

SEP Report

1. Student Information

Faculty/Major	Business Administration (Finance)
Host University	University of Wisconsin-Madison
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

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lessons were conducted in a similar manner to NUS – we had lectures with tutorial sessions, as well as sectional sessions for higher-level modules. Class participation is encouraged but take up a smaller portion of the grade as compared to NUS. 2. I liked the fact that lessons at my host university placed a lot of importance on relating real life examples and issues to the concepts taught in class. For example, my finance lessons usually involved discussions about recent news articles by The Wall Street Journal, with the professor relating concepts taught to the articles. However, I disliked the fact that lessons are broken up into 2 1hour 15 min blocks across the entire week, as compared to NUS, which are usually just 1 3 hour block for a particular lesson. This meant that I practically had lessons every day and sometimes had to go to school for just an 1 hour's worth of lessons. 3. The master module mapping list is a good reference as to what modules are available, but the list may not be the most updated one. Professors are usually quite easy going and welcome international students to take up their modules. It would be more efficient to just email the module team directly to check if there is a particular module is available for that semester.
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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
ECON 102	Macroeconomics		BSP2001	Macro and international Economics	4
FIN 325	Corporate Finance	4	FIN3101	Corporate Finance	4
FIN 320	Investmen Theory	4	FIN3102	Investment Analysis and Portfolio Management	4
FIN 410	Bank Management	4	FIN3117	Bank Management	4
MHR 423	Strategic Management	4	BSP3001	Strategic Management	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?

1. I stayed in a school hall on campus – the Adams Residence Hall.
2. Adams is a hall with the International Learning Community (ILC) so it is definitely a good choice for exchange students because you'll get to meet fellow exchange students as well as international full-time students. A number of halls have different learning communities, so depending on which aspect you want to be a part of, you should make your choice. Halls are ranked in order of preference but you may not get what you opt for. I got my 3rd choice which was Adams Residence Hall
3. Halls are very very expensive – If I could do it all over again, I would definitely choose a more economical option - renting an apartment with friends. There are Facebook groups that are dedicated to helping students find off-campus accommodation so that is one avenue that might be useful.

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?

Yes, the school regularly organizes activities and events for international students which exchange students can participate in. The Wisconsin School of Business organized a few welcome tea sessions for exchange students to mingle as well.

Most of the activities that we joined were activities that were organized by our Hall – Adams Residence Hall, such as ski trips, subsidized visits to nearby attractions, as well as bonding sessions such as Laser Tag games.

There is also an organization for exchange/international students called Bridge. They partner local students with international students and gives you an opportunity to get to know new friends. I would

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strongly recommend all exchange students to partake in as many activities as possible because the subsidies are quite substantial and many of these activities you will not be able to experience back in Singapore! In addition, locals can also take you to places you probably won't visit on your own!

4. Cost of Living

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

Please list travel expenses separately.

- Accommodation: approx. \$6,000SGD
- Expenses: approx. \$4,250SGD inclusive of food, transport, miscellaneous household items.
- Flights: to USA and back to SG – approx. \$2,400SGD
- Insurance: approx. \$1,000SGD
- Travelling: approx. \$7,500SGD

5. Challenges

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

One of the major challenges that I faced was monetary issues as travel, accommodation, and living expenses were beginning to add up during my stint in UWM. It was tough as almost everything in the USA were about 1.5-2 times more expensive than things here in Singapore. I overcame them by cooking my own meals everyday to save on living expenses, as well as staying in budget inns and hostels during our travels to save as much as possible.

Another challenge was the fact that I had to step out of my comfort zone – as I was usually the only exchange student in a few of my classes. As long as you keep an open mind and try not to be afraid, things should go smoothly. Most of the people that I encountered are generally nice. There are instances where people were racist or wary of us but I would suggest students to take these experiences with a pinch of salt. Just take the bad experiences as a lesson and broaden your personal growth. That's what exchange is about.

6. Overall SEP Experience

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

Exchange was the definitely the best 6 months of my life, bar none. I have grown so much from the entire experience – from being independent and living and studying abroad in a foreign country to travelling and witnessing so many breathtaking views of mother nature. It was an absolutely amazing experience that I will never exchange for anything. One of the highlights was definitely being able to practice astrophotography – Taking a picture of the Milky Way itself, which was one of the most breathtaking moments that I have ever experienced in my life.

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7. Suggestions for future outgoing students

Please share any other suggestions for future outgoing students.

Go with an open mind and take a leap of faith. SEP should and will be the best time of your life if you do things you wouldn't normally do, talk to people you wouldn't normally talk to, eat things you wouldn't normally eat, and see the things that you wouldn't normally see. Try to enjoy every single moment of it (:

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.