

# Singapore

## FALL 2012/ACADEMIC YEAR 2012-2013 PROGRAM HANDBOOK

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The Singapore program is offered by International Academic Programs (IAP) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in conjunction with the National University of Singapore (NUS). This IAP Program Handbook supplements handbook(s) or materials you receive from NUS as well as the IAP Study Abroad Handbook and provides you with the most up-to-date information and advice available at the time of printing. Changes may occur before your departure or while you are abroad.

Questions about your program abroad (housing options, facilities abroad, etc.) as well as questions relating to your relationship with your host university or academics (e.g. course credit and equivalents, registration deadlines, etc.) should be directed to IAP at UW-Madison.

This program handbook contains the following information:

<b>CONTACT INFORMATION .....</b>	<b>3</b>
On-site Program Information .....	3
UW-Madison Information .....	3
Emergency Contact Information .....	3
Embassy Registration.....	3
<b>PROGRAM DATES .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>PREPARATION BEFORE LEAVING .....</b>	<b>4</b>
Immigration Documents.....	4
Handling Money Abroad .....	6
Packing .....	7
Electronics.....	7
<b>TRAVEL AND ARRIVAL .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM .....</b>	<b>9</b>
National University of Singapore.....	9
International Relations Office.....	9
Orientation.....	9
Course Information .....	10
Credits.....	11
Pass/Fail/Drop/Audit.....	11
Grades and Grade Conversions .....	11

<b>LIVING ABROAD .....</b>	<b>11</b>
Singapore .....	11
Housing .....	13
Student Life .....	14
Transportation .....	15
Safety .....	15
Health .....	16
Communication .....	16

# Contact Information

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## ON-SITE PROGRAM INFORMATION

Your primary contacts will be:

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Shaw Foundation Alumni House,  
11 Kent Ridge Drive  
Singapore 119244  
+65 6516 4356  
+65 6777 5547 emergency  
+65 6778 0177 fax  
[www.nus.edu.sg/iro/](http://www.nus.edu.sg/iro/)

## UW-MADISON INFORMATION

International Academic Programs (IAP)  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
105 Red Gym, 716 Langdon Street  
Madison, WI 53706  
(608) 265 6329  
(608) 262 6998 fax  
[www.studyabroad.wisc.edu](http://www.studyabroad.wisc.edu)

**Lauren Worth**  
IAP Study Abroad Advisor  
(608) 265 2915  
[lworth@studyabroad.wisc.edu](mailto:lworth@studyabroad.wisc.edu)

## EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

In case of an emergency, call the main IAP number (608) 265-6329 between 7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday; after-hours or on weekends call the IAP staff on call at (608) 516-9440.

## EMBASSY REGISTRATION

All program participants who are U.S. citizens must register at the U.S. Embassy before departure as this will help in case of a lost passport or other mishap. You can register online at <https://travelregistration.state.gov>. If you are not a U.S. citizen, register at your home country's embassy or consulate.

United States Embassy  
27 Napier Road  
Singapore 258508  
+65 6476 9100  
+65 6476 9340 fax  
<http://singapore.usembassy.gov>

## Program Dates

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### Fall 2012

Arrive in Singapore	TBD
Classes begin	August 13, 2012
Last day of classes	November 16
Reading week	November 24-December 8
Exams	December 9, 2012-January 13, 2013

Students are expected to arrive approximately one week before the start of the term to take charge of housing, registration, make arrangements for Student Pass, and other administrative matters. For complete and current calendar information, visit <https://share.nus.edu.sg/registrar/info/calendar/AY2012-2013.pdf>

## Preparation Before Leaving

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### IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS

**Passport:** A passport is needed to travel to Singapore and to obtain your Student Pass. Apply immediately for a passport if you do not already have one. Passport information and application forms can be found on the U.S. State Department website <http://travel.state.gov/passport/>. If you already have your passport, make sure it will be valid for at least 6 months beyond the length of your stay abroad.

**Visa:** U.S. citizens do not need a visa to enter Singapore. Non-U.S. citizens should consult with the Singaporean consulate for visa requirements.

