

18 July 2009

To: All Science students matriculating in July 2009

You have made the right choice! Welcome to the Faculty of Science (FOS). Besides rigorous training in your choice of major discipline, you will also acquire life skills that will make you, a Science graduate, versatile, articulate, IT-savvy, fun and in demand. We have many interesting activities and people in the Faculty awaiting you to engage with. We look forward to your active participation in the community!

NUS BULLETIN 2009/10

This set of handbooks contains details of modules offered in NUS. You may either purchase a set from the NUS Co-op or visit NUS Bulletin for the online version at <http://www.nus.edu.sg/nusbulletin>.

Please note that the contents of handbooks are accurate as at the date of printing. Students are strongly advised to refer to the *Science Undergraduate website* for the latest updates:

<http://www.science.nus.edu.sg/undergraduates/>

The Science Undergraduate website also provides information on class and examination schedules, centralized online registration exercise, graduation requirements, frequently asked questions, etc. You may wish to bookmark the website on your computers for easy reference.

PROGRAMMES OF INTEREST

1) Second Majors offered by FOS

Science students who wish to enhance and broaden their undergraduate studies may opt for a second major. Currently, FOS offers six second majors: Chemistry, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Physics, Statistics and Financial Mathematics. Please refer to the following website for more information:

<http://www.science.nus.edu.sg/undergraduates/curriculum/majors/>

2) Minor in Forensic Science

Interested in gaining experience in various aspects of forensic science and criminal investigations? Yearning for an exciting opportunity to do hands-on processing of a simulated crime scene and the collection and preservation of physical evidence? Starting from Semester 2 of AY2009/10, a new minor in Forensic Science, jointly offered by the Departments of Chemistry and Biological Sciences, will be available to all students. For more information, please refer to

<http://www.chemistry.nus.edu.sg/undergraduates/forensic.htm>.

3) Joint Minor Programmes

Starting AY2009/10, FOS offers joint minor programmes in Environmental Biology and Environmental Chemistry. Students enrolled in these minors will get to study advanced courses for at least one semester at the University of Toronto (UofT), one of the most prestigious universities in the world. Such programmes serve to open up more opportunities for overseas exposure to our undergraduates and add value to their NUS education. For more information, please refer to

<http://www.science.nus.edu.sg/undergraduates/curriculum/abroad/jointminor/>

4) Freshman Seminar (SP1201)

This module presents opportunities for freshmen to explore Science and to work closely with members of the Faculty or prominent visiting professors on topics of current interest in contemporary research and scholarship. Students will acquire independent learning as well as oral and written communication skills. Please access <http://www.science.nus.edu.sg/undergraduates/module/sp1201/> for more information on this module.

5) Communicating with the Academy (SP1202)

Highly recommended by the Faculty, this module aims to help Science students develop writing skills to communicate their research effectively and competently in the Science community. It also aims to sharpen their critical and analytical skills in assessing ideas and presenting research data, and to train students in writing consistently according to scientific conventions. More details are available at <http://www.nus.edu.sg/celc/courses/sp1202.htm>

6) Study Abroad Programmes

FOS aims to cultivate a generation of undergraduates who are enterprising and global in outlook by encouraging students to go for overseas study trips through a host of programmes, which includes mainly the Student Exchange Programme (SEP) and the Joint Summer Exchange Programme. Students participating in SEP will be able to spend a semester or two studying at a reputable foreign university, while students going for the Joint Summer Exchange Programme will spend a shorter but equally enriching period of several weeks studying overseas. More information is available at the following websites:

<http://www.science.nus.edu.sg/undergraduates/curriculum/abroad/sep.html>

<http://www.science.nus.edu.sg/undergraduates/curriculum/abroad/summer/>

REGISTRATION EXERCISE 2009/10

The Registration exercise for all Science students will be held on **27 July 2009** at the Multi-Purpose Sports Hall 1 (MPSH 1). You are required to be present to complete your registration so that you may participate in the centralized online registration exercise on **28 July 2009** to indicate your preference for major(s)/minor(s) and modules. Please refer to the Registrar's Office website at <http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/event/registration-new.html> for details on the Registration exercise

FRESHMEN WELCOME TEA & DEAN'S WELCOME TEA 2009

Congratulations again for coming this far in your pursuit of academic excellence and personal enrichment! We have organised a series of briefings on **24 July 2009** to introduce you to the Faculty:

- General Course Briefing
- Introduction to Modules Bidding
- Major and Minor Programmes in FoS
- Briefing on Pharmacy Programme

As a warm welcome to all freshmen, the Dean of Science, Professor Andrew Wee, will host the Dean's Welcome tea on **6 August 2009**. All new students are cordially invited to attend the session.

You may wish to mark out your calendar for both events. All freshmen are strongly encouraged to attend. The detailed schedule for both events will be announced at <http://www.science.nus.edu.sg/undergraduates/admission/matriculation.html>

FAMILIARIZATION WITH THE CENTRALISED ONLINE REGISTRATION SYSTEM (CORS)

The schedule for online registration of modules via CORS for Semester 1, 2009/10 is as follows:

Module registration period	23 July 09 (Thur) - 11 August 09 (Tue)
Lectures begin	11 August 09 (Tue)
CELC Tutorial registration	7 August 09 (Fri) - 14 August 09 (Fri)
Tutorial registration for all other modules	14 August 09 (Fri) - 21 August 09 (Fri)
Tutorials begin	24 August 09 (Mon)
Drop with 'W' & no refund of points	24 August 09 (Mon) - 27 September 09 (Sun)
Drop with 'F' & full refund of points	28 September 09 (Mon) onwards

Please refer to the CORS website at <http://www.cors.nus.edu.sg/> for detailed schedules and activities of each bidding round.

