

SEP Report

1. Student Information

Faculty/Major	FASS / Philosophy
Host University	University of Pittsburgh
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**

Studying or learning culture at your host university. How were classes conducted?

- Classes were two or three times per week depending on the course and readings were assigned per meeting. Each meeting was the same and consisted of class discussions; there were no lectures. As such, meetings were interactive. Class size was, in my opinion, rather small as well. There may be tutorials in addition to the two or three meetings mentioned earlier but that is dependent on the course as well. Almost every course I took gave extra credit assignments that helped encourage more learning. Those were basically assignments for you to add extra credits to your final grade. At least for the courses that I took, they had films/movies assigned in place of readings.

What did you like most or dislike most about the academics at your host University?

- At least for the professors I studied under, they were all very approachable and were great facilitators for class discussion. I also gained insights not just from the content materials but also the way in which the academics approached them and the discipline of study.

Advice on module registration and module mapping

- Module mapping instructions are as stated on the FASS webpage for FASS students, that is, 3 credits at University of Pittsburgh amount to 4 MCs at NUS. Module mapping would first take place through viewing the courses offered the previous year during the same time period but is amenable to change afterwards. Module mapping shouldn't be an issue as the administration at University of Pittsburgh is impressive.

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 0332	Political Philosophy/Writ Prac	4	PH3XXX	Level 3000 PH Dummy Code	5.33

SEP Report

PHIL 1170	Kant	3	PH3XXX	Level 3000 PH Dummy Code	4
PHIL 1315	Applied Ethics	3	PH2208	Applied Ethics	4
SOC 0351	Social Change	3	SC3227	Modernity and Social Change	4
SOC 0434	Political Sociology	3	SC3205	Sociology of Power: Who Gets to Rule?	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?

- Staying off-campus is a lot cheaper compared to staying on-campus. Although the email and the webpages from University of Pittsburgh provide information on the on-/off-campus housing, there's also GlobalPittsburgh (<http://www.globalpittsburgh.org>), although locations offered may be further away from campus. If you're interested in off-campus housing, it will be very helpful to join two of the following Facebook groups. The first is the Housing group within the Pitt group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/groupsatuofpitt/>). You first have to join the Pitt group with a University of Pittsburgh email before joining its Housing group. The second group to join is the Housing and Roomates at Pittsburgh group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/293902804037190/>). This group is also open to CMU students and the Pittsburgh community so you have a broader range of choices. Everything else with regards to off-campus housing should be provided to you through email or by visiting the webpages of University of Pittsburgh.
- With regards to on-campus housing, they are more expensive. You can view their locations and prices online. Food is compulsory for some and information is easily available online or through the email the university sends.
- It would be best to search for off-campus housing early as the choices will be more varied, on-campus housing is not guaranteed and they reply rather late.
- Roughly speaking you have the following options:
On-campus housing:
(1) Hall (Compulsory meal plans that are extremely expensive)
(2) Residence
Off-campus housing:
(1) Sublet (This should be what you're looking for since no contract is needed, which usually requires minimally a year. The apartments or even rooms are more likely to be furnished as well. Mainly what is offered on the Facebook pages provided above. On the Facebook pages, you are mostly dealing with students who are much more trustworthy and you can most likely pay only when you reach Pittsburgh so there's no/less trust issues. Rate for sublets from students should be around 400+USD/month incl. utilities. Other means of looking for sublets are Craigslist etc. but the opposite party may not be a student and that complicates matters. There's also a listing from the University of Pittsburgh webpage but it isn't very

SEP Report

effective.)

- (2) Rent (You can't sign a one-year contract so that's a problem for most rentals. You can continue a lease or sign a short-contract if you can find one. Again, it's unlikely that you are dealing with students so that's problematic. Furnishing is also more likely to be an issue. If you are doing rentals, do be aware of problematic rental corporations).
- (3) GlobalPittsburgh (Availability depends)
- (4) All else

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?

4. Cost of Living

**Please provide an estimation of how much money you spent during your SEP?
Please list travel expenses separately.**

Roughly 8k SGD on essentials incl. air flight and preparation documents, and excl. NASA Scholarship.

5. Challenges

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

6. Overall SEP Experience

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

The experience was alright and I did get most of what I wanted out of the exchange for myself.

7. Suggestions for future outgoing students

Please share any other suggestions for future outgoing students.

SEP Report