**Student Pass:** Students will need the following items for entry:

- Passport valid for at least 6 months after your scheduled departure from Singapore
- Confirmed round-trip airline ticket
- Evidence of enough funds to support yourself financially while in Singapore (e.g. original bank statements, signed letter from bank, etc.)

Upon arrival in Singapore, students will need to complete a disembarkation/embarkation form (available on the airplane) and present this form along with their passport to immigration officers at the airport. Students must retain the returned portion of

the disembarkation/embarkation form, as this is required for the Student Pass application (permission to stay and study in Singapore). Also upon arrival in Singapore, students will be given a Social Visit Pass for a minimum of two weeks at the airport or point of entry.

NUS will apply for an In-Principle Approval (IPA) letter for all international students through the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) Student's Pass Online Application and Registration (SOLAR) system. For international students who do not require an entry visa to Singapore, they will receive their stamped IPA letters during NUS registration. After students have matriculated/registered and received their IPA letter endorsed with the university seal, they may then apply for a Student Pass within the valid period of their Social Visit Pass.

The following items are needed for the process of obtaining a student pass:

- Completed Application Form 16
- Visitor Data Amendment card IMM (E) 555
- Valid passport with a valid Social Visit Pass (you will obtain this upon arrival in Singapore)
- Program acceptance letter
- Embarkation ticket that you filled out on the plane to Singapore
- 2 passport-size photographs
- Letter from the Registrar's Office certifying registered student status/course of study/period of stay/exchange program (from NUS after arrival)
- Medical Examination Report for students studying for 6 months or more (obtained in Singapore)
- S\$40.00+ for Student's Pass
- Student Registration Card
- Confirmed return air ticket

Students may apply for the Student Pass at either of the following places:

1. Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA)  
Passports will be returned within a week. For more information visit <http://app.ica.gov.sg>.

2. Student Service Centre (SSC), Office of Student Affairs (OSA)  
Passports will be retained for a minimum period of two weeks. Students wishing to cash traveler's checks, open bank accounts or travel during this period are advised to take note.

Students are not allowed to stay in Singapore beyond the dates established in their Social Visit or Student Pass. Overstaying is a punishable offense, so take note of the expiration dates of the Social Visit Pass on arrival and of the Student's Pass. Students who wish to apply for renewals must do so at least four weeks before their Pass expiration date.

## HANDLING MONEY ABROAD

The official currency of Singapore is the Singapore Dollar (SGD), with S\$1 equaling 100 cents. As of 9/26/2011, the exchange rate was \$1 USD to S\$1.30.

**Banks:** Students have many banking options to choose from in Singapore. Many international banks offer a wide range of services. Students should bring enough cash or traveler's checks to cover expenses before their bank account is active.

The following documents are required to open a bank account:

- Passport (original and photocopy)
- Student's Pass or Letter of Acceptance from NUS
- Matriculation Card (if available)

On campus is a Development Bank of Singapore (DBS) and a Post Office Savings Bank (POSB) branch. Since the two banks merged in 1998, transactions can be conducted in most branches of the two banks. There are branches of DBS and POSB within/near campus, as well as a few other banks a short bus ride away in the Clementi area.

For the Development Bank of Singapore and POSB (merged) banks, the minimum initial deposit is S\$100 for those below twenty-one years of age. In order to open an account, students must have their passport and Student's Pass/NUS Letter of Admission.

### Transfer of Funds

- Students may receive additional funds using bank drafts made out in Singapore dollars and drawn from a Singapore bank. These can be credited to a Singapore account and drawn in 1 to 2 days. Checks drawn on banks with no branches in Singapore may take 3 weeks to clear.
- Wire transfers may also be made indirectly through another bank to a student's POSB account.

## PACKING

It is recommended that students bring the following items to Singapore:

- Photocopy of passport ID page
- Copy of birth certificate
- Bank statement or proof of financial security showing that you can cover all tuition and student fees during your program (this could be an official bank statement of an accessible account or a notarized letter of responsibility if you have a guardian that will be sending in payments for you while you are gone—signed by both the notary and the responsible party.)
- Letter of admission to NUS (this is a vital document in order to obtain your student pass and eventually your visa.)
- Confirmed notification of accommodation in student residences.
- Verification Letter from NUS (after submitting the NUS on-line application, students should receive a letter verifying that NUS has received the application. Students should carry this letter on their person when entering Singapore.

