

AY2027/2028 Student Exchange Programme (SEP)

FoS Study Abroad Team

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National University of Singapore

| What is SEP?

- ▶ The Student Exchange Programme (SEP) gives students the chance to **spend one semester studying at an overseas partner university (PU)** while remaining enrolled in NUS.
- ▶ Students get to experience a different academic environment, learn from international faculty, and take courses that may count towards their degree requirements.
- ▶ Beyond academics, SEP helps students develop cross-cultural awareness, independence, adaptability, and a broader global perspective.
- ▶ Students also get to build international friendships, explore new cultures, and gain valuable personal and professional experiences.



Sunset at Shenandoah National Park
PU: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (United States)



Exploring Arches National Park with exchange friends
PU: University of California, San Diego (United States)



New Zealand trip with fellow exchange students from NUS
PU: University of Melbourne (Australia)

Partner Universities

Total: 170

- U-wide: 154
- Fac-level: 16

North America

- ❖ Canada: 15
- ❖ United States: 36

Europe

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| ❖ Austria: 1 | ❖ Italy: 2 |
| ❖ Belgium: 1 | ❖ Netherlands: 6 |
| ❖ Denmark: 3 | ❖ Norway: 2 |
| ❖ Estonia: 1 | ❖ Poland: 2 |
| ❖ Finland: 1 | ❖ Spain: 1 |
| ❖ France: 2 | ❖ Sweden: 7 |
| ❖ Germany: 15 | ❖ Switzerland: 5 |
| ❖ Hungary: 1 | ❖ United Kingdom: 18 |
| ❖ Ireland: 3 | |

Asia & Middle East

- ❖ China: 10
- ❖ Hong Kong: 5
- ❖ Japan: 6
- ❖ South Korea: 5
- ❖ Taiwan: 5
- ❖ Thailand: 2
- ❖ Türkiye: 2

Oceania

- ❖ Australia: 10
- ❖ New Zealand: 3

Partner Universities

PUs newly offered for AY27/28 FoS SEP

- Belgium
 - KU Leuven
- Canada
 - University of Toronto (Scarborough)
- China
 - Beijing Normal-HK Baptist University (*for FST students only*)
 - Huazhong Agricultural University (*for Chemistry, Life Sciences students only*)
 - Nanjing University
 - Zhejiang University (*for Physics students only*)
- Germany
 - Karlsruhe Inst of Technology
 - RWTH Aachen University
 - University of Mannheim
 - Ulm University
 - University of Stuttgart

Partner Universities

PUs newly offered for AY27/28 FoS SEP

- Japan
 - Tohoku University
- Poland
 - Jagiellonian University
 - University of Warsaw
- United Kingdom
 - The London School of Economics and Political Science (*for DSA*, Mathematics, Statistics students only*)
- United States
 - Arizona State University
 - Texas A&M University
 - Tulane University
 - *University of Oregon (TBC)*
 - University of Southern California
 - Washington University in St Louis

**DSA students must complete DSA3101 before SEP (at LSE) and complete CS3244 before or during SEP (at LSE).*

How to Choose a Suitable PU

- ▶ Choose a host country that you are comfortable to stay in for 3 – 5 months. Consider the **climate & environment**, **cost of living**, **culture & lifestyle**, **safety & healthcare**, and **language**.
- ▶ **Check if the PU offers courses for your primary major.** Take note of:
 - ▶ The semester of course offering
 - ▶ The medium of instruction
 - ▶ Whether the course is open to undergraduate exchange students
 - ▶ Whether you have fulfilled the prerequisites
- ▶ It is not a requirement to read only PU courses that can be mapped to NUS primary major requirements. In fact, **students are encouraged to map to other requirements** (e.g. second major, minor, UE).
 - ▶ For Fac-level placements, students may be restricted to read PU courses offered by specific colleges/faculties/departments. In such cases, it is easier to map to primary major requirements.
- ▶ **Complete an initial study plan (ISP)** to check if there are sufficient courses to read at the PU, and if they can potentially be mapped to NUS courses. While the ISP (for your top 2 PU choices) must be submitted via the Qualtrics application, it is tentative and unofficial. Receiving an SEP offer does not mean that the ISP and its mappings are approved.
- ▶ Ensure that you **fulfil specific requirements set by the PU**, if any.