Students should note that modules dropped with 'F' cannot be declared on S/U option. You may refer to the FAQs at http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/edu/UG/graduation.html#su_quicklinks for the information.

You may register for modules online via **any computer with internet access**. For students who prefer to do the online registration in the Faculty, please proceed to **S16 Level 2** for assistance from the Science Computer Based Learning Centre (CBLC) during the module registration period.

Please note that ALL students can only select and bid up to a maximum of 23 modular credits from bidding Round 0 to Round 2. Starting from Round 3, students with CAP less than 3.50 will be allowed to select and bid up to 26 modular credits, while students with CAP of 3.50 or more will be able to select and bid up to 32 modular credits; no prior approval from the Dean's Office is required.

The contact information and operating hours of Science CBLC for this exercise are as follows:

Hotline - 6516 8701
 Email - helpdesk@science.nus.edu.sg

Monday - Thursday	0900 - 1730 hours
Friday	0900 - 1630 hours
Weekends & University/Public Holidays	Closed

Please bring along the confidential slips that contain your PIN and Password (these slips will be issued to you when you matriculate on 27 July 2009), and O-level & A-level certificates during the registration period.

*Students should **not** reveal their login, email passwords and NUS Smartcard PIN number to anyone. Disciplinary action will be taken against those who do so.*

CURRICULUM POLICIES

With effect from AY2007/08, amendments have been made to the following curriculum policies which all students should note:

- Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grading system
- Limit on Level 1000 modules
- University Level Requirements
- Maximum Candidature

Please refer to the NUS Bulletin 2007/08 at <http://www.nus.edu.sg/nusbulletin/> or <http://www.science.nus.edu.sg/undergraduates/curriculum/policies/> for the information.

QUALIFYING ENGLISH TEST (QET)

You will be notified by the Centre for English Language Communications (CELC) directly of your QET results. For students who did not pass the QET, you will be required to take either ES1000 (Basic English Course) and/or ES1301 (English for Academic Purpose). Students who are required to read both ES1000 and ES1301 may read ES1000 in Semester 1, 2009/10 and ES1301 in Semester 2, 2009/10.

For students who are required to read only ES1301, you may read it during Semester 1, 2009/10 or Semester 2, 2009/10.

OVERLAPPING MODULES

There are modules that may overlap substantially in content with each other. Students are discouraged from reading overlapping modules unless both are required to attain a double major, for example.

It will be the student's responsibility to check whether their modules overlap with each other. When in doubt, students should consult the course instructor or an academic advisor. Please refer to the online version of the NUS Bulletin 2009/10 at <http://www.nus.edu.sg/nusbulletin/> for the up-to-date information on overlapping (precluded) modules.

If, for some reasons, you have been given approval to read an overlapping (precluded) module, please note that the modular credits of the precluded module will not count towards your graduation requirements.

ACADEMIC WARNING, PROBATION & DISMISSAL

Please note that if your Cumulative Average Point (CAP) falls below 2.00 for any semester, you will be issued a warning.

If your CAP falls below 2.00 again in the following semester, but not sufficient to warrant an immediate termination (i.e. $1.50 \leq \text{CAP} < 2.00$), you will be placed on probation.

You will not be able to continue your undergraduate studies and be denied readmission to the University if you have

- CAP below 1.50 in two consecutive semesters; or
- CAP below 2.00 in three consecutive semesters.

In both cases, you will be issued a letter of dismissal by the Registrar's Office. You may appeal against the dismissal on the grounds of extenuating circumstance. Each student is only allowed to appeal once during their period of candidature.

Students who face difficulties in coping with their studies are encouraged to approach the academic mentors assigned to you for guidance and support. Your mentors will be able to direct you to the various avenues where help is available. More information on the Science Academic Mentorship scheme is provided at <http://www.science.nus.edu.sg/undergraduates/activities/am.html>.

TIMETABLE

The class and examination timetables for Semester 1, 2009/10 may be found at the following URL:

<http://www.science.nus.edu.sg/undergraduates/module/regsem/>

The onus is on the students not to register for modules with clashes in class or examination timetable.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Important information will be transmitted to students through the Faculty of Science webpage (www.science.nus.edu.sg/undergraduates/) or via electronic mail (NUS Exchange). Please note that *it is your responsibility to check these channels regularly for latest updates*. You are also reminded to clear your [NUS Exchange Mailbox](#) regularly so that important emails will be delivered promptly to you.

We wish you a pleasant stay with the Faculty of Science and we look forward to see you at the Freshmen Welcome Tea on 24 July 2009 and the Dean's Welcome Tea 2009 on 6 August 2009.

Yours sincerely,

A/Prof Chua Tin Chiu
Associate Dean
Science Dean's Office

cc Dean, Vice Deans, Associate Deans & Assistant Deans, Faculty of Science
Registrar
Dean, Office of Student Affairs
Director, Centre for English Language Communications
Director of Programme, Quantitative Finance
Director of Programme, Special Programme in Science
Director of Programme, Food Science & Technology
Coordinators, Life Sciences Undergraduate Programme Committee
Coordinators, Computational Biology Undergraduate Programme Committee
Heads of Departments of Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Mathematics, Statistics & Applied Probability, Pharmacy, Physics, Faculty of Science
Heads of Departments of Anatomy, Biochemistry, Microbiology, Pathology, Pharmacology, Physiology, Faculty of Medicine
A/P Tay Seng Chuan, Head, IT Unit
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