## ELECTRONICS

The standard voltage in Singapore is 220 - 240 volts AC at 50 cycles. The electrical outlets are mainly for 3 pin plugs. Adapters can be easily purchased in Singapore that will allow you to use 2 pin plugs.

## Travel and Arrival

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Students are responsible for making their own flight arrangements to Singapore. The major airport in Singapore is Changi Airport (SIN) [www.changiairport.com](http://www.changiairport.com).

Students who have received confirmation of NUS housing will be informed about applying for the Airport Meet-n-Greet Service. This service from the International Student Services Office at NUS matches up incoming international students with volunteers who will meet students at Changi Airport and accompany them to NUS (students still must pay for their own transportation to the university).

**Getting to NUS:** To get to the National University of Singapore campus from the Changi Airport, it is strongly recommended (although a little more expensive) to take a taxi, especially for first-time visitors. A taxi ride from the airport to NUS costs approximately S\$20. For trips originating from the airport, there is also a surcharge of S\$3 to S\$5. Between midnight and 6:00 a.m., there is an additional surcharge of 50% of the fare shown on the meter. A list of possible additional surcharges can be found posted in the taxis. Most taxi drivers speak English and Mandarin, and tipping is not expected.

Students can also take the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) and Bus to NUS. From Changi Airport MRT station, board the train going in the direction of Boon Lay (West line). Get off at Clementi MRT station and turn left after the gates. Take a three minute walk to the Clementi Bus Interchange, and board Bus 96, which brings passengers directly to campus. Alternatively, students can get off at Buona Vista MRT station, cross the overhead bridge and board Bus 95 to NUS.

Singapore Bus Service (SBS Transit) [www.sbstransit.com.sg](http://www.sbstransit.com.sg)  
Singapore Mass Rapid Transit (SMRT) [www.smrt.com.sg](http://www.smrt.com.sg)  
SMRT Bus Service: [www.smrtbuses.com.sg](http://www.smrtbuses.com.sg)

Students who require assistance in traveling to NUS during arrival dates may contact the NUS Airport Counter (9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.) located in the airport arrival halls or call the 24-hour hotline +65 6874 1503.

**Accommodations Check-In:** Students may check into their accommodations on the first day of the term. Requests for early check-ins have to be made prior to arrival and are dependent on the availability of rooms. Students should inform the Housing Office if they are planning to arrive and check in earlier. Additional room charges apply for early check-in. Students are strongly advised to print out a copy of their housing offer letter and present it upon check-in.

There is no housing deposit collection for students prior to their arrival. However, exchange students need to pay the following:

- Rent for the enter semester within 5 working days upon check-in
- Hostel application fee of S\$15.75
- Check-in registration fee of S\$5.25
- Electricity charges of \$26.25

Students who require urgent overnight accommodation, may book a room at the Singapore Hotel Association Counter (open daily between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.) in the arrival area of the airport. Alternatively, students may call the Transit Hotel at Changi Airport (Terminal 1: +65 6542 5538 and Terminal 2: +65 6542 8122). Rooms are charged at approximately S\$58.85 (Single) and S\$65.91 (Twin) for a six hour stay, with additional hours charged at S\$14.12 per hour.



# **The Academic Program**

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## **NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE**

The National University of Singapore (NUS) is the leading English medium university in Asia. It is a comprehensive university with 12 faculties, 6 halls of residence, 1 self-catering complex (Prince George's Park Residences), 1 university hospital, 6 libraries, 6 major canteens and several small cafés. The university offers courses that range from the arts to pure and applied sciences, engineering, business, medicine, and law. The National University of Singapore (NUS) has its roots in Singapore's first center of higher education, The Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States Government Medical School, which was founded in 1905. It was given its present name in 1980 through a merger between the University of Singapore and Nanyang University.

NUS is a vibrant campus with 20 percent of its current enrollment being international students. Its 370.64 acre campus is situated on a ridge surrounded by lush greenery, and offers panoramic sea views from some parts of campus. Only 25 minutes away from the city, the campus is also close to a housing estate with food outlets, clinics, shops and a supermarket, where students can stock up on groceries and buy toiletries and other essentials.