Application Tips

- ▶ **Be flexible in your study plan and prepare for unexpected circumstances.** Mapping to UE requirements provides more options in terms of (1) PUs to choose from and (2) courses that can be read at the PU.
- ▶ **Be aware of uncertainties** involved in SEP, especially with regards to courses:
 - ▶ Course offerings are updated annually at the start of the academic year/semester. Courses offered in previous years may no longer be available during your exchange semester.
 - ▶ Course vacancies may be limited*, and you may not be able to secure a course even if it is offered. Degree-seeking students (PU students) are prioritised over non-degree-seeking students (exchange students).
 - ▶ The PU course may have pre-requisite requirements. Fulfilment of NUS pre-requisite ≠ fulfilment of PU's pre-requisite.

**For any student intending to read computer science courses, they are in high in demand and course availability cannot be guaranteed.*

Application Tips

- ▶ Allocation outcome depends on various factors, including the demand for the PU, and students' ranking of the PU.
 - ▶ Students are allocated according to their preferences, with placement prioritised for undersubscribed PUs, assuming the applicants meet the eligibility criteria.
 - ▶ For oversubscribed PUs, students are considered on competitive basis, taking into consideration their academic performance, non-academic achievements (e.g. participation and roles in CCAs, performance in competitions etc.) and personal statement.
- ▶ Hence, students are encouraged to **explore PUs that are generally less popular**.
 - ▶ PUs with limited English-taught courses (foreign language proficiency may be required)
 - ▶ PUs located in smaller cities, or further away from the city centre
 - ▶ PUs offered only to students in your major (if any)
- ▶ **List down clearly the Co-Curricular Activities (CCAs)**, including competitions, that you are/have participated in since your matriculation into NUS. Both NUS and external CCAs are considered.
 - ▶ A maximum of 10 CCA entries can be listed in the application. Only one entry per CCA per AY is considered. Do not list the same CCA in the same AY more than once (e.g. if holding multiple roles within the CCA).
- ▶ **Indicate in your application any foreign language proficiency**, especially if relevant to the PUs you are applying for.

Advice from Seniors

*"Stepping outside your comfort zone is a crucial part of the experience, and it is where most of the growth happens. You will also meet NUS peers, seniors, and international students who can support you along the way, making the transition much easier. Overall, it is a very rewarding experience that **broadens your perspective** and **creates lasting memories**."*

*"Be willing to **step out of your comfort zone** and **stay curious**. Studying abroad is a rare opportunity to experience a completely different environment, both academically and personally. **Try new things, explore places you wouldn't normally go, and engage with people from different backgrounds**. The more open you are to these experiences, the more you'll gain from your exchange."*

*"The first piece of advice I would give is to **prepare for the entire application process early** and try to stay on top of everything going on. It's good to familiarise yourself with as much as possible early and try to do things as early as possible to avoid long waiting times for paperwork such as getting a visa.*

*The second piece of advice I would give is **getting ready to live independently**. While you can pick up life skills on exchange, it can be a good idea to learn daily tasks before going on exchange to ease the adjustment period.*

*The third piece of advice I would give is **doing research on the available academic programmes available in the host university**. These opportunities can be very useful for personal enrichment or even for further study!*

*The last piece of advice I would give is to **make good use of the limited time** while participating in a Study Abroad program, because time is very limited while overseas. I took part in activities and met people that I would have never gotten the opportunity to do back in Singapore thanks to the Study Abroad program I took part in."*

Administrative Matters

SEP Timeline

 **Apply for
FoS SEP**

 **Accept Offer & Start
Course Mapping**

**Prepare for
Exchange**

**Apply to PU & Receive
Acceptance Letter**

**Participate in
SEP at PU**

 **Submit PU Transcript &
Request for Credit Transfer**

 **Internal (NUS) processes**

FoS SEP Eligibility Criteria

- ▶ Be a full-time NUS FoS student
- ▶ Participate in SEP only in the **4th to 7th semester of study***
- ▶ Complete and **pass SP1541 or its equivalent** by the semester before SEP
- ▶ Have a **minimum GPA of 3.0****
- ▶ Have a **good disciplinary record*****

The above are the minimum requirements. As SEP application is highly competitive, students will be evaluated based on **academic** and **non-academic** considerations.

