Stability IS Solidity
A roly-poly toy is a round-bottomed doll that has an innate ability to right itself when pushed at any angle, because of the innovative placement of its centre of mass below the centre of the hemisphere. Drawing on its resilience, leveraging on its quest for innovation and committed in its resolve, NUS GRO, has faced and surmounted many challenges and uncertainties presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. Roly-poly toys are particularly popular in Japan (Okiagari-koboshi) and in China (Budaoweng).
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In tandem with NUS’ vision of a leading global university shaping the future, GRO has developed meaningful international engagements with many peer institutions, and fostered interactions and collaborations in education, research and technology, which benefit our students, staff and stakeholders. Our partners are higher education leaders from all over the world, with whom we share international standards and best practices, in order to foster a sustained culture of excellence on our own campus.

Since the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, GRO has continued to innovate, develop and facilitate new virtual and hybrid programmes, to offer students alternatives to the Student Exchange Programme (SEP), overseas attachments, including International Summer/Winter Programmes (i-SP), International Research Attachment Programmes (i-RAP) and Study Trips for Engagement and EnRichment (STEER).

NUS’ memberships in various global university networks facilitate mutual leveraging on the distinctive strengths of other member universities in education and research, and offer opportunities for student participation in summer/winter programmes, research conferences, student forums and internships hosted by partners.
The Academic Year 2020/2021 at NUS proved to be another challenging one, with the prolonged pandemic stalling the Global Relations Office’s (GRO) plans to resume in-person student global programmes. Nevertheless, the GRO team developed many alternative means of maintaining global relations and helping students develop a global mindset in the absence of physical travel. GRO pivoted our Go Global Fairs (usually held in Jan each year) from a physical to a virtual event, and teamed up with International SOS to create a compulsory - “Overseas Travel Preparedness” module for students, in anticipation of the resumption of global mobility programmes. GRO also worked with partners and university alliances to create new virtual programmes during the pandemic.

In Apr 2021, GRO co-organised the Temasek Foundation-NUS Programme for Leadership in University Management (TF-NUS PLUM) Southeast Asia Leaders’ Summit virtually for over 40 presidents and senior leaders from 16 leading universities in ASEAN countries. In May 2021, NUS President Professor Tan Eng Chye assumed the chairmanship of Universitas 21 (U21), a global network of 27 research-intensive universities. President Tan highlighted that the “COVID-19 pandemic has shown how interdependent the world really is, and how research-intensive universities can play a role by collaborating, and leveraging on our combined talents and expertise, to help solve complex challenges”.

While the Student Exchange Programme (SEP) remained largely suspended in 2021, NUS pivoted to introducing many new, innovative outbound global education offerings. These include online Summer Programmes (“e-ISP’s”), Research Attachment Programmes (“e-iRAPs”), Virtual Immersion Programmes, academic competitions, conferences and workshops, as well as online Study Trips for Engagement and EnRichment (“e-STEERs”). In the e-STEERs organised in 2020 and 2021, students were able to explore a souq (bazaar) in Abu Dhabi virtually, learn about falconry from experts, visit a synagogue, and even enjoy Middle Eastern food (in real life) while learning about Middle East cuisine online. Many of GRO’s virtual programmes included frank and incisive insights from ambassadors, foreign academics, industry practitioners and officials. A total of 745 students took part in such outbound online opportunities in AY2020/2021. GRO proactively took measures to address the challenges posed by the pandemic and bounced back to its mission of providing and developing global opportunities for the students.

The launch of the Singapore Universities Student Exchange Programme (SUSEP) or “local exchange”, allowed students from NUS, NTU, SMU and SUTD to take a full or partial semester in another local university. SUSEP provides students with the opportunity to experience a different learning environment, interact with students and professors across different university campuses and take modules to complement that of their home institutions. Some 400 NUS students took part in SUSEP in the Academic Year (AY2020/21). NUS’ active participation in global university networks to co-develop impactful programmes, especially in Asia, has not diminished in this pandemic. We have worked and co-operated with partner universities and many embassies, including those of China, Indonesia, Israel, Rwanda, Thailand, and the United Arab Emirates. NUS’ virtual programme offerings were also augmented by the university’s memberships in many global university networks, such as with U21 on the Global Citizenship programme. Some 140 NUS students participated in two runs of this programme which developed skills to thrive in the 21st century, whilst tackling the world’s most pressing problems as outlined in the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs). The 2021 UAiTED Innovation Competition saw the participation of 26 NUS students who worked in cross-institution and cross-regional teams together with students from other UAiTED member universities from Hong Kong, Malaysia and Taiwan on proposing innovative solutions in the area of Healthy Lives, Education or Ecosystem for Innovation.

