

SEP Report

1. Student Information

Faculty/Major	FASS/Philosophy
Host University	University of Notre Dame
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

Classes were conducted largely seminar style, twice a week per class, for around 1 hour 15 mins a session. Lots of discussion in between the presentations by the professors. The level 40000 mods (4k FASS equivalents) are recommended, especially in the School of Arts and Letters in the department of philosophy. The classes are conducted with both undergrads and graduate students in the same seminar so there is a lot to learn from much more experienced participants. Mapping for FASS mods is easy since most classes map back to dummy codes because equivalents are lacking in FASS. The academic journey as a whole in Notre Dame was enlightening with many opportunities to improve myself.

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
PHIL 43165	Aquinas - Faith Hope & Charity (CRN 19644)	3	Dummy Code lvl 3	Aquinas - Faith Hope & Charity	4
PHIL 43504	Contemp. Neo-Aristotelianism (CRN 20228)	3	Dummy Code lvl 4	Contemp. Neo-Aristotelianism	5
PHIL 43333	Philosophy and Film (CRN 19937)	3	Dummy Code lvl 3	Philosophy and Film	4
ASIA 30108	Chinese Religious World Today (CRN 20021)	3	Dummy Code lvl 3	Chinese Religious World Today	4
MGT 20600	IT Management Applications (CRN 12297)	3	CSX199 1	IT Management Applications	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?

Accommodation for me was the on-campus housing which was relatively spartan. I stayed at Dillon Hall which was the biggest male dorm on campus. Most dorms were quads which were 3 bedrooms shared by 4 students (2 per room with one living room). I opted however to stay in a single. Generally, being in a single trades interaction with privacy. I would recommend opting for a quad unless you are like me and do not want to be reminded of army living (which my dorm provided in spades except that I had privacy). The on-campus housing does include a meal plan which is absolutely amazing. You either pick from 3 meals a day or 2 meals a day with 400 dollars food vouchers to buy from on-campus food outlets (Subway, Burger King, Taco Bell) for the semester. The dining halls are voted 9th best in the USA and for good reason; you get daily international buffets with the occasional minor celebrity chef cooking. I recommend the 2 meals a day option (even though monetarily the 3-meal one is better) because most of the time classes begin at 10, so therefore most students wake up late and the meal voucher lets you buy from Starbucks and such for breakfast. The price however is rather steep which I will detail on further on.

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?

The University itself is in a rather uninteresting town so the student government does organize weekly weekend events such as movie screenings and such. There are some activities (such as local host family outings) which the Office of International Affairs organises. Most of the bigger activities however occur post-winter in the second semester so there's that.

4. Cost of Living

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

Please list travel expenses separately.

I spent around 13 thousand SGD for the trip in total. My breakdown for the trip is as follows:

- 1) Room and Meal Plan: 7.1k USD which is around 10k SGD given the then exchange rates
- 2) Plane ticket: 1.8k SGD
- 3) Insurance: 1k SGD
- 4) Student VISA: 300 SGD

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5. Challenges

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

Nothing too noteworthy during this time. I did get an infection near the end of the semester which was a bummer because it happened during Thanksgiving break and cost me the only time I had to explore Chicago. Other than that, on-campus services are able to handle medical problems, counselling problems and even spiritual problems (a good chunk of the cohort are priests and friars, with a chapel in every dorm).

If all else fails there's eating the problem away at the aforementioned dining halls.

6. Overall SEP Experience

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

A single word to describe my entire exchange experience is 'amazing'. The trip as a whole was both an eyeopener for my academic life as well as my social life. From studying with graduate students and then going out to a bar after class, to immersing myself in the unique football culture that surrounds the school, to making new friends from all walks of life. These experiences are packaged in a comfortable location that is overflowing with tradition in the architecture and governance of the campus. Granted my experiences during this time largely revolve around my on-campus experience but that is merely testament to the richness of the university culture. I would recommend this exchange experience to anyone who can afford it, because it provides not only a change of environment but genuinely new experiences as well as a challenging academic environment. These factors have led me to better myself and emerge a better person, something which will affect me for the years to come.

7. Suggestions for future outgoing students

Please share any other suggestions for future outgoing students.

Double check if there's anyone else from NUS going with you. I found out I had a fellow student only during the orientation at the university itself and only by pure chance. It helps if you have someone to cover your back especially since you're entering what is essentially new territory. No need to bring too much cash with you unless you intend to travel around a lot. Having a driving license (or a friend who can drive) is essential or you'll be grounded on campus for most of your SEP.

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