National University of Singapore [www.nus.edu.sg](http://www.nus.edu.sg)

## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE**

The International Relations Office (IRO) facilitates the development of external relations with established partners and collaborators around the world. The Student Exchange Programme (SEP) provides students from NUS Partner Universities the opportunity to study for as long as two semesters at NUS.

NUS International Relations Office [www.nus.edu.sg/iro/](http://www.nus.edu.sg/iro/)

## **ORIENTATION**

A weeklong orientation for new NUS students (both graduating and non-graduating) will take place the week before the start of the fall semester. The International Students Services team from the Office of Student Affairs also hosts a half-day orientation session [www.nus.edu.sg/osa/international/e&a/iso.html](http://www.nus.edu.sg/osa/international/e&a/iso.html) for new exchange students held usually on the Friday before the start of the term.

Orientation provides useful tips to assist students in settling into their life in Singapore, like setting up a bank account, using local transport, configuring their laptops, etc. At the end of the session, students can opt for a campus tour or go on a walking tour at Clementi, a neighborhood near the campus. This is where they will find shops, banks, the post offices, dining options, and can quickly pick up toiletries, pillows, alarm clocks, T-shirts and shorts, etc.

NUS IRO Incoming Student Resources [www.nus.edu.sg/iro/intl/students/resources.html](http://www.nus.edu.sg/iro/intl/students/resources.html)

NUS Non-Graduating International Student Guide <http://nus.edu.sg/osa/international/>

## **COURSE INFORMATION**

**Courses:** At NUS, exchange students can take modules (courses) in the following fields of study: arts and social sciences, computers, architecture, building and real estate, engineering, law and science. A module is a self-contained course of study conducted over a semester followed by an examination at the end of the semester. Available modules for next semester are listed in the university's online bulletin at [www.nus.edu.sg/nusbulletin/](http://www.nus.edu.sg/nusbulletin/).

Modules are taught in English, and most professors are American or European. Classes are highly participatory, with students often doing mandatory presentations for the class. Past participants have stressed that each class requires a substantial amount of work. Singaporean students spend a lot of time studying and past participants have reported studying an average of three hours each evening. For this reason, students might consider taking only 12 credits per semester.

At the time of application, students select modules that they wish to enroll in at NUS. In order to be pre-approved for a module, students must meet all required prerequisites. Applications and module requests are reviewed by the appropriate NUS faculty [www.nus.edu.sg/corporate/about/facultysch.htm](http://www.nus.edu.sg/corporate/about/facultysch.htm). Students should note that non-graduating students are restricted from taking some modules.

Both approved modules and those pending approval at the time of application are not guaranteed as last minute changes to teaching staff and resources could take place between the time students apply and the start of term, leading to the cancellation of the module. However, students can add other modules or drop modules after registration during the add-drop period.

**Language Course:** All students are approved to take Mandarin Chinese for language credit. Students wishing to take other language courses should consult with their study abroad advisor for approval. Language credit for courses other than Mandarin cannot be granted without prior approval.

**Registration:** Students must complete their pre-registration at least one week before their scheduled arrival at NUS at [www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/event/registration.html](http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/event/registration.html). If students are unable to complete the online pre-registration, they can still do so in person when they arrive. The Registration Center is located at the NUS Multi-Purpose Hall 1, Sports and Recreation Center (see [www.nus.edu.sg/campusmap/](http://www.nus.edu.sg/campusmap/) for the exact location). For more information on the registration process and on course planning visit the Registrar's SEP site at [www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/edu/ng.html](http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/edu/ng.html).

**Equivalents and Course Equivalent Request Form (CERF):** Each course you take abroad must be assigned a UW-Madison "equivalent" course in order for your grades and

credits to be recorded on your UW-Madison transcript. In order to establish UW-Madison course equivalents for your study abroad courses, you will submit a Course Equivalent Request Form (CERF). Detailed information on the UW course equivalent process is available in the IAP Study Abroad Handbook.

## CREDITS

**Conversions:** Credits will be converted on a one-to-one basis. For example, a 3-credit course in Singapore will also receive 3 credits at UW-Madison.

