

SEP Report

1. Student Information

Faculty/Major	FASS/EL
Host University	Rice University
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 in Rice University were a lot smaller than those in NUS. 4 out of my 5 classes had only about 20 people enrolled. Some classes were conducted lecture style, while others more like tutorials, and each class would meet for 3 one-hour sessions a week. I liked that there was a lot more student-teacher interaction, and that students weren't as afraid to ask questions, even in a lecture with about a hundred students.

I had quite a bit of trouble registering for classes there as they were either full, or the system did not register than I had cleared prerequisites in NUS. But I spoke to some seniors and professors, and they were all very helpful, giving me advice on how to sort it out and making exceptions.

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
ENGL301	Intro to Fiction writing	3	EN2272	Intro to Creative Writing	4
LING300	Linguistic Analysis	3	EL3701	English Language Exchange Module	4
LING301	Phonetics	3	EL3702	English Language Exchange Module	4
LING325	Language Acquisition	3	EL3703	English Language Exchange Module	4
RELI101	Intro to the Study of Religion	3	GEH1045	World Religions	4

2. Accommodation

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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 stayed in Baker College, one of the many residential colleges available on campus in Rice University. As most students at Rice stay on campus, I would definitely recommend future outgoing to stay on campus as well. It's a great way to make friends and meet people from different backgrounds and with different interests. Staying on campus also comes with a meal plan that provides breakfast, lunch, and dinner everyday, including weekends, which is really great especially if you have questionable culinary skills.

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?

Rice offered a wide variety of activities all throughout the semester, most of which were open to all students in the university. When I was there, there was a campus scavenger hunt, chartered buses to take students ice skating, and a big masquerade dinner off campus. One weekend during exam season, the school set up a bouncy castle for students to let their hair down for a bit. A lot of smaller scaled activities were organized by residential colleges as well, and they really put in great effort in building a close knit community and for students to mingle. For example, during Halloween, the residential college I was in organized a pumpkin carving session, and for Christmas, we could decorate cookies and make wreaths in the commons.

I would recommend outgoing exchange students to take part in residential college orientation week. We played lots of games and took part in various activities, both within our college, as well as with other colleges. Some of these included a colour war, broom ball, and a scavenger hunt off campus. At night, our camp advisors took us out to popular supper spots near campus and to Target to help us get things we needed for school and our dorm rooms. So not only do you make great friends and learn your way around school, but you also get familiarized with the neighbourhood the school is in.

4. Cost of Living

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

Please list travel expenses separately.

Accommodation, meals, health insurance and other things I had to pay Rice University was about 8000USD. But that there wasn't much else I spent on while in school except bedding, toiletries, and stationery.

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5. Challenges

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

I did get homesick and felt very lonely when school first started but my roommates and local friends there were v helpful and reminded me that almost all of them there were rather far from home, though not as far as me, since they all came from different states. As I made new friends and got into the groove of things, I learnt to appreciate my experiences there rather than think about what I was missing back home.

About halfway through the semester, I had a very hard time with American food and really craved Singaporean/Asian food. But my Singaporean friends and I soon discovered a place in Chinatown that served Singaporean dishes and so we went out to eat Asian/Singaporean food every once in awhile which really helped. It also gave my American friends a chance to try out the Singaporean cuisine.

6. Overall SEP Experience

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

Exchange will probably be one of the best experiences during my time in NUS. Not only did I learn plenty about my host country and the people there, but I learnt much more about Singapore and myself. I've made lifelong friends and gained a new perspective on various things in life, and in academics. Having gone to a place so much larger than Singapore, seeing and experiencing so much more than I could ever imagine, I've come to realise there's so much the world has to offer, and it's all within my reach if I tried hard enough.

7. Suggestions for future outgoing students

Please share any other suggestions for future outgoing students.

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8. Report Submission

Please submit your report (including photos*) at <https://share.nus.edu.sg/goabroad/Lists/SEPReport/AllItems.aspx>. 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.