AUGUST 2014

I-NUS TRAILBLAZERS in France, Mexico and Indonesia

SPOTLIGHT on Germany

Step Out!

A publication on overseas educational opportunities

NUS sends first batch of students to Oxford for research attachment
i-NUS Trailblazers

NUS President Professor Tan Chorh Chuan spoke of the i-NUS qualities in his latest State of the University address and highlighted that helping our students develop strong personal qualities and character is crucial for their future success.

We interviewed three students whose trailblazing spirits left an indelible impression on us as they developed and embodied the i-NUS qualities through their global programmes.

### Do you know the i-NUS qualities?
- Inquisitiveness
- Initiative
- Inner Resilience
- Imagination
- Inclusiveness
- Integrity

### Trailblazing Asia - A cultural exchange

Ho Junle Muhammad Ilham Ho from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences embarked on the Temasek Foundation Leadership Enrichment and Regional Networking (TF LeaRN) programme at Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia. Generously funded by the Temasek Foundation, the programme aims to groom the next generation of Asian leaders by providing opportunities for cultural exchange, networking, community engagement and leadership development. Students can go on exchange in Semester 1 to partner universities in Southeast Asia and Asia (China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan).

What are some of your learning highlights?

I have learnt the value of culture in the region, and how it is important to educate the young to ensure the survival of traditional arts, artefacts and practices. Learning about culture also encourages the community to be more culturally aware and sensitive towards others which will help in developing smoother trans-national relationships.

### Trailblazing Europe – Internship in Paris leads to full-time job

Su Zanne, a final year NUS Business School student, tells us about her experience as an intern at Viva Santé Paris.

Tell us about your internship in Paris.

I interned at a medical company where my knowledge on behavioral economics to shift from a supply-driven healthcare to a patient-centric one. Also, for one of my modules, I offered consultancy services to a company that wants to export coffee to China. I was glad to be able to work with a Mexican colleague who was impressed with my presentation.

### Trailblazing the Americas – Scaling new heights in Mexico

David Hoe from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences went on SEP to Tecnológico de Monterrey, Campus Queretaro. At Tembusu College, David rallied students for projects such as a mentoring programme with New Town Secondary School. He was also featured in the Straits Times recently.

Tell us about your exchange in Mexico, given that you had no prior knowledge of Spanish.

My experience in Mexico was vastly enriching. Initially I was quite apprehensive, but the Tec de Monterrey students are able to converse in both Spanish and English so there was nothing really to worry about! I made the best international friends I ever had in my life and visited many nature parks.

Your academic experience...

I interned at a medical company where I used my knowledge on behavioral economics to shift from a supply-driven healthcare to a patient-centric one. Also, for one of my modules, I offered consultancy services to a company that wants to export coffee to China. I was glad to be able to work with a Mexican classmate on the project. The director of the programme, my professors and the CEO of the company were impressed with my presentation.

### What is your typical day like as an intern?

I stayed with a host family in the suburbs of Paris and commuted by train to the office. I did market research and came up with business proposals and product recommendations. If our reports were done well, they were pitched to the CEO.

### Any advice to future interns?

Don’t be afraid to speak up because you won’t add value unless you share your ideas. My colleagues were very encouraging, especially my boss who even took care of me when I was sick. Also, take the opportunity to travel around the region. I took two weekend trips – one to Croatia and the other to Normandy.

### What did you gain?

My experience in Paris was very fulfilling because I was given the opportunity to come up with a real business proposal for the company and with proper guidance from my manager, I found out what I want to do for my future career. The company even offered me a Business Development Advisor role at their Singapore office upon graduation!

A Note From IRO

Have you “Choped” your global programmes yet?

The International Relations Office (IRO) has been busy distributing tissue packets around campus asking students to “Chope” their global programmes. If you haven’t made plans yet to journey abroad, then perhaps this newsletter which features students whose lives have been changed by their global adventures will inspire you to take the step forward.

A wide spectrum of stimulating overseas opportunities is available such as our flagship Student Exchange Programme, international summer programmes, internships, research attachments and Study Trips for Engagement and Enrichment (STEER).

If you have not “Choped” your global programmes yet, do so quickly!

Have you “Choped” your global programmes yet?
Spotlight On Germany

Debunking Myths About Germany

Germany’s not as interesting as other SEP destinations
False. No matter what your interest is, Germany has something to offer! History buffs will love Berlin, nature enthusiasts will adore the Black Forest in Freiburg, sports fans will embrace the country’s soccer culture and the list goes on. Many students get carried away with travels around the region during their SEP and miss out on the gems in their own host country.

I’m not familiar with German universities
True. Many NUS students do not know a lot about German universities but that should not stop you from checking them out! Did you know that University of Hohenheim claims to have the most beautiful campus in Germany and Karlsruhe Institute of Technology came about from a merger with a research institute? NUS has more than 30 University-wide and Faculty-level partners in Germany so there is a suitable choice for everybody.

Germany’s for students in technical disciplines
False. Germany has comprehensive universities which offer modules for both Arts and Science students, such as University of Bonn & Ludwig-Maximilians-University of Munich. Technical University of Munich is a technical university but offers many modules taught in English for Business students. Arts students have chosen to go to University of Stuttgart because the University is strong in specific departments.

I’ve to speak fluent German
False. If you are flexible in module selection, it is possible to find sufficient modules taught in English. After you accept the internal offer for SEP, you have months to start learning German and can take the intensive language class before the semester at your host university.

Gut
Playing in a German Floorball Club was really fun and a once in a lifetime experience because we actually travelled to other states nearby to compete in the league matches.