The Virtual Programme with partner universities in Japan and Korea (curated) is another fine example of such collaborative initiatives. GRO partnered with Kyushu University and Korea University (separately) on cultural exchanges amongst students in Feb 2021. Peer learning from students’ presentations on diverse topics, as well as interactions in the breakout rooms proved to be very popular. The Virtual Programme in India with Ashoka University (Jul/Aug 2021) was also a conscious effort to provide quality short-term programmes in India for NUS students. The pandemic has strengthened GRO’s resolve to innovate, collaborate and excel in a volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous (VUCA) world. We will continue to be agile, innovative and resilient to ensure the development and stability of our programmes and global relationships, like a Gömböc in an ever-changing environment.

By Associate Professor Reuben Wong
Associate Vice President, Global Relations Office

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MILESTONES

(AUG 2020 TO JUL 2021)

**EXPERIENCE INDIA CAMPAIGN**

This campaign builds, facilitates and grows interests and passions in the richness of India’s history, society and cultural offerings, as well as in the professional opportunities available.

**OCT 2020**

**E-STEER MIDDLE EAST PROGRAMME**

38 NUS E-STEER participants engaged in academic, cultural, networking sessions through specially curated talks and innovative activities that developed deep insights and understanding about the Middle East.

**DEC 2020**

**ASSOCIATION OF PACIFIC RIM UNIVERSITIES (APRU) SENIOR INTERNATIONAL LEADERS’ MEETING**

This is an annual platform for APRU senior leaders to discuss the issues facing their societies and the Asia-Pacific region, as well as an opportunity to review and plan APRU’s international strategy as a network.
E-STEER CHINA AND E-STEER VIET NAM PROGRAMMES

30 student participants engaged in a series of e-lectures and workshops focusing on the fascinating cultures and history of China and Viet Nam.

NUS E-OPEN HOUSE

The NUS e-Open House was hosted on websites, livestreams, webinars, and social media channels. The sessions were arranged by the faculties, schools and programme organisers.

NUS CHAIRING THE ASSOCIATION OF PACIFIC RIM UNIVERSITIES (APRU) POPULATION AGEING HUB

NUS is chairing the APRU Population Ageing Program Hub for two years from Jan 2021, under the leadership of Associate Professor Angelique Chan, Executive Director of the Centre for Ageing Research & Education at Duke-NUS Medical School.

GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES AMIDST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

A webinar showcasing global opportunities amidst a world faced with travel restrictions and border closures was jointly organised by the Global Relations Office (GRO), the Centre for Future-ready Graduates (CFG) and the NUS Overseas Colleges (NOC).

NUS PRESIDENT BECOMES THE NEW CHAIR OF UNIVERSITAS 21 (U21)

NUS President, Professor Tan Eng Chye succeeded Professor Sir David Eastwood, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Birmingham, as the new Chair of the Universitas 21 network.

U21 AGM & ANNUAL NETWORK MEETING

The U21 AGM & Annual Network Meeting 2021 took place virtually, due to the global travel restrictions, as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
BUILDING THE
Global Network

The GRO team promotes NUS’ global presence, through various strategic initiatives and activities, including the coordination of NUS’ membership in global university alliances, as well as in thought leadership.
Occupied kayaks are inherently buoyant. Remaining calm and applying vessel righting techniques, such as the Eskimo Roll when one’s kayak is capsized, is critical to kayak recovery. A dire situation can always be addressed effectively with preparedness and dexterity.
In 2020 the NUS Global Relations Office (GRO) together with the Centre for Development of Teaching & Learning (CDTL) initiated a webinar series, leveraging on innovative pedagogies and good practices that address the challenges universities face and those that go beyond the pandemic.

Over 3 sessions in Jun to Aug 2020, GRO worked together with partner universities from Southeast Asia such as Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Universitas Indonesia, University of Malaya, Chulalongkorn University and Mahidol University and colleagues from CDTL engaged symbiotically in forums to enhance university teaching, student learning and project innovations.

