Step In!

International Programmes at the National University of Singapore 2015

ISLAND HOPPING – 5 SIGHTS IN SINGAPORE

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

MY FAVOURITE HANGOUT IN NUS IS...

NUS National University of Singapore
International Relations Office

International Programmes at the National University of Singapore 2015
A NOTE FROM IRO…

Hello and welcome to the third issue of Step In! Every semester, NUS welcomes an enthusiastic cohort of exchange students from all over the world. We love how they inject vibrancy and colour to the campus!

As NUS turns 110 years old and Singapore celebrates her 50th birthday this year, we had a chat with students on what they thought about NUS and Singapore. We hope their stories will inspire you and pique your interest to visit Singapore and study at NUS!

So don’t be shy. Step In, explore and enjoy!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

When travelling around the world or going to an unfamiliar place, trying the local food is a fantastic way to learn about the country’s culture! One of our exchange students, Seya Fadullon from Boston University (USA), has been on a hunt for local food and shares with Step In her top 3 picks!

#1 Ice Kachang

My friend and I had Ice Kachang at a local hawker centre and it was so delicious. There were red bean, sweet corn and coloured jelly strings underneath a white cap of shaved ice drizzled with sweet syrup, condensed milk and more red bean! This dessert is a great treat to cool off after a day under the sun! We both agreed that Ice Kachang is similar to the Filipino Halo-Halo or Korean Patbingsu.

#2 Char Siew Rice

You can find many Char Siew (Roast Pork) Rice stalls in Singapore. Look for one with the longest queue to determine which stall serves the best one. The plate I tried had a nice caramelised layer on the succulent meat. They usually serve it together with rice, gravy, a braised egg and a side of cucumber slices. It was so yummy – I gobbled it all up in minutes!

#3 Yong Tau Foo

I usually go for a bowl of Yong Tau Foo when I’m craving vegetables. You can select the type of noodles you prefer and you get to pick your favourite meat or vegetables to go with it! You also have the option of pairing it with laksa (spicy with coconut milk soup), clear soup or just have it dry. The food which I have tried in Singapore comes from a blend of so many other cultures and that’s what makes it unique!

MY FAVOURITE HANGOUT IN NUS IS...

As NUS celebrates its 110th year of founding in 2015, we remember the many NUS luminaries whom have helped shape our institution to where we are today. Step In went around the campus and asked our exchange students what they thought about NUS and where their favourite hangout is.

NUS offers an excellent Chemistry curriculum with great professors! I also love eating at the Prince George’s Park Residences’ canteens which provide a wide variety of local food.

Robert A.J. Tucker
University of Otago, New Zealand
Exchange @ NUS

Humble Beginnings

The genesis of Singapore’s flagship university began when Straits-born Chinese Tan Jiak Kim and a determined group of businessmen raised funds and petitioned the British colonial governor for a medical school for the local community. The Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States Government Medical School opened on 5 July 1925 with 23 local students, growing over time into the School of Medicine, and NUS that we know today. For more information on NUS110, visit http://nus110.sg/

Of the many exchange destinations, NUS’ reputation and ranking are the main reasons why I am here! The infinity pool at University Town is a great place for a quick dip whenever the weather gets too hot. It is really convenient as it is close to my campus accommodation.

Anna Lin
Technische Universität Hamburg-Harburg, Germany
Exchange @ NUS

The education I’ve received and the professors I’ve met here are exceptional! NUS has an amazing reputation and I’m thankful to be here. The Educational Resource Centre at University Town is one quiet spot I’ve found where I can relax and enjoy some time to reflect as well.

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To experience another side of Singapore, beyond the skyscrapers, I took a ferry with my friends on a trip to Pulau Ubin. This island is home to Singapore’s last villages or kampongs, and a day here transports one back in time to what life in Singapore was like in the 1960s. My friends and I rented some bicycles, cycled round the whole island, met a few wild boars along the way, and took a stroll around the beautiful Chek Jawa wetlands. – Jennifer

I have never seen a giraffe in my life and was thrilled to see the towering mammal at the Singapore Zoo. Apart from admiring these animals, I also attended talks on the genesis of the zoo, animal trafficking and conservation efforts. I saw a humongous crocodile, at least 3 meters in length – the largest I had ever encountered! – Kaia

