The National University of Singapore (NUS) has nurtured generations of talent since our founding in 1905. Our 17 faculties across three campuses in Singapore and 12 NUS Overseas Colleges around the world provide a thriving environment for our diverse community of about 55,000 students and staff to work, live and learn together, in their pursuit of knowledge.

We pioneer innovative academic programmes, influential research and visionary enterprises to improve lives and contribute to society.

As Singapore’s flagship university and among Asia’s best, we strive to inspire and innovate, to shape a better future for Singapore, Asia and the world.
The National University of Singapore (NUS) commemorates its 115th year of founding in 2020. Established in 1905 as a modest medical school with 23 students, NUS is today widely known for its innovative and rigorous education, research and entrepreneurship, which has nurtured generations of leaders and luminaries across industries, professions and sectors in Singapore and beyond. With NUS115, we proudly celebrate the University’s transformative impact over 115 years and its continual efforts at shaping the future for a better world.

VISION
a leading global university shaping the future

MISSION
to educate, inspire and transform

VALUES
innovation, resilience, excellence, respect, integrity

The National University of Singapore aspires to be a vital community of academics, researchers, staff, students and alumni working together in a spirit of innovation and enterprise for a better world.

Our singular focus on talent will be the cornerstone of a truly great university that is dedicated to quality education, influential research and visionary enterprise, in service of country and society.
Empowering Education

We provide a holistic and rigorous education to ensure our students are future-ready and prepared for their careers, whether they are undergraduates, graduates or adult learners.

At NUS, our students are exposed to innovative pathways with global exposure. The NUS Overseas Colleges, student exchange, double, joint and concurrent degree programmes allow students to gain first-hand experiences worldwide. Through our residential colleges, we offer an experiential education and deep living-learning interaction on campus.

As part of the NUS Lifelong Learners programme, student enrolment is valid for 20 years upon undergraduate admission, and alumni are automatically eligible for publicly available courses under the programme.

Mini Semesters

Two consecutive mini semesters were introduced in the regular semester, giving students the flexibility to participate in internships, exchange programmes and other activities. This also enables adult learners to opt for accelerated courses that meet their professional commitments.

Design-Your-Own-Module

The Design-Your-Own-Module initiative encourages students to embrace self-directed education within their Unrestricted Elective space. It inspires students to explore learning beyond their own disciplines – either by online courses, or engaging with lecturers or industry leaders on projects.
University Town

University Town personifies NUS’ vision of a vibrant campus environment. The dynamic hub houses residential spaces, teaching amenities, study corners, sports facilities and performance areas, encouraging a social ecosystem for a rich and holistic campus experience. Yale-NUS College, a first-of-its-kind liberal arts college in Asia, is located within University Town. Its distinctive curriculum weaves science and liberal arts together with the diverse intellectual and cultural practices of Asia and the world, while its unique full residential programme embraces learning and living on campus.

Our School of Continuing and Lifelong Education brings comprehensive, practical programmes to working adults who wish to stay relevant in a fast-changing environment.

One of the University’s initiatives is the NUS Lifelong Learners programme, which grants our graduates free access to a selection of skills-based, industry-relevant courses which enhances their competitiveness in the job market. In March 2020, we launched the ‘Advance@NUS’ programme which offers dedicated full-time undergraduate places to adult learners who have excelled in the workplace, and are motivated to further their studies at NUS.

GLOBAL ALLIANCES

We recognise the importance of fostering global collaborations for our staff and students to exchange ideas in education and research. Our network of partner institutions and alliances around the world includes:

- ASEAN University Network
- Asian Universities Alliance
- Association of Pacific Rim Universities
- International Alliance of Research Universities
- Universitas 21
- World Economic Forum’s Global University Leaders Forum

Forward looking, future ready
To align our strategies, we have identified eight key research areas, which are constantly being refined and expanded: ageing; Asian studies; health innovation; risk management and resilience of financial systems; energy, environmental and urban sustainability; maritime and offshore research; materials research; and smart nation.