***FoS students are not allowed to participate in SEP in their final semester or final year (for students scheduled for year-long projects or internships). Students going on SEP in their 5th or 6th semester are prioritised during allocation of places.**

****Some PUs impose a GPA requirement for SEP.**

*****Good conduct from end-to-end (from application to return from SEP). The internal offer may be rescinded, or credit transfer may be affected if your conduct becomes unbecoming.**

SP1541 Equivalents

- ▶ SP1541X
- ▶ SP2271
- ▶ BES Programme: ENV2302
- ▶ Pharmacy Programme: MD1902 and MD1903
- ▶ University Town College Programme: UTW courses
- ▶ NUS College: NTW courses
- ▶ Ridge View Residential College: RVRC Programme
- ▶ Students who change from FASS primary major to FoS primary major:
FAS1101

| When Can I Take Part in SEP?

Choose between NUS Sem 1 (Aug – Dec) & NUS Sem 2 (Jan – May)

- ▶ PU semester/term during SEP to follow NUS semester

PU academic calendar is **similar** to NUS (most PUs)

- NUS Sem 1
= PU Fall Semester
- NUS Sem 2
= PU Winter/Spring Semester

PU operates on a **quarter basis** (some PUs in the U.S.)

- NUS Sem 1 = PU Fall Quarter
- NUS Sem 2 = PU Winter/Spring Quarter

PU academic calendar is **misaligned** with NUS (Japan, Germany)

- NUS Sem 1 (Aug – Dec)
= PU Autumn Semester (Oct – Mar)
- NUS Sem 2 (Jan – May)
= PU Spring/Summer Semester (Apr – Sep)

PU has a **reversed** academic calendar (Australia, New Zealand)

- NUS AY27/28 Sem 1
= PU AY2027 Sem 2
- NUS AY27/28 Sem 2
= PU AY2028 Sem 1

| When Can I Take Part in SEP?

Students in certain majors may only participate in SEP in a specific semester:

SEP in NUS Sem 1 only**

- **Data Science and Economics XDP**
 - DSE3101 cannot be mapped; only offered in NUS Sem 2.
- **Pharmacy**

****Only allowed to apply in Round 1 (taking place in AY26/27 Sem 1)!**

SEP in NUS Sem 1 (preferred) or Sem 2

- **Quantitative Finance**
 - **Advised** to take part in Sem 1 SEP.
 - QF2103 and QF3103 (pre-requisites of QF4204) are only offered in Semester 2. There is no guarantee that these courses can be mapped.

SEP in NUS Sem 2 only **Pharmaceutical Science**

- Sem 2 is the only semester where there is flexibility to move two major essential courses (PHS3102 and LSM3211) to another academic year:
 - PHS3102: Y2S2 or Y4S2
 - LSM3211: Y2S1 to Y4S1

Application Procedure

Important Application Details

Round 1 application period:

Wednesday, 2 Sep 2026 – Monday, 28 Sep 2026 (2359H SGT)

- ▶ Complete **both** **EduRec (Part 1)** and **Qualtrics (Part 2)** applications.
 - ▶ To access the **EduRec application**, complete the Travel Preparedness Course (TPC) in Canvas at least 48 hours prior.
 - ▶ You are advised to complete the **Qualtrics application** in one sitting as the form tends to time out when left idle, leading to an incomplete submission. Questions in the form are listed in Annex A of the application instructions available on the [FoS SEP website](#).
- ▶ Changes to PU selection/ranking and SEP semester are not allowed after the application deadline.
- ▶ **Incomplete and/or late applications will NOT be accepted.** If you encounter technical issues, submit your application and supporting documents via [SCI UG Queries](#) (category: SAP) by the application deadline.

Travel Preparedness Course

- ▶ The Travel Preparedness Course (TPC) provides students with information on anticipating and mitigating risks, and handling emergencies while abroad. This is a **compulsory** course for all students who intend to embark on any NUS-endorsed overseas programme.
- ▶ You can only apply for SEP in EduRec **at least 48 hours after completing the TPC**. Within the first 48 hours upon completion of the TPC, the following error will prevent you from applying:

Message

Please complete the Travel Preparedness Course prior to your study abroad programme application. To access the course, please visit this link: <https://canvas.nus.edu.sg/enroll/LECK9W>. Please wait for 24 hours after completion of the course before applying for your study abroad programme.

OK

- ▶ TPC issues will not be considered as valid reasons for late submission.
- ▶ For more information, FAQs and technical questions regarding TPC, please refer to <https://www.nus.edu.sg/gro/travel-preparedness-course>.

Course Mapping & Credit Transfer

Course Mapping

Course mapping refers to the process of mapping PU courses to NUS courses. It is done officially through the **course mapping worksheet in EduRec**, which is created only after the student accepts the SEP offer in EduRec.

