FEATURE STORIES ON A LOCAL FAVOURITE HANGOUT:
TIONG BAHRU

Why NUS and Singapore?
The long and short of SHORT TERM and SPECIAL PROGRAMMES
A NOTE FROM IRO...

Welcome to the second issue of Step In! Every semester, NUS welcomes a very enthusiastic cohort of exchange students from all over the world, and we love how they inject vibrancy and colour to the campus!

In this issue, we have an exchange student from University of Ottawa who found the time to run a few Salsa dancing classes for both exchange and local students, and at the same time, discovered anew passion for cheerleading on this sunny island!

We leave you now to Step In, explore and enjoy!

A whole new discovery @NUS!

The school work in NUS is very demanding compared to back home. But after putting in 6 to 8 hours of study time every day, I still managed to conduct some Salsa dancing classes, once a week. For 8 to 9 weeks it was a good chance for me to have more interaction between exchange students and local students.

Besides my passion in Salsa, I DISCOVERED a new passion, Cheerleading. NUS had one of the strongest Cheerleading teams in Singapore. We trained 4 times a week for about 2 hours per training. We are training hard for the national competitions in March, 2014. I am definitely going to miss my teammates because they have become the only family I have in Singapore, especially my captains who are more like my parents and I look up to them because they are great leaders.

Tuesday nights are spent at a Salsa Club in Union Square located at Tamigi Tower. I haven't had a chance to explore Singapore and its region yet due to my packed schedule, but I am looking forward to traveling the Philippines when my other visits are done!

Jose Sandoval Duran
University of Ottawa, Canada,
Faculty of Engineering @ NUS

Interesting facts about Salsa Dance

The word salsa means "sauce" in Spanish language.

The dance style that we know today at Salsa was influenced by many other Cuban dances.

Reference from
www.thesalsaformula.com

Why NUS & Singapore

The University Town in NUS is almost as good as Marina Bay Sands!

Bavar Morgan
Purdue University, USA,
Exchange @ NUS

Living in Singapore for a semester enabled me to experience various festivals and celebrations. Chinese New Year was brilliant as I felt I got to cook in the true authentic experience. On an academic note spending time in a different country for a prolonged time can help improve understanding of its public views and how these interact with national and international policy.

Koena Ved
King’s College London, UK
Exchange @ NUS

NUS provides a wide range of colleges and residences for students living on campus in Singapore is considerably cheaper compared to New Zealand. Students have access to food courts, fast food chains and even to a simple supermarket at Prince George’s Park Residences. I had the honour of staying at Prince George’s Park which boasts two food courts, two cafes, various sports facilities (including basketball and tennis courts) and laundry facilities. It was also conveniently located near several bus stations, an MRT station and the National University Hospital.

Andrew Lin
University of Otago, New Zealand
Exchange @ NUS

I love Singapore: A much loved moment on the birthday of Singapore.

Yu Thii Heng
Vietnam National University, Vietnam
Exchange @ NUS
FEATURE STORIES ON A LOCAL FAVOURITE HANGOUT: TIONG BAHRU

ELEONORE VISSOL-GAUDIN
Durham University, UK.
Faculty of Engineering @ MUS

FAVOURITE LOCAL HANGOUT
When I am not busy with my school work, projects, and exams, I like to hang out at Tiong Bahru. I love the architecture there because it is different from the typical houses that we often see in the rest of the city. I often admire the old Art Deco mid-rise type buildings from the 1930s that are opposite the lawyer centre, where I have also tried a variety of street food before. I even enjoy the fresh bakery and coffee that have become my favourite!

TELL US ABOUT YOUR TRAVELS
While on exchange here, I took the opportunity to travel to Malaysia, Hong Kong, and Indonesia but it was the trekking on the volcano in Java that left the deepest impression on me. The smoke was still coming out from the ground as I walked, and I even managed to catch glimpses of the sunrise at dawn.

Looking back, I had imagined the experience to be rather different from what I expected it to be. I was so good, and it turned out to be better!

STUDYING IN SINGAPORE
I stayed in Cannon College during my exchange in MUS and made friends from the University Scholars Programme. They even taught me how to address the taxi drivers in the local slang! I joined the French club and was part of the MUS Economics Society.

When I am not busy with my school work, I like to hang out at different coffee shops in Tiong Bahru to catch up on my own stuff and people-watch.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR TRAVELS
During my stay in Singapore, I went on a backpacking trip to Thailand and Bali. In Bali, the highlight of my trip was to meditate during sunrise at Ketut.

I also had the pleasure of meeting a Nobel Prize Winner when I attended the Global Social Business Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

LOGAN CHRISTOPHER SHERWIN
The University of British Columbia, Canada, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences @ MUS

Did you know? – Interesting facts about Tiong Bahru
Tiong Bahru’s pre-war flats were designed to look like modern travel such as the aeroplane. It was a modified form of style called Streamline Modern. Inspired by technology and speed of modern travel, Blocks B1 and B2 along Tiong Bahru Road were known as “aeroplane flat” to early residents because they appeared like the wings of an aeroplane when viewed from a distance.

The window and door frames in Tiong Bahru were imported all the way from England and were glazed in unique green-coloured glass that could cut out the tropical glare and heat.