New frontiers in technology

We recently launched several strategic new initiatives in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital technology:

1. Centre for Trusted Internet and Community: Integrates social and behavioural science research, digital technologies, data-driven approaches, and policy studies to holistically examine the Internet and its societal impact.
2. Centre on AI Technology for Humankind: Promotes a human-centred mindset in the use of AI technology by conducting research in the areas of leadership and authority, augmentation of human capital, as well as trust and ethics.
3. Centre for Technology, Robotics, Artificial Intelligence & the Law: Studies the legal, ethical, policy, philosophical and regulatory implications associated with the use and development of IT, AI, data analytics and robotics in the practice of law.
Synergy in collaborations

Industry partnerships are crucial in transitioning NUS inventions from the laboratory to the marketplace.

We engage our researchers and work closely with national agencies and industry to effect technology transfer, as well as market NUS technologies globally. We also create synergies by teaming up with the government and leading academic partners to ensure that our research consistently addresses real-world issues.

NUS CORPORATE LABS

In just five years, the University has set up five corporate laboratories to develop, apply and translate key technologies for industry implementation.

Keppel-NUS Corporate Laboratory
Three main research thrusts centred on Future Systems, Future Yards and Future Resources to meet the future challenges of the offshore industry.

Sembcorp-NUS Corporate Laboratory
Develop new, competitive and sustainable solutions in the areas of energy, water and waste-to-resource.

NUS-Singtel Cyber Security Research & Development Laboratory
Research and develop capabilities and innovative digital solutions to protect individuals, businesses and public agencies in Singapore from a wide range of cyber threats.

WIL@NUS Corporate Laboratory
Conduct cutting-edge clinical nutrition and synthetic biology research to create healthier food products, as well as devise green production technologies for industrial enzymes and biochemistry.

Applied Materials-NUS Advanced Materials Corporate Laboratory
Accelerate discovery and commercialisation of new materials for manufacturing advanced semiconductors.
Innovation in healthcare

NUS constantly develops and delivers new and improved products and technologies, health policies, systems, and services to meet the nation's healthcare needs. Health innovation is powered by research in the biomedical and translational medicine, and ageing fields.

To support the Health Innovation cluster, the Health Technologies Consortium led by the Institute for Health & Innovation Technology was launched to promote industry-academia collaborations in the area of health and wellness. The Consortium acts as a national resource for health technologies research and development and commercialisation opportunities, by facilitating licensing of local technologies and supporting local start-ups.

A new collaboration between NUS, National University Hospital and Agilent Technologies saw the establishment of the NUS-Agilent Hub for Translation & Capture – Singapore’s first integrated translational research and development hub. This research facility develops new diagnostics tools that will not only detect existing conditions in patients, but also test for biomarkers of other diseases for early prevention. It leverages biochemical innovation and research data analytics to develop new methods of translating clinical research into clinical diagnostics.

Climate change and sustainability

NUS conducts systems-level research in climate change and sustainability. Our researchers have the expertise to downscale global climate models to regional and local levels, thus enabling a better understanding of microclimate effects, including extremes in temperature, rainfall, humidity, drought and its urban heat island effect.

Investigations are also carried out on the impact of climate change on society, including socio-economic issues, to facilitate effective policy interventions that enhance the public’s understanding of environmental risks.

COVID-19 research breakthroughs

The world’s first diagnostic COVID-19 test kit that identifies neutralising antibodies and is instrumental in vaccine and therapeutics development was developed by a research team from Duke-NUS Medical School, in collaboration with the Agency for Science, Technology and Research, and GenScript.

Another impactful research contribution is the enVision device, designed by NUS Biomedical Engineering and the Institute for Health & Innovation Technology, that can screen and diagnose infectious diseases within 30 minutes. It is being clinically validated for COVID-19 testing and diagnosis.
Engaging Aspiring Entrepreneurs

The entrepreneurial arm of the University, NUS Enterprise plays a pivotal role in advancing entrepreneurship on campus and beyond. It grooms and supports student entrepreneurs by providing strong mentorship and infrastructure support, as well as exposure to its network of partnerships.

Local support, global exposure

The popular NUS Overseas Colleges (NOC) programme, which combines overseas start-up internships with entrepreneurial coursework at leading partner universities, equips our students with valuable hands-on experience in dynamic innovation hubs.

Since 2002, more than 3,100 students have graduated from the entrepreneurial education programme, with many alumni establishing their own successful ventures in the business world.

12 NUS Overseas Colleges around the world

Map showing the locations of 12 NUS Overseas Colleges around the world, including cities in Southeast Asia, North America, Europe, and China.
Other experiential learning opportunities include:

**NUS Enterprise Summer Programme in Entrepreneurship:** A residential course on local business insights and entrepreneurship development activities for international students.