- ▶ PU courses with no equivalent NUS course may be mapped to **dummy courses**. While some dummy courses fulfil major elective requirements, most of them fulfil UE requirements.
- ▶ **CHS Common Curriculum courses** generally cannot be mapped to.
- ▶ **Online PU courses** cannot be mapped. Credits will not be transferred for online courses.
- ▶ Course mapping requests are reviewed by the **course host department** of the NUS course being mapped to. For questions on course mapping, please contact the department SEP coordinators/administrators.

Please **read the Course Mapping Instructions** available on the [FoS SEP website](#) for detailed information on course mapping.

Credit Transfer

Credit transfer takes place after SEP is completed and grades for PU courses taken are released. The process is initiated after the student submits the PU transcript to the FoS Study Abroad Team.

- ▶ All credit transfers are **processed by the student's home faculty**.
- ▶ The number of NUS units that a PU course carries is calculated using the **Credit Transfer Calculator**.
- ▶ A **maximum of 24 NUS units can be transferred** from semester-long SEPs. There is **no minimum workload** during SEP, but students are encouraged to complete a full workload (20 NUS units) to prevent delays in candidature. The PU may require students to complete a minimum number of credits/courses.
- ▶ A maximum of 40% of the Programme/Major/Second Major/Minor/Specialisation requirements may be earned through credit transfers, advanced placement and exemptions.
- ▶ **Only credits are transferred**, grades are not. Hence, the student's GPA in NUS is not affected. PU courses and the respective mapped NUS courses are not reflected in the NUS transcript.

Please **read the Credit Transfer Policy** available on the [FoS SEP website](#) for detailed information on credit transfer.

SEP Finances

SEP Costs

During the SEP semester, tuition fee is paid to NUS instead of the PU. However, there are other costs involved:

- ▶ Round-trip airfare
- ▶ Visa fees
- ▶ Food
- ▶ Accommodation
- ▶ Daily transport
- ▶ Books
- ▶ Miscellaneous student fees at the PU
- ▶ Insurance* (in some countries it is required to purchase the insurance of the host country)
- ▶ Miscellaneous expenses such as travel, clothes, entertainment

**All students travelling overseas on official NUS student trips, including SEP, will be covered by the NUS Student Travel Insurance Policy. For more information, refer to the [student portal](#).*

Financial Aid

Students who have accepted an internal SEP offer may apply for the following financial aid offered by NUS:

- ▶ [NASA Exchange Scholarship](#)
- ▶ [NASA Exchange Bursary](#)
- ▶ [Science Student Overseas Exposure Fund \(SSOEF\)](#)
- ▶ [Opportunity Enhancement Grant](#)
- ▶ [Other Awards & Scholarships](#)
- ▶ [Other Bursaries](#)
- ▶ [Loans](#)

Please refer to the respective links for more information, including application instructions.

Other Matters

| Withdrawal from SEP

- ▶ A **withdrawal penalty of \$300** will be charged if you withdraw from SEP after accepting the internal (FoS) offer. Hence, please consider carefully before accepting the SEP offer (if offered).
- ▶ Facing issues with mapping and securing PU courses is not a valid reason for withdrawal.
- ▶ Only students with a primary major in FoS are allowed to participate in SEP under FoS. Students who change their major to a non-FoS major after accepting an SEP offer under FoS must be withdrawn from FoS SEP.

Guaranteed SEP Placement

- ▶ Some NUS Scholarships (e.g. NUS Global Merit Scholarship, NUS Merit Scholarship) guarantee an offer of a semester-long SEP.
 - ▶ Scholars must fulfil all eligibility requirements to receive an SEP offer.
 - ▶ Allocation of PU is merit-based and done according to the standard process. Hence, the PU offered to a scholar may not be one of their top choices. In some cases, scholars may not receive an offer in Round 1 and will be asked to apply in future rounds.
 - ▶ If an offer is declined, the scholar will no longer be guaranteed a placement in future application rounds.

Useful Links

- ▶ FoS SEP Website: <https://www.science.nus.edu.sg/undergraduates/study-abroad-programmes/outgoing/student-exchange-programme-sep/>
- ▶ PU Fact Sheet (by GRO): <https://www.nus.edu.sg/gro/global-programmes/student-exchange/partner-universities>
- ▶ GRO Website: <https://www.nus.edu.sg/gro/global-programmes/student-exchange/outgoing-exchangers>

THANK YOU

If you have questions, please contact the FoS Study Abroad Team via [SCI UG Queries](#) (category: SAP)