**Limits and Load:** To qualify as a full-time student, an exchange student must enroll for a minimum of 12 modular credits (MC) (approximately 3 modules) per semester. On average each class is worth approximately 4 MC, though there are many classes with MC amounting to more or less MCs. The average workload varies with each Faculty/School and ranges from 4 to 6 classes per semester.

All UW-Madison students participating on this program full time through IAP must be registered for a minimum of 12 credits and a maximum of 18 credits per semester.

## PASS/FAIL/DROP/AUDIT

Please refer to the IAP Study Abroad Handbook for academic policies.

## GRADES AND GRADE CONVERSIONS

Assessment can be based on tutorials, laboratories, projects, reports, as well as mid-term and final examinations. Students receive letter grades for each module taken. Grades will be converted according to the following scale:

NUS	UW-Madison
A	A
A-, B+	AB
B	B
B-, C+	BC
C, C-	C
D+, D	D
F	F

## Living Abroad

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### SINGAPORE

Located at one of the crossroads of the world, Singapore's strategic position has helped it grow into a major center for trade, communications and tourism. It is located 90 miles north of the equator in the heart of Southeast Asia. By virtue of its tropical location,

Singapore tends to be sunny and humid with temperatures ranging between 82.4 - 89.6 degrees Fahrenheit. For those who are not accustomed to this tropical climate, you will be glad to know that Singapore has air-conditioning in almost all of its shops, hotels, office buildings and restaurants. Rain falls throughout the year, with more consistent rain coming during the monsoon season from November to January. Showers are usually sudden and heavy, but also brief and refreshing.

Singapore is linked to Malaysia by two causeway bridges, and the key islands of the Riau Archipelago of Indonesia are just a quick ferry trip away. Bali, Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia are a short flight away. Singapore, with a world-class airport served by more than 69 airlines, is very much the gateway to Southeast Asia.

The time in Singapore is 13 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time; 14 hours ahead of Central and 16 hours ahead of Pacific Standard Time.

**History & Culture:** The name Singapore is derived from the word “Singapura” or “Lion City,” as legend has it that a Sumatran prince sighted a beast that looked like a lion when he first set foot on the island in the 14th century. In the year 1819, Sir Stamford Raffles established a British trading station on this island. Singapore gained its independence as a sovereign and democratic nation on August 9, 1965. It was admitted to both the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Nations in the same year.

What makes Singapore such a special destination is its multicultural mix of people. Singapore's population of almost 4 million is comprised of 76.8% Chinese, 13.9% Malays, 7.9% Indians and 1.4% Eurasians (inter-marriage of Europeans and Asians), and people of other descent who have chosen to make Singapore their home.

The original inhabitants were Malay fishermen, but after the arrival of Sir Stamford Raffles, Singapore became a magnet that drew hundreds of thousands of migrants and merchants. Seeking a better life for themselves and their families, they came from the southern provinces of China, Indonesia, India, Ceylon and the Middle East. Though inter-marriages have taken place over the years, each racial group within Singapore has retained its own cultural identity while developing as an integral part of Singapore community.

Singaporeans speak a variety of languages and dialects among family and friends, but English unites everyone. Due to the strong British legacy, English is the language of business and administration, and is also the common language spoken and understood by all, which makes it easy for visitors to get around. There are four official languages in Singapore: Malay, Mandarin, Tamil and English. Most Singaporeans are bilingual, and speak their mother tongue as well as English.

With this mixture of people, Singapore is also a mixture of religions. Singapore's skyline boasts the distinctive minarets of mosques, spires of gothic cathedrals, intricate figurines of Hindu temple gods and distinctive roof architecture of Chinese temples. The main religions are Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism, and Zoroastrianism.

**Behavior:** Both Singapore and NUS maintain a number of policies regarding behavior while in the country:

- There is a dress code for students while in lecture halls, libraries and administrative offices of the NUS. If you are dressed inappropriately, you will be asked to return with appropriate attire. Inappropriate dress for these situations includes tank tops, athletic shorts, clothes with indecent words or pictures, slippers, etc.
- Smoking tobacco is prohibited in most buildings and public areas, especially if enclosed or air-conditioned.
- Chewing gum or bringing gum (with the exception of Nicorette) into the country is strictly prohibited. Penalties may include fines and jail time!
- Singapore has strict laws (and severe penalties) against littering. Word to the wise: find a garbage can!
- Defacing public and private property carries a severe penalty.
- Bargaining is not normally used in Singapore shops. The prices marked are the prices at which goods are sold.
- Be punctual. Allow yourself sufficient time for travel. It is considered impolite to miss or arrive late for an appointment. Address the people you meet with titles such as Mr., Mrs., Miss, Dr., etc.