The webinar series drew in more than 2200 registrants from around the world and planted the seeds for further examination and collaborations on the topics that were discussed.
The Asian Universities Alliance Presidents Forum (AUA), with the theme: “Knowledge is Power: The Resilience of Asian Universities in a VUCA World” was hosted online by the AUA Executive Presidency 2020-2021, Nazarbayev University on 26 Nov 2020. Mr Shigeo Katsu, President of Nazarbayev University extended a warm welcome to 13 Presidents and senior leaders from AUA member universities, including NUS President Tan Eng Chye who engaged in Panel Session 1 - “Timeless Knowledge: Traditions of Asian Universities in Persisting through a VUCA World”, and which was moderated by Mr Shigeo Katsu with the following panellists:

- Subhasis Chaudhuri, (Director, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay)
- Agustin Kusumayati (University Secretary, Universitas Indonesia)
- Chandrika Wijeyaratne (Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo)
- Sawako Shirahase (Executive Vice President, The University of Tokyo)

Earlier in the programme, the AUA President and President of Tsinghua University Professor Qiu Yong, congratulated the alliance on reaching its 10th anniversary milestone. He highlighted the importance of university resilience in a VUCA (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous) world by sharing inspiring examples from his university.

Panel Session 2 was moderated by Prof Ilesanmi Adesida, Provost of Nazarbayev University under the sub-theme “Timely Knowledge: Innovation of Asian Universities in Turning Risks into Opportunities” and comprised the following panellists:

- Bundhit Eua-arporn (President, Chulalongkorn University)
- Oh Se-Jung (President, Seoul National University)
- Ghaleb Alhadrami Albreiki (Provost and Acting Vice Chancellor, United Arab Emirates University)
- Mohd. Hamdi Abd. Shukor (Vice Chancellor, Universiti Malaya)
- Nilar Aung (Pro-Rector, University of Yangon)
- Wei Shyy (President, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology).

The COVID-19 pandemic heralded unprecedented times, and this forum which was broadcasted live on YouTube by Nazarbayev University, provided a timely experience sharing of AUA member institutions in addressing the collective challenges posed by the pandemic, affirming and strengthening their resolve and resilience in the face of such adversity successfully, as an alliance.
As a result of the pandemic, the Asia-Pacific Association for International Education (APAIE) 2021 conference was held virtually for the first time since its establishment in 2004.

As part of the APAIE 2021 conference, Associate Professor Reuben Wong presented the Region Report on Singapore which covered 3 key initiatives implemented by the higher education institutions in Singapore in response to the global pandemic.

The first initiative is **Supporting National Efforts** which encompasses the SGUnited Jobs and Skills Package as well as Support Measures. NUS along with 5 other autonomous institutions in Singapore have mounted various professional certificates to help mid-career jobseekers who have been affected by the economic impact of COVID-19 pandemic acquire and apply industry-relevant skills to enhance their employability.

The second initiative is **Pivoting to a New Normal** which focuses on Smart Campus initiatives and Digital Learning. As part of the Smart Campus initiatives, NUS rolled out the uNivUS mobile app which incorporates features such as Health Declaration, NUSafe for contract tracing and Crowd Insight to keep students and staff informed of the canteens’ capacity.

NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine rolled out the NUS Virtual Integrated Patient (VIP) - an AI response to clinical teaching that provides medical students with a safe space to practice their clinical skills. The school also created an innovative virtual reality (VR) gaming system - “PASS-IT” - for medical students to acquire the understanding of patient safety and the importance of inter-professional communications in complex, hard-to-simulate surgical settings.

The third initiative is **Breaking Down Silos** which refreshes and updates the quality of teaching and learning in universities through providing more holistic learning to students by providing greater breadth and more interdisciplinary and cross-domain knowledge platforms. NUS launched the College of Humanities and Sciences (CHS), enhancing the undergraduate experience for students of the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences and the Faculty of Science. CHS offers a new way of teaching, learning and thinking that breaks students out of silos and emphasises the interface and interplay between disciplines. CHS students study a distinctive Common Curriculum that integrates the humanities and the sciences. Modules on Design Thinking, AI, and Community and Engagement will equip students for the interconnected digital economy.
NUS GLOBAL RELATIONS OFFICE

TEMASEK FOUNDATION – NUS PROGRAMME FOR LEADERSHIP IN UNIVERSITY MANAGEMENT (PLUM) SOUTHEAST ASIA LEADERS’ SUMMIT
26 - 27 Apr 2021

The summit was themed “University Leadership in Asia’s Next Normal” and aimed to reshape ideas and practices in higher education, in light of the disruptions created by the pandemic. Over the course of the virtual conference, university leaders discussed the way forward for ASEAN higher education institutions, and concluded that embracing digitalisation with remote learning, as well as community safety and inclusivity, were top priorities.