**NUS MSc in Venture Creation:** An immersive graduate degree programme that combines experiential learning with academic rigour to bring start-up ideas into fruition.

**Lean LaunchPad Singapore Programme:** An evidence-based validation process to commercialise technological inventions.

**NUS Technology Access Programme:** An experiential learning programme for professionals centred on understanding, accessing and leveraging deep technologies.

**NUS MSc in Venture Creation:**

Through collaborations with the government, corporations and industry, we enable start-ups in the NUS ecosystem to grow and gain international market access.

BLOCK71 is an initiative where collaborative and strategic partnerships with corporates and government agencies take flight, not just in Singapore but other parts of the world. It forms part of a global network of innovation and entrepreneurial gateways to and from NUS, through providing programmes as a technology ecosystem builder and business connector to catalyse, aggregate and develop competencies of the start-up community.

Since 2011, we have established a number of BLOCK71 facilities at key enterprise hubs across the globe to provide greater market access, networks and support to start-ups.

We provide entrepreneurship support through the NUS Start-Up Runway, a comprehensive suite of incubator-cum-accelerator services and platforms to form and grow businesses both in Singapore and overseas.

Entrepreneurs can also nurture their business ideas at The Hangar by NUS Enterprise on campus, while NUS Enterprise@Singapore Science Park and BLOCK71 Singapore offer off-campus opportunities and access to the innovation and entrepreneurship community.

**International network for collaborations**

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To give back to the community, our students are regularly engaged in social causes throughout the year. Some of the signature projects include the NUS Students’ Union (NUSSU) Rag and Flag fundraising event and Neighbourhood Health Screening sessions in Singapore, as well as facility-building projects, and mentoring underprivileged children in countries around the region.

**Rag and Flag**

A cherished tradition at NUS to reach out to the community through giving and volunteerism, NUSSU Rag and Flag is an annual event that fosters kinship among students. On Flag Day, our students fan across Singapore to collect donations for beneficiaries. This is followed by Rag Day, where they show their gratitude for the community’s support with a parade of multihued floats and energetic performances. Rag Day 2019 saw almost S$367,000 raised for 22 charity programmes supported by the Community Chest.

**Green Campus**

The NUS student community is active in their pursuit of environmental awareness and sustainability causes. Championed by the NUS Students Against Violation of the Earth (SAVE) group, events and activities such as the Green Bazaar, Plastic Bag Tax Scheme, Projects (Lunch)Box and Tumbler, and Campus in a Tropical Rainforest are organised to help reduce daily waste and promote nature appreciation.

Through the NUS Sustainability Strategic Plan, we have actively promoted sustainability in the planning, development and operation of the campus. Organised around the core areas of carbon emissions and natural resources, it serves to articulate the University’s commitment to environmental sustainability in campus infrastructure and operations.
NUS at a glance

- 60 Bachelor’s Degrees
- 73 Double Degrees
- 35 Joint Degrees
- 24 Concurrent Degrees
- 54 Second Majors
- >200 student organisations, societies and interest groups
- >20 groups in music, dance, theatre and visual arts
- >400 start-ups/projects incubated in 2019
- >3,100 NOC alumni companies
- >650 NOC alumni
- >50 countries
- >300 partner universities
- >43 NUS varsity sports teams
- 18 member clubs under NUS Students’ Sports Club

Since 2010, Rag and Flag has raised S$4 million for Community Chest supported beneficiaries.

The NUS Story

Student exchange in >50 countries

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The NUS Story 19
Our Heritage

1921 King Edward VII College of Medicine
The Medical School becomes the King Edward VII College of Medicine

1928 Raffles College
Raffles College is established at Bukit Timah to provide tertiary education in the arts and sciences

1913 King Edward VII Medical School
The School is renamed the King Edward VII Medical School, making it the first institution of higher learning in Singapore

1905 Medical School
The Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States Government Medical School is founded at Outram, where Singapore General Hospital stands today

1949 University of Malaya
Raffles College merges with the King Edward VII College of Medicine to form the University of Malaya, the first university for the people of Singapore and the Federation of Malaya

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The Singapore campus of the University of Malaya becomes an autonomous institution known as the University of Singapore

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