## HOUSING

The Residential Services (RS) office assists students in their search for housing either in a Hall of Residence, student residences (on/off campus) or private rental offers off-campus. It monitors the condition of off-campus housing such as rentals, furnishings and living conditions and aims to establish mutually beneficial arrangements between students and householders.

The RS offers:

- a register of rooms/apartments in private homes in the vicinity of NUS, to students through an online registration service
- a checklist for selection of off-campus housing offers
- copies of tenancy agreements (public & private housing)
- a list of youth/private hostels/budget hotels
- maps of nearby areas/bus routes
- street directory for reference
- MRT/bus guides

**On-Campus Residences:** Exchange students may apply for student accommodation in either the six Halls of Residence or Prince George's Park Residences. Students should apply for housing to Residential Services at the same time of their exchange application to NUS, preferably four months before arrival. Housing assignments are made after students have been accepted by NUS. Please be informed that housing is not guaranteed in view of the high demand for on-campus accommodation.

Student rooms are furnished with beds, mattresses, wardrobes, study tables, bookshelves, and fans. There are a very small number of air-conditioned single rooms

with attached bathrooms. Students are required to provide their own pillow and bed linen. Points for telephone, cable television and the university's computer network system are available in each room. Students may choose either a single room (single occupancy) or double room (double-occupancy). Laundry rooms equipped with coin operated machines and tumble dryers are located in each student accommodation.

Prince George's Park Residences is located off South Buona Vista Road and is the residence in which international students are typically placed. This residential complex offers 2,854 single rooms. Facilities include lecture theatres, seminar rooms, a multi-purpose hall, sports facilities, a mini-supermarket, 4 food outlets and other services. The complex is conveniently linked to the campus via a shuttle bus service.

The Halls of Residence build life-long friendships that are cherished by many alumni. Each hall has its own traditions and culture and its own brand of *esprit de corps*. Events such as the annual Rag and Flag Day are as integral to student life as term essays and Friday night jam and hops. Students interested in living in a residence hall must contact the RS early and explicitly request a residence hall (and not Prince George's Park).

NUS Housing Information [www.nus.edu.sg/osa/housing/](http://www.nus.edu.sg/osa/housing/)

**Meals:** Halls of Residence have compulsory meal plans (approximately S\$84 to S\$104). Meal plans vary and halls may not provide every meal during the week. Students should be prepared to budget for meals not provided in the meal plan (for example, university canteens and food courts S\$200 to S\$300). Students in Prince George's Park or other self-catering student housing may prepare their own meals in shared kitchens or patronize university canteens and food courts.

**Private Accommodation:** NUS Residential Services maintains a database on off-campus private rentals in the vicinity of the university. These comprise of rooms or apartments in the public housing estates as well as private residential areas. Some of the locations include Boon Lay (yo:HA @ 190 Hostel [www.nus.edu.sg/osa/housing/acc/YOHA.html](http://www.nus.edu.sg/osa/housing/acc/YOHA.html)), Clementi, West Coast, Dover, Ghim Moh and Pasir Panjang, all of which are within easy access of the university. Registered students may view the private rental offers at [www.nus.edu.sg/rental/](http://www.nus.edu.sg/rental/).

Students who are interested in taking up these offers will have to contact the householders directly to arrange for viewing of the rooms and to negotiate rental terms. Lease arrangements made between students and the householders are strictly private and the university will not be liable for any dispute or disagreement arising there from.

## STUDENT LIFE

Various activities are organized by NUS Students' Union and NUS Students' Societies and Interest Groups. There are often campus concerts, musical and theatrical productions, as well as dance performances on campus and off. Tickets are reasonably priced, or sometimes free. Celebrities often perform at the University Cultural Center (UCC) or at the Forum. On campus there is an art museum as well as a bio-diversity museum which houses plant and animal specimens native to the region.