TF-NUS PLUM serves as a platform for university leaders to discuss issues, share experiences, and advance ideas on the governance and management of Asian universities. Since 2012, over 250 university leaders from ASEAN, China and India have attended this programme.

“Universities have to adjust teaching and learning, student engagement and research, to adapt to the new COVID-19 world. We have to stay ahead of the fast-changing environment, so that we can prepare our students to be flexible and agile for new and exciting opportunities.”

- NUS President Professor Tan Eng Chye
INTERNATIONALISING

Our Students During Challenging Times

GRO paves the way for NUS students to expand the scope of their learning journey by living abroad and exploring the world. Through participation in a diverse array of stimulating virtual and hybrid short-term programmes, NUS students have found their academic and personal lives enriched, transformed and inspired despite the difficulties of physical travel during this pandemic.
Originating in Northern India, stability exercises in Yoga enhance one's ability to control one's body during movements. Each posture improves stability and focuses on building strength. An uncertain and chaotic world requires control, confidence and agility.
Close to 70 students from NUS, Chongqing University, The Chinese University of Hong Kong and National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University came together virtually and engaged in an immersion programme that was jointly organised by the four universities. The collaborative programme took place from 15 to 16 Jul. Participants learned about Singapore’s and China’s economic developments in a fun way, they were also exposed to professional opportunities in Hong Kong as a financial hub and discovered how talent is cultivated inside Taiwan’s technology sector. Reciprocally, the international students were treated to energising lessons on the entrepreneurship buzz in Singapore, as well as the richness of the Peranakan and hawker cultures of Singapore, from industry professionals and academic researchers.

Breakout sessions were also organised for students to chat with their peers over lunch and to make new global connections. These were followed by student sharing workshops conducted by the participants for their fellow participants. Topics shared included campus life, traditional Han clothing, the transformation of Taiwanese TV series, Cantonese idioms and more.

The programme was an extremely enriching experience for all the participants.
Faced with the enactment of many travel restrictions and border closures, yet experiencing the burgeoning interests of the Middle East and especially that of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries amongst our NUS students in terms of aspirational academic and professional interests and pursuits, GRO launched the E-STEER programme – a virtual version of STEER and themed “Middle East 101”, which was received with excitement and enthusiasm.

38 students participated in this inaugural E-STEER Middle East programme, which offered academically-enriching talks and cultural activities, and even a vicarious, live narrated shopping trip to a souk in Abu Dhabi. The programme received very positive feedback from the participants for the interactive e-lectures, webinars, engaging activities that brought fresh insights, deeper understanding, new opportunities to critically examine issues such as the modern history, geopolitical developments and contemporary issues facing the region in webinars given by the Middle East Institute, national economic diversification strategies away from oil and gas by the UAE Embassy, Saudi Aramco’s Transformation to a Global Integrated Energy and Chemicals Company and its Role in Energy Transition by Aramco Asia Singapore, Environmental Sustainability in the Middle East by researchers, as well as pop culture in the Middle East by scholars.

The participants also found the virtual networking session with H.E. Mr Low Pit Chen, Consul-General (Consulate-General of the Republic of Singapore in Dubai, UAE) and four Singapore panellists working in the Middle East particularly useful, as they explored job prospects, social life of expatriates, cultural assimilation, professional opportunities and career developments in the Middle East.

The programme was also curated with a range of culturally stimulating and fun-filled activities, such as an introduction to the basics of Arabic, infused with Arabian poetry and learning about the sport of falconry. The programme culminated with a unique, remote, shared, simultaneous Middle Eastern dining experience with dishes delivered to the participants’ homes and a video conference convened for the chef to introduce the culinary heritage, ingredients and cooking preparation techniques to the participants.
The E-STEER programmes continue to grow in popularity amongst NUS students. The Engineering Scholars Programme organised two hybrid E-STEER on Viet Nam and China in Feb 2021.

**30 students participated** in these two E-STEER programmes which offered safe and fully compliant COVID-19 management measures sessions.

The participants engaged on a series of e-lectures and workshops focusing on the fascinating culture and history of China through an interesting engineering themed perspective, networked with industry practitioners in start-ups and MNCs and learned about emerging trends in the industry.