Chinatown is another of the few cultural hotspots in Singapore. Going from Little India to Chinatown, it is hard to believe that these different “countries” are right next door. I was able to take a glimpse inside the unique window of Chinese culture from my wanderings in the Street Market, and not to forget the Chinese medicine shops and teahouses hidden amongst the area’s narrow streets. The Buddha Tooth Relic Temple boasts a stunning façade and impressive architecture. It was definitely the highlight of Chinatown. – Jennifer

Pacing through the streets of Little India, I think I would be forgiven for forgetting that I was still in Singapore. This area of Singapore is an extremely vibrant place; perhaps one of the most culturally rich in the whole of Singapore. The streets feel alive – pavements are crammed full of people, street markets sell everything from vegetables, flowers to traditional snacks, and enticing aromas of authentic Indian cuisine waft through the air. – Jennifer

I love how Singapore cultivates many different hybrids of orchids and was surprised to learn that the National Flower is Vanda Miss Joaquim, an orchid hybrid. My mother adores orchids and she always places these lovely floras along the window sills of our home in Estonia. Here in Singapore, I’m really envious that you see them everywhere. A beautiful garden city indeed! – Kaia
Students from Duke University and NUS participated in a summer field module, Environmental Conservation and Urban Tropical Ecology, which was collaboratively produced by Duke University and NUS. They had the opportunity to learn from both NUS and Duke Professors, as well as to make lifelong friendships with fellow participants. We spoke with Cassie Yuan from Duke University to find out more about her experience on this journey.

Duke-NUS Joint Summer Programme

I had some connections with Singapore before the Duke-NUS Joint Summer Programme. My mom and I lived in Singapore for three years when I was about 10. When I first arrived in Singapore, I was amazed by how different it looked from everywhere else – it was literally a city in a garden!

Later, when I learned more about urban planning and public policy, a few questions came to mind; one of which was – how did Singapore manage the balance between environmental protection and economic development? Therefore, I applied to the Duke-NUS Joint Summer Programme to be in Singapore again, looking for some answers.

Apart from learning about the diverse ethnic community and urban ecology of Singapore, there were also different takeaways from the various places which we visited – Cambodia had a rich cultural heritage and Malacca offered alternative viewpoints on the conflicting yet harmonious relationship between preserving traditional habitat and modern advancement.

Other than gaining more intellectual knowledge, I also had a good time meeting and working with people who are talented and sincere. The food adventures and multicultural interactions were also beyond words! Nothing can compare to a hands-on immersive programme when it comes to learning. Southeast Asia provided such a wide range of learning experiences and it was especially insightful for me because I got to explore my interest in conservation policy.

Temasek Foundation Leadership Enrichment and Regional Networking (TF LEaRN) Programme @ NUS

NUS was my top choice to study at as I figured it is one of the universities which attracts so many students from all over the world! It was an incredible experience to network with such a diverse group of global students. Having been offered multiple scholarships, I had a choice to travel to Europe or Singapore for my exchange. A previous participant of the TF LEaRN programme @ NUS had encouraged and advised me that if I studied in NUS, I would gain by leaps and bounds. I will always be proud of this decision.

The TF LEaRN programme @ NUS forges deep friendships every year, connecting scholars from all over Asia. The camaraderie I shared with my peers is something I will cherish for my entire life. We had the opportunity to broaden our network, improve our communication skills and meet many other scholars from different countries. Through this programme, I became more aware of the importance of giving back to the society. Working with organisations, like the Young Men’s Christian Association and Kidney Dialysis Foundation, have helped me to develop my leadership skills and build a positive attitude towards social responsibility. Throughout this journey, there were instances of excitement, pangs of anxiety, fear of the unknown, joyous moments and occasions which gave me a thrill. The TF LEaRN programme @ NUS has become a milestone in my life because I know I have changed.
DID YOU KNOW?

Our PALs (Peer Advising Leaders) help to facilitate the integration of incoming exchange students 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 exchange students in a unique and interesting way!

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/NUSPeerAdvising or http://www.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/ng.html

STEP 3
Prepare a study plan that includes a list of modules intended to be taken at NUS.

STEP 4
Wait for your Acceptance Letter with further instructions on visa and housing matters.

CHECK OUT THESE PUBLICATIONS!

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

Step In 2014
http://www.nus.edu.sg/iro/home/newsletterIn.html

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