If you have a passion in German language and culture, you are most welcomed to join the NUS Students’ German Language Society! Regular activities include SEP sharing sessions and Stammtisch where members can receive exclusive information on student life in Germany and enjoy authentic local delights!

Germany were champions of FIFA World Cup 2014

Germany’s expensive
Depends. Germany is 500 times the size of Singapore. The country is very big and diverse. Both are cities but Berlin is much cheaper than Munich. University towns like Tuebingen are also wallet-friendly to students. How much you actually spend depends on your lifestyle and travels.

Tips for future applicants: What is Oxford looking for?
Students who show passion in research and who genuinely wish to engage in research as a future career option.

First Oxford i-RAP

Why did you choose this programme?
Sharad: This programme is a rare opportunity for me to put what I’ve learnt at NUS which is mainly theory, into practice. Conducting research at Oxford brings it to a whole new level. I also have a passion in chemical engineering, so I hope to build my passion through the programme.

What do you hope to achieve from your time at Oxford?
Wen Zong: Oxford is like a dream come true for me. By being a part of this very prestigious programme, I hope to learn more about waste water treatment and to find out if research is the right career path for me.

What are you most looking forward to at Oxford?
Tung: Apart from the research itself, I look forward to the architecture, the scenery and the artwork on display at Oxford. I’m also excited to visit the Harry Potter museum in London!

StepOut • First Oxford i-RAP
I have learnt a lot about Chinese history and culture which would certainly help me in the future if I have to work or do business in China.

Ivan Ng Shi Kiang, NUS Business School, SEP @ Peking University

As it was challenging to use the formal Chinese Language in our studies, we requested to submit our work in English instead and I was happy that most of our lecturers allowed it.

Goh Suzanne, Faculty of Engineering, SEP @ Zhejiang University

We had many meaningful discussions on China’s economic issues and its interactions with the world. It was particularly interesting to understand the political and economic tangles between USA and China. My exchange experience in Tsinghua University has definitely given me the best mix of ancient and contemporary views.

Chen Xinyi, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, SEP @ Tsinghua University

As a political science student, the notion of capitalism in a country like China was very refreshing. Being able to witness the environmental impact of industrialisation in Guilin and the commercialisation in Wuhan helped me to appreciate what I have learnt in textbooks.

Seow Siew Hwee, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, NUS – Wuhan University Winter Programme @ Wuhan University

What our students say about their global experience in China

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Seow Siew Hwee, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, NUS – Wuhan University Winter Programme @ Wuhan University

Being a TF LEaRN scholar has opened many doors for me in China. It is a value-adding and rewarding programme that has enriched my exchange in countless ways. I participated in a dialogue session with Senior Minister of State, Mrs Josephine Teo and learnt the importance of embracing the rise of China and how we can act as a bridge between Singapore and China in the long run.

Hong Ling Hui, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, TF LEaRN programme @ Fudan University

The typical duration of SEP is one semester, an estimated 5 months.

During their SEP, students will be required to handle their own lodging, food, transport and other living costs. As compared to other countries, the cost of living in China is relatively lower, but students should still expect to set aside about SGD 4,000 (RMB 20,000).

Financial aid schemes such as the NUS Awards for Study Abroad (NASA), TF LEaRN Programme and Young Talent’s Programme (YTP) are available for those who require assistance. NASA awardees are also entitled to apply for additional funding under YTP by IE Singapore if they are going for exchange to 2nd tier cities in China. Please refer to http://www.nus.edu.sg/ofr/financial/others/TFLEaRN/index.html for more info.

At the Peking University gate

A Student Exchange Programme (SEP) to China allows students to be ahead of times as they immerse themselves in the culture of this country and expand their networks in one of the world’s fastest growing economies, slated to be the strongest by year 2020.

读万卷书，不如行万里路

“In order to attain wisdom, it is not enough to simply read books; one must travel to see the world”

What better place to start exploring the world than China? Being the 3rd largest country in the world (by total area), China holds the record of having the most number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites such as The Great Wall of China, Mount Huangshan and Jiuzhaigou Scenic Valley. With 56 official ethnic groups and some of the most stunning scenic views in the world, one can say that he/she is truly at the heart of tradition and culture when in China.

Several global opportunities are available in China including SEP, summer programmes, internships and research attachments.

SEP in China:

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Enhancing Our Global Reach For You

IRO attends overseas conferences in order to keep our partner universities and organisations abreast of the latest developments at NUS and to discuss ways to create the most fulfilling educational experience for you.

Meeting with University of California, Berkeley to discuss the UC Berkeley Summer Sessions where you can spend a summer in California taking courses not offered at NUS such as Peace and Conflict Studies.

Visiting Seoul National University where SEP and Summer Programmes are both very popular with NUS students!

APAIE* Conference in Seoul

NAFSA* Conference in San Diego

Collaborating with Trinity College Dublin to increase the number of student exchange opportunities. Did you know that Oscar Wilde graduated from Trinity College Dublin?

I enjoyed hearing the updates about what is new at NUS because it helps me think about new ideas for our own university. I admire the dedication and commitment of NUS to international education - it is inspirational.

Mr Wolfgang Mekle, Vice Provost for International Affairs, Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen, Germany @ NUS Breakfast Reception

The University of Toronto team at the NUS Breakfast Reception. Did you know that stem cells were discovered at the University of Toronto?

The connections we weave create endless possibilities for students to discover the world!

*Asia-Pacific Association for International Education *NAFSA: Association of International Educators

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