Studying abroad @ NUS National University of Singapore

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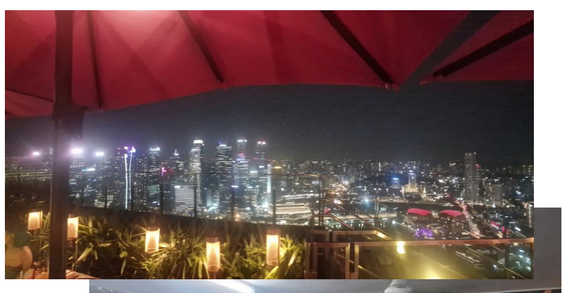


Semester 1: starts beginning of August, 18 weeks
Semester 2: starts second week of January, 17 weeks



About NUS:

- Founded in 1980, following a merger between University of Singapore & Nanyang University.
- Ranked 8th in the QS World University Rankings 2026, the top ranked university in Asia. In particular, NUS ranks joint 8th for Mathematics, tied with Imperial College London.
- NUS is home to 33,500 to 44,000 students per year, with roughly 2,000 to 2,500 of them being exchange students.
- The campus is located in Kent Ridge, on the west side of Singapore. It has its own MRT (train) station, and there are many buses that serve the campus. The university also has its own internal campus shuttle bus, which is free to use!





My course:

- I am on the MMath with SYA course, so for me the exchange year is included in my overall results.
- Each semester, it is advised to take 16 credits (4 classes) per semester. There is a course registration exercise before each semester where you choose your preferred classes. nusmods.com is an excellent online resource that has information about the courses and their timetables. Note: you must choose modules that **do not overlap** on your timetable.
- The Maths Department offer a wide range of courses, and I was satisfied with the quality of teaching. The ones I took were:
  - Semester 1: Metric and Topological Spaces, Measure and Integration, Mathematical Logic, Advanced Techniques in Calculus.
  - Semester 2: Complex Analysis, Intro to Number Theory, Differential Geometry of Curves & Surfaces, Numerical Methods.*

  *I wanted to take Set Theory in Semester 2, but it clashed with another class, so I had to replace it with Numerical Methods.
- Grades for each class comprise of continuous assessment (quizzes, problem sheets, attendance) and exams. Unlike here, classes in NUS may have a midterm exam halfway through the semester, in addition to a final exam at the end. It is important to note that NUS grade students on a **bell curve**, that is your mark for each class is based upon the whole cohort's performance. This is different to how it is done in Bath.

Living in Singapore:

- NUS offer a range of campus accommodation with priority given to exchange students. The rent is reasonably priced and often includes meals. You don't need to bring much stuff, IKEA exists.
- The MRT (train) and bus services are punctual, air conditioned, and cheap. You tap on and off with your bank (or NETS) card to access them.
- The weather is hot and usually sunny all year round with temperatures of around 30°C. When it does rain, it is can be stormy. However, every day is t-shirt and shorts weather. My advice for the heat is to use the MRT stations and malls to avoid the intense sun, as they are all air conditioned.
- Singaporeans are very hospitable. I highly recommend that you make friends with them as they will take you to the hotspots around the country. It is worth learning a bit of "Singlish", an English-based creole language with Malay and Hokkien influences, as it is the common way locals speak.
- Good food is a staple of Singaporean culture. It is worth asking locals for recommendations of where to go for the best meal. My favourite eatery was the legendary "Beach Road scissor cut curry rice" in Jalan Besar, which was shown to me by my friends and isn't in a particularly touristy spot.
- There are various food centres - known as "Hawker Centres" - around the country, which serve a variety of dishes for great prices. Most Singaporeans do not cook often as eating out in these places is more cost effective.







My key takeaways:

- Meet lots of locals and explore the country. Also, do take some time to travel to other countries around the area. I went to Malaysia, China, and India during my exchange!
- Go and partake in the societies within the university. You will likely find a similar society to the ones you go to in Bath.
- Open a DBS bank account soon after you land. Shops in Singapore use a QR code pay system called "Paynow", and DBS offers an app to use it. It is great for quick payments and transferring money to friends. **Not all shops use card payments**.
- Regarding study visas, you will be contacted about it once you get accepted into the exchange program by NUS. This involves a medical form, which I strongly advise should be done in Singapore, **not in England**. They offer services for this to be done within one day.
- The main social media apps used for groups and news are Telegram, Whatsapp, Instagram.
- There are plenty of other exchangers who visit NUS alongside you. The university offers exchangers events which are great fun!
- This year was such a great experience, one that I will never forget. I **strongly encourage** others to go and take the opportunity to visit this great country like I did!