Beyond the classroom

An education at the National University of Singapore empowers students and broadens their horizons

With its storied history and distinguished faculty and alumni, the National University of Singapore (NUS) is widely regarded as one of the world’s leading universities, and Asia’s best. Since 1905, NUS graduates have gone on to become some of Singapore’s top business, political and civil society leaders. Others, who leveraged the university’s nurturing and collaborative environment, have founded businesses and created winning inventions.

The university is recognised as a pioneer in innovative educational experiences that empower students and broaden their horizons. Besides creating rigorous curricula with the breadth and depth necessary for future careers, NUS also provides invaluable opportunities in Singapore and overseas.

Hands-on experiences

At NUS Biological Sciences, undergraduate research students can be involved in a variety of field work such as observing monkeys in the forest, studying freshwater streams, mapping the distribution of fruit trees important to civets and conducting various samplings at mangroves, among other practical studies.

These hands-on experiences allow students to gain exposure to biodiversity and conservation issues, learn critical scientific and lab skills, as well as learn and care more about nature in Singapore. They also glean insight from insightful conversations with researchers on those field trips.

Erasmus in both the academic and the experiential sense are also a key anchor of the NUS experience. While internships are part of the formal curriculum at Computing and Engineering, full-time and/or part-time internships in Singapore and overseas are also available to undergraduates in Arts and Social Sciences, Business, Design and the Environment, Law, Medicine, Science, the University Scholars Programme, and Yale-NUS.

Additional international internships with leading universities, non-profit organisations and multinational corporations are also accessible.

Geography field trip in Thailand. Photo: IAN LEW

Eight in 10 NUS students enjoy an overseas stint. They can spend up to a year abroad taking classes at one of 300 partner universities across 50 countries under the university’s student exchange programme, while earning credits towards their degrees.

Shorter overseas experiential stints include international summer and winter programmes with partner universities in Asia, Europe and Latin America, as well as study trips to countries such as Hungary, Kazakhstan, Myanmar, Poland, Qatar, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

My semester on exchange in University College Ulrecht in the Netherlands made me so much more independent. I became very comfortable travelling alone to places like Prague, Budapest, Paris, Berlin, Madrid and Barcelona.

The lessons I learnt inside different classroom environments, and life skills I picked up outside those classrooms through travelling will always stay with me. These lessons and experiences developed me as a person. Coming back, I felt more at ease and confident, and ready to face any future challenges.

AFIQAH NUR FITRI BTE SUHAIEMI

At NUS, education is global and Asian. Transformative and experiential. Students will benefit from some of the most exciting and sought after experiences and programmes available in universities today, be grounded in the university’s rigorous academic curricula, and enjoy hands-on learning through field work, local and international internships, study trips and exchange programmes.

Entrepreneurship expertise

NUS, which started an entrepreneurial arm in 2001, also strengthened the NUS Overseas Colleges (NOC) programme for budding student entrepreneurs.

NOC hubs are located in Silicon Valley and New York in the United States; Stockholm, Sweden; Israel; Beijing and Shanghai in China; and most recently, in Lausanne, Switzerland, with more locations in Europe to be added.

NOC students attend entrepreneurship-focused classes at top partner universities such as Stanford University and NUS Polytechnic School of Engineering in the United States; Fudan University and Tongji University in China; Royal Institute of Technology in Sweden; and Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne in Switzerland.

They are also placed in coveted internships at thriving start-ups around the world. These experiences provide them with the know-how and skills they need to kick start their entrepreneurial journeys, while earning credits towards their degrees.

A shorter local entrepreneurship development programme named iLEAD, offers student entrepreneurs rigorous stints with start-up or high growth Singapore companies with a regional footprint.

Students on the NOC programme are awarded scholarships to cover additional costs that may be incurred from going overseas.

NOC students and alumni have created more than 250 companies. Successful start-ups nurtured at the university include Clubi, Jopin, and Carousell.

As a User Interface/UX Experience designer at PicLab, I’m given a lot of autonomy over the projects I work on. It’s a great honour to be learning from an extremely experienced team of lead designers from Google, Snapchat and Couchsurfing. I really enjoy my time in Silicon Valley where I get to learn so much more about myself and meet many interesting people.

LIM JIN YI

Lead 3, School of Design and Environment, currently on NUS Silicon Valley programme

Beyond four walls

At NUS, education is global and Asian, transformative and experiential. Students will benefit from some of the most exciting and sought after experiences and programmes available in universities today, be grounded in the university’s rigorous academic curricula, and enjoy hands-on learning through field work, local and international internships, study trips and exchange programmes.