For the Viet Nam programme, the sessions included a basic Vietnamese Language course, the History of Modern Viet Nam and Engineering Culture. The students also enjoyed food savouring sessions – sampling unique dishes from Beijing/Shenzhen, as well as Hanoi.
The NUS Overseas Colleges (NOC) and the Global Relations Office (GRO) co-organised the E-STEER Israel programme, themed “Israel - Unpacking the Start-up Nation: Society, Heritage, Technology, Innovation, Entrepreneurship”. After the opening remarks by H.E. Sagi Karni, the Israeli Ambassador and President Tan Eng Chye, the record number of 82 student participants learned about: the pulling power of Israel as an attractive venture capitalist and multinational company investment destination, despite the ongoing tensions and conflicts in the region, with its vibrant entrepreneurship and start-up scene; the Start-up Nation success story and decoding in the process the often oversimplified and hackneyed narrative, and peering into the fascinating kaleidoscope of social intricacies and infrastructure, pervasive ethos and national imperatives that have advanced the development of a truly nimble, resilient nation.

The participants also enjoyed the academic rigour of critically examining entrepreneurship in the Arab and Orthodox Jewish sectors, the excitement of uncovering technology trends in innovative industries, as well as learning about the joint R & D collaborations between Singapore and Israel. A panel discussion led by industry leaders and facilitated by students, promoted lively discussions on topics such as Defining Rights and Responsibilities for Emerging Technology and Managing Cyber Security Challenges.

The programme concluded with a remote dining experience where the participants indulged on Pitas, a new take on Israeli street food, amongst many other delicacies. A live, virtual tour of the Maghain Aboth Synagogue here in Singapore was also organised for the participants to discover the fascinating rituals and religious observations, which aided a respectful appreciation of Judaism.
Given the pandemic and the halt of overseas mobility programmes, GRO sought opportunities to allow students to connect with peers overseas meaningfully, targeting to create avenues that build multi-cultural awareness and bring exposure to different learning platforms. GRO collaborated with Korea University to run an online cultural session for NUS and KU students on 26 Feb 2021, where 36 students and 5 staff from the two institutions interacted with one another on topics such as cuisines, languages, academic culture and entertainment.

I liked that I was able to learn about other participants’ cultures and interact with international students even though we could not meet them physically face-to-face.

- Anonymous student

U21 GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP PROGRAMME
Oct 2020 and Mar 2021

140 NUS students completed the Universitas 21 Global Citizenship Programme, an online leadership development programme delivered by Common Purpose, a not-for-profit organisation that specialises in Cross-Boundary Leadership. The courses were conducted in Oct 2020 and Mar 2021 and required the participants to devote a minimum of nine hours of learning across three weeks of online engagements, discussions and developments. Through the development of ideas together across borders and time zones, participants developed the skills needed to thrive in the 21st-century whilst tackling some of the world’s most pressing problems outlined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG). With the support of facilitators from Common Purpose, participants were guided to reflect on the improvements in their cultural competency and awareness throughout the course, and how as individuals and as groups, can turn their learning into valuable global actions.

It’s nice that every student has to prepare short presentation slides instead of long ones because it encourages discussions not just based on the topics we have researched on, but also at the same time keeping the whole discussion informal and fun.

- Anonymous student
ASSOCIATION OF PACIFIC RIM UNIVERSITIES (APRU) E-SPORTS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME 2021

*Jan to Dec 2021*

Seven students from the National University of Singapore Students’ Electronic Gaming Society (NUSEG) club were nominated to participate in the APRU Esports Fellowship Programme, led by Tecnológico de Monterrey in Mexico. Throughout the one-year programme, 35 participants from seven institutions (Far Eastern Federal University, Nanyang Technological University, NUS, Tecnológico de Monterrey, The University of British Columbia, The University of California, Los Angeles, and the University of Washington) interacted with each other and industry players through workshops, presentations, capstone projects and esports tournaments, sharing deeper insights on esports and building a strong network of like-minded passionate e-gamers in the Asia-Pacific.

The NUSEG also facilitated the APRUxNUS Esports Workshop: Effective Leadership in Esports Clubs on 4 Mar 2021, assisting their peers in strategic thinking and goal setting for their respective Esports clubs.

