.