Indoor athletic facilities include an exercise gym with 23 weight machines, 7 squash courts, 1 rock-climbing gym, a dance studio, 1 competition hall and 4 multi-purpose indoor halls. Outdoor facilities include a 9-lane Olympic-sized swimming pool, an 8-lane running track, 17 tennis courts, 4 basketball courts, 3 volleyball courts and 1 *sepak takraw* court.

NUS Office of Student Affairs Organizations and Activities [www.nus.edu.sg/osa/activities/](http://www.nus.edu.sg/osa/activities/)

**Host Family Program:** The Host Family Program (HFP), allows students to be paired with a family in Singapore. While not a home stay, this program allows students to adjust to life in Singapore and gain new insight into the activities of the local community through interaction with families who have volunteered to welcome students into their lives.

NUS Host Family Program [www.nus.edu.sg/osa/international/svcs/hfp.html](http://www.nus.edu.sg/osa/international/svcs/hfp.html)

NUS Host Family Program Application [www.nus.edu.sg/osa/international/forms.html](http://www.nus.edu.sg/osa/international/forms.html)

## TRANSPORTATION

Moving around campus is extremely convenient with the shuttle bus service. There are three separate Internal Shuttle Buses (ISB) that make rounds on the campus. The three services complement one another for wide coverage of the campus.

## SAFETY

Generally, Singapore is a safe city with many well-lit roads. Crimes are not common, and those that do occur usually involve petty theft or vandalism. However, as in any new situation, it is better to be somewhat cautious until students are more familiar with the city. Students should still keep the following points in mind when going out:

- When not in your room, ensure that all windows are closed and doors properly locked behind you.
- Avoid waiting inside lonely, closed-in shelters. Keep to open, populated and well-lit areas.
- If someone is following you, go to a place where there are other people.
- Avoid walking through dark, gloomy places at night. Always try to walk in groups.
- Stay alert to your surroundings at all times.
- Carry your mobile phone, coins or a phone card in case you need to call a taxi or a friend.

Emergency Phone Numbers:

- Campus Security +65 6516 1616
- Police 999
- Ambulance 995

## HEALTH

Medical checkups are mandatory for students staying in Singapore for more than six months. This is required by Singapore's Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) in order for a student pass to be legally and properly issued to the student. It is not mandatory for students who are in Singapore for less than six months.

The University Health and Wellness Centre [www.nus.edu.sg/uhwc](http://www.nus.edu.sg/uhwc) offers regular and emergency health services to students, with a minimal fee for services. Student counselors at the Personal Guidance and Counseling Services (PGCS) are also available should students require assistance (+65 6874 2376 [guidance@nus.edu.sg](mailto:guidance@nus.edu.sg)).

**Insurance:** It is compulsory for exchange students to subscribe to the NUS Group Medical Insurance Scheme (GMIS) [https://team.nus.edu.sg/registrar/info/info/Notes\\_on\\_Group\\_Medical\\_Insurance\\_Scheme.pdf](https://team.nus.edu.sg/registrar/info/info/Notes_on_Group_Medical_Insurance_Scheme.pdf) administered by the Registrar's Office. This insurance policy is purchased upon arrival in Singapore but may be waived on proof of equivalent coverage.

## COMMUNICATION

**Phone:** When making calls, keep in mind time zone differences [www.timeanddate.com/worldclock](http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock). To make an international call to the United States, dial the access code for the country from which you are calling plus the United States country code (always "1") followed by the appropriate U.S. area code and local number. To call internationally from the United States, dial "011", the country code, city access code (if necessary) and the phone number. Country and city codes can be found online ([www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/dialing.html](http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/dialing.html)). Some of above steps can vary if you are using a calling card.

**Email:** There are over 30 thousand plug-and-play points that provide broadband internet service around the campus. Just plug your notebook into one of these points. If you have a wireless network card, you can use your notebook anytime, anywhere.

NUS utilizes the Integrated Virtual Learning Environment (IVLE) platform. With IVLE, you can download your lecture notes, post your tutorial assignments online and view project material from this platform. Use online chat to discuss schoolwork with your classmates even when you are abroad.