NUS-KYUSHU UNIVERSITY ONLINE CULTURAL SESSION

*22 - 24 Feb 2021*

With the raging pandemic and the halt of overseas mobility programmes, GRO actively sought opportunities to allow its students to interact with peers overseas and cross learn each other’s cultures. GRO collaborated with Kyushu University to run a three-day online cultural session for NUS and KU students from 22 - 24 Feb 2021, where 42 students and eight staff from both institutions delved, discussed on topics such as history and cultures, cuisines, education systems and campus life.

“I enjoyed learning about foreign cultures and being able to interact with international students despite not being able to travel.”

- Anonymous student
FACING THE Pandemic Undeterred

GRO staff adapted, innovated in the face of monumental changes associated with the pandemic and rose to the challenge with an unmistakable flair by availing academically enriching, fun-filled, and inventive programmes to the students.
The fascinating Gömböc is the first known physical construction of a class of convex three-dimensional homogeneous bodies. When resting on a flat surface, it has one stable and one unstable equilibrium point. In a world of uncertainty, stability is instrumental in keeping all in place.

Photo Credits: Domokos at English Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/G%C3%B6mb%C3%B6c)
**EXPERIENCE INDIA CAMPAIGN**

The Experience India Campaign, launched by NUS GRO on 31 Aug 2020 (and carried through AY2020/2021) aims to build and grow a community of NUS faculty and students that appreciates the rich and diverse facets of Indian culture, heritage, society and are passionate to explore opportunities in India offered by NUS. The campaign is also supporting the Singapore Ministry of Education’s vision for Institutes of Higher Learning (IHL) students to increase participation in overseas exposure programmes to India. The campaign offered a plethora of curated contents that showcased India-related experiences from the perspectives of students and faculty members. Some highlights of the campaign included a video interview series with Associate Professor Rajesh Rai, Head of South Asian Studies Programme (SASP), a webinar organised by TATA Group, and held in collaboration with NUS Centre for Future-ready Graduates (CFG), and students’ learning and reflections on past India programmes, such as summer schools, STEER and internships.

Students learning and reflecting on past STEER India programmes

**VIRTUAL GO GLOBAL FAIR**

**25 - 29 Jan 2021**

The Go Global Fair (previously known as International Exchange Day), held in Jan 2021, saw GRO hosting 38 partners and international universities from 15 countries, and attracted a footfall of more than 700 students.

This event saw many firsts: the first time a GRO event was held at Yusof Ishak House – the hub of student clubs in NUS, the introduction of a GRO reception to host stakeholders, and the extension of the fair into the evening hours to enhance convenience for more students’ visits.

The central location and timing of the event were key in allowing GRO staff to interact with our target audience. The GRO reception enabled Associate Vice President (Global Relations), Professor Victor Shim, to introduce GRO’s global outlook and engagements with GRO’s stakeholders.

Over 70 stakeholders attended the reception, including those from partner universities, the diplomatic corps in Singapore, NUS senior management, donors and representatives from foundations. The record turnout and organisation of the Go Global Fair 2021 was made possible through the strong support of our GRO colleagues, Peer Advising Leaders (PALs) and faculty colleagues.

**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE COMPETENCY COURSE (AICC) AND DATA LITERACY PROGRAMME (DLP)**

**Aug 2020 - Jul 2021**

NUS has been an advocate of lifelong learning and development for all its staff. Staff are continually refreshed and updated with new and relevant skillsets and knowledge, in tempo with the rigours of VUCA and NUS’ vision of becoming a leading global university, shaping the future. **Four GRO staff completed** the Artificial Intelligence Competency Course (AICC) and a further **12 GRO staff completed** the Data Literacy Programme (DLP) in 2021 after the university rolled out these for NUS staff in 2020. These two customised programmes aim to develop and upskill NUS staff in the emerging areas of data analytics and artificial intelligence proficiency. The DLP offers NUS staff the opportunity to work on real-life data problems and gain an appreciation of data science while the AICC focuses on the training of its staff to be conversant in AI, identifying opportunities for application in the workplace and to initiate suitable projects.
NUS E-OPEN HOUSE 2021
27 Feb - 6 Mar 2021

The NUS e-Open House 2021 drew in audiences from near and far, as visitors logged into the websites, livestreams, webinars and social media sessions that were hosted by faculties, schools and programme organisers. There was something for everyone, whether they wanted to find out about the academic programmes on offer, the vibrant student life of the university, the various residential options available, or the entrepreneurship and industry programmes that they can choose from.