Tiong Bahru has been sometimes referred to as the Hollywood of Singapore because its modernist Art Deco architecture gave it a certain glamour, just like Hollywood.

Interesting facts about Tiong Bahru are referenced from National Heritage Board’s website: http://www.nhb.gov.sg
SHORT TERM AND SPECIAL PROGRAMMES AT NUS

TEMASEK FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP ENRICHMENT AND REGIONAL NETWORKING (TF LEARN) PROGRAMME @ NUS

The TF LEARN Programme @ NUS nurtures the next generation of Asian leaders by providing opportunities for cultural exchange, networking, community engagement and leadership development. Students from ASEAN, China, India, Hong Kong, South Korea, Taiwan and Japan are eligible to apply and the selected students will receive funding during their exchange.

Curt Marvin Cruz, a 3rd year student from the University of the Philippines visited IRO while in NUS and shared with us his experience as a TF LEARN Scholar.

I was looking for a student exchange programme at my university’s Office of Extension Coordination last July 2013, when TF LEARN Programme caught my attention. I was excited to apply for this programme because it would develop me as a holistic leader, in terms of academics and community service, bound by rightful principles to excel in a competitive environment.

Despite my financial constraints and managing the schedule of classes between my university and NUS, coming to Singapore was a dream come true for me. Being my first long-term overseas trip, the experience was like a scientist looking through a microscope between two specimens, the Philippines and Singapore, trying to compare and contrast, as well as thinking on how to adapt the brilliant things in Singapore and apply it to my country. I acquired life-long lessons such as how to be a responsible student-leader, to care for others, the environment and my country. At the end of the programme, I am proud to say that I am a TF LEARNer, a world-class student leader from Asia, leading a progressive Asia.

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH ATTACHMENTS AT NUS

The International Research Attachments at NUS allows young researchers from NUS and its selected universities partners to conduct summer supervised research at each other’s campus. Participating in this scheme are Tsinghua University (China), Brown University (USA), Imperial College London, King’s College London and University of Oxford, Department of Engineering Science (the UK), and American Chemical Society (USA).

Gerrant (right) during a cycling trip at the Jurong Island with two of his colleagues (also from Imperial College on the exchange)

Gerant (right) during a cycling trip at the Jurong Island with two of his colleagues (also from Imperial College on the exchange)

The stunning Singapore skyline at night

A night view of Marina Bay by Anton Wierenga, University of Alberta, Canada, Exchange @ NUS

INTERVIEW

We managed to catch up with Gerrant L. Herbert from Imperial College, UK, who was here on the Summer Research Undergraduate Exchange programme last year.

1. Tell us about your Summer Research Undergraduate Exchange 2013 programme at NUS.

I did a research internship with Professor Hongbing Ren at the department of Biomedical Engineering, looking at Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation. We wrote a review on Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation for a biomedical journal, and as a medical student I found that my role was to coordinate with the surgeon we were working with and together we wrote the clinical section of the review.

2. When you are not busy with work, what do you do?

In London my main hobby is music. I play with the Imperial College Symphony Orchestra and the Imperial Wind Orchestra. I love traveling and the opportunity to explore Singapore was fantastic. I also enjoyed the sports facilities at NUS and visited the gym and swimming pool at UTown often, as well as the restaurants and cafes there.

3. Could you share with us the type of financial assistance that you received?

I was very fortunate to be awarded a scholarship from Banco Santander as well as a travel bursary from Imperial College, which paid for my travel and accommodation in Singapore as well as most of my day-to-day expenses.

4. Please share with us interesting experiences during your stay in Singapore.

My favourite place in Singapore is the Marina Bay, particularly at night where you can walk around enjoying the beautiful scenery that they have on the water. Everyone in Singapore was extremely polite and friendly whenever you go and there was plenty to see and do.
Did you know?

Our PALs (Peer Advising Leaders) help and facilitate the integration of incoming exchangers into NUS and Singapore.

From exhilarating sports events to get your heart pumping and blood racing to providing advice regarding travelling around Asia, the PALs organise exciting events, designed to present Singapore to incoming exchangers in a unique and interesting way!

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/NUSPeerAdvising or http://nus.edu.sg/iro/sep/pals/in.html

How to Apply to NUS

Step 1

Be officially nominated by the home university through the student exchange/study abroad coordinator.

Step 2

Apply online at www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/edu/ngx.html

Step 3

Prepare a study plan that includes a list of modules intended to be taken at NUS.

Step 4

Print a copy of the completed online application and submit it with the required supporting documents by mail to the NUS mailing address listed on the online application form.

For more information, please refer to IRO’s website: www.nus.edu.sg/iro/sep/in

Journey Beyond Your Shores publication: www.nus.edu.sg/iro/home/jbys.html

International Relations Office
3rd Storey, Unit 03-03, Shaw Foundation Alumni House
11 Kent Ridge Drive, Singapore 119244
Tel: (65) 6516 4356 Fax: (65) 6778 0177
Website: www.nus.edu.sg/iro Facebook: www.facebook.com/nusiro.sg
Company Registration No: 2006C04346E

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Global Relations and Marketing Team, IRO