Associate Professor Reuben Wong represented GRO in a joint webinar titled ‘From Academic Programmes to Global Opportunities and Career Preparation’, which was targeted at prospective students and provided insights on the holistic student experience in NUS Undergraduate Programmes.

The highlight of GRO’s involvement in the e-Open House was the ‘live’ Instagram online sharing session hosted by three selected student Peer Advising Leaders (PALs), all of whom readily answered questions and eagerly shared their unique study abroad experiences in countries such as Sweden, the Netherlands and China.

The sharing sessions included both long-term programmes (such as the Student Exchange Programme) and short-term programmes (such as the Summer Programmes) offered by GRO.

GRO also provided additional touchpoints with prospective students including - on Instagram, ran individual publicity on each of the PALs’ study abroad experiences, as well as held a week-long ‘Ask Us Anything’ where questions were answered.

INNOVATING: COUNTERING THE DIFFICULTIES POSED BY THE PANDEMIC

GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES AMIDST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
24 Mar 2021

Jointly organised by the Global Relations Office (GRO), the Centre For Future-ready Graduates (CFG) and the NUS Overseas Colleges (NOC), this webinar sought to share with students how they can remain international in orientation and relevant even without travelling during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Associate Professor Wong was joined by representatives from the NUS Office of Admissions (OAM) and the NUS Centre for Future-ready Graduates (CFG).

STUDENT LIFE FAIR – STUDY ABROAD CHAT
10 Aug 2020

The online Study Abroad Chat brought together over 300 NUS students (mostly in their freshmen year) to hear from their fellow schoolmates who have embarked on various global programmes such as the Study Trips for Engagement & EnRichment (STEER) and the Student Exchange Programme (SEP).

NUS students, Mr Esmond Tan, as well as social media influencer Ms Vanessa Ho, also made appearances, regaling the audiences with rich takeaways from their overseas study adventures. Such engagements kept the spirit of global education glowing especially considering how COVID-19 has dimmed the prospects of travel.
BOLSTERING Our Community

The life disrupting pandemic has accentuated GRO staff’s commitment to mutually support one another in this crisis, as well as build our solidarity together in addressing challenges faced by the students at NUS, and also doing our part to help the needy in Singapore. By uplifting ourselves and the community, we make a positive impact on our shared future, personally and professionally.
A spinning top has a squat body and a sharp point at the bottom. It keeps its balance well when spun by minimising the amount of friction generated by its contact with the surface below it and the air resistance around it. It also optimises the energy from its momentum and velocity. Leveraging on what we do best, tapping on our inner resource and strengths and moving in synchronisation with rapid changes in the world, keeps GRO literally on its feet and its dedication to service excellence.
GRO's Peer Advising Leaders (PALs) are one of our key supporting pillars, helping to organise fun and engaging activities for our inbound, outbound and returning exchange students, to enrich their study abroad experiences.

Though the pandemic brought with it much uncertainty and a lot of limitations (especially to physical events!), our PALs managed to rise to the challenge and carried out purposeful virtual and physical activities to engage exchange students. Of the new virtual activities introduced, one included an exciting escape room game, as well as a talk on the Peranakan culture and virtual tour of the NUS Baba House. The PALs also managed to bring the exchange students on a physical tour to Clementi Town Centre and an Art Trail in Chinatown. Through these events, the exchange students learned more about the everyday life and culture of Singapore.

The PALs also shared their overseas experiences with their juniors and prospective students at the virtual Global Fair and NUS e-Open House respectively. Such sharings aimed to help prepare students who may be keen to embark on global programmes when international travel and overseas programmes resume.

Showcasing different aspects of Peranakan Culture

Virtual Event (Peranakan culture)
The NUS Global Relations Office (GRO) staff huddled virtually on 4 Dec 2020 and were treated to a Collective Learning E-Workshop that touched on the importance of building resilience to better respond to crises and managing their mental health and well-being in times of pandemics.

Smiles and laughter filled the zoom session as GRO colleagues were then launched into an online escape room where they competed in teams to “Save the Future”!
GRO VOLUNTEERING AT THE FOOD BANK

Oct 2020 saw GRO colleagues volunteering their time and goodwill to The Food Bank Singapore, which sources and rescues more than 800,000 kilograms of food annually for their network of beneficiary organisations.

GRO staff rolled up their sleeves and worked collaboratively to organise a diversity of donated edibles into set categories, allowing for easier distribution by the Food Bank.

It was an afternoon that greatly facilitated the appreciation of the preciousness of food supplies in Singapore and one done together as an office team.

ASSOCIATION OF PACIFIC RIM UNIVERSITIES (APRU) #QUARANTUNES MUSIC COMPETITION

Our talented students from the NUS Guitar Ensemble came together as “Virtual Ensemble” to show their solidarity amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, inspiring us with their passion for music through - "Summer Medley" - an original entry that emerged as one of 40 shortlisted finalists in the APRU #Quarantunes Music Competition.

Take a listen and enjoy a brief respite from your busy day!
NUS, with the support of both internal and external donors, offers the following financial aid, awards and scholarships for overseas student programmes.

- Baden-Württemberg Scholarship, Germany
- China Initiatives Steering Committee (CISC) Funding
- Chinese University Study Awards (CUSA)
- DUO-Singapore Exchange Fellowship Award
- ETH Zurich Student Exchange Award
- Fulbright Association (Singapore) Student Exchange Award
- Global KU Scholarship, Korea University
- India Experience Award (IEA) Funding
- Italian Government Scholarship (for postgraduates only)
- Jacob Phang Memorial Scholarship
- Japan Student Services Organisation (JASSO) Scholarship
- Language Immersion Award (France and Germany)
- Loh Boon Chye & Family SEP Awards
- Mendaki-NUS Overseas Programme Fund
- NUS Alumni Student Exchange Awards
- NUS Awards for Study Abroad (NASA) Exchange Bursary
- NUS Awards for Study Abroad (NASA) Exchange Scholarship
- NUS-French Double Degree Programme (French language immersion)
- NUS-UBC (University of British Columbia) Student Exchange Award
- Overseas Student Programme (OSP) Loan
- SEP Award for the Community Spirited
- Southeast Asia Experience Award (SEA) Funding
- STEER (Study Trips for Engagement and EnRichment) Award
- Tan Mingwei Global Community Service Grant
- Technical University of Munich (TUM) Student Exchange Award
- Temasek Foundation Leadership Enrichment and Regional Networking (TF LEaRN) Programme@NUS
- Universitas 21 (U21) Scholarship, Korea University
- University of Zurich Student Exchange Award
- US-Singapore Summer Exchange Scholarship Programme
### OUR PARTNERS

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- Central University of Finance and Economics
- China Europe International Business School
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- National Tsing Hua University
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- University of Indonesia

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- Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta
- Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow
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- National Law School of India University

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- Nagoya University
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- Ritsumeikan University
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- Tohoku University
- Tokyo Institute of Technology
- Tokyo University of Foreign Studies
- Waseda University

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- Korea University
- Pohang University of Science and Technology (POSTECH)
- Seoul National University
- University of Seoul
- Yonsei University

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- Khon Kaen University

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- Princess Galyani Vadhana Institute of Music
- Thammasat University

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- University of Guelph
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- University of Toronto
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- York University

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- Tecnológico de Monterrey

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- Boston University
- Brandeis University
- Carleton College
- Carnegie Mellon University
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- College of Agriculture & Life Sciences
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• Duke University
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• Johns Hopkins University
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• University of Hawaii at Manoa
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• University of Michigan
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• University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
• University of Notre Dame
• University of Oregon
• University of Pennsylvania
• University of Pittsburgh
• University of South Carolina
• University of Southern California
• University of Southern California, Viterbi School of Engineering
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• Universität Innsbruck
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  - Institut d’Etudes Politiques de Grenoble (Sciences Po Grenoble)
  - Université Grenoble Alpes
• École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Decoratifs
• École Nationale Supérieure des Mines de Paris (MINES ParisTech)
• École Speciale d’Architecture (Paris XIV)
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• HEC Paris
• Institut Mines-Télécom

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• Hochschule Esslingen
• Hochschule für Musik, Theater und Medien Hannover
• Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
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• Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München
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• WHU Otto Beisheim School of Management-Koblenz

**Hungary**
• Budapest University of Technology and Economics
• Corvinus University of Budapest

**Iceland**
• Iceland Academy of the Arts
• University of Iceland
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Institutions</th>
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| **Ireland**  | • Trinity College Dublin  
                 • University College Cork  
                 • University College Dublin |
| **Italy**    | • Politecnico di Milano  
                 • Politecnico di Torino  
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                       • Graduate Institute of Int’l and Development Studies (IHEID)  
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                       • University of St. Gallen  
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Information is correct as at June 2021.
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