SEP Report

1. Student Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty/Major</th>
<th>Civil Engineering</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Host University</td>
<td>Concordia University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUS Semester and Year of Exchange (eg. AY14/15 Semester 1)</td>
<td>AY17/18 Semester 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Study at Host University

Please provide information on the academics at your host university:
- Studying or learning culture at your host university. How were classes conducted?
- What did you like most or dislike most about the academics at your host University?
- Advice on module registration and module mapping

Classes are similar but there are no webcast. So if you missed anything during lecture, you will have to read up textbooks or consult their profs and TA. Not to worry as the textbooks are available in the library and the profs will usually set aside consultation hours.

There are two campus similar to Kent Ridge and Bukit Timah. The one in downtown is called SGW and another called Loyola is about 20 minutes away by shuttle bus. Applying for modules is first come first served so it will be advisable to apply early. The location of classes should be considered when applying for modules but Loyola campus is mainly for arts so most of your engineering modules should be in downtown.

Not all scientific calculators are allowed so do check their approved calculators list. My friend tried to use his usual calculator but it was confiscated during the finals.

Some modules require a textbook. As you student, you will probably get a discount using some kind of code from the lecturers. You can also buy or sell second-hand books from Kijiji (their version of carousell).

Please list the courses that you took during SEP. (Please take note that the list of modules available to exchange students at the host university are subject to change. This table merely serves as reference.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Host University</th>
<th>Course title</th>
<th>ECTS Credit</th>
<th>NUS Equivalent</th>
<th>Module code</th>
<th>Course title</th>
<th>Module credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BCEE 344</td>
<td>Structural Design I</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>CIVI 3166</td>
<td>Structural Steel Design</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BCEE 345</td>
<td>Structural Design II</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>CIVI 3165</td>
<td>Structural Concrete Design</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLDG 498</td>
<td>Building Info. Modelling</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>CE 4981</td>
<td>Exchange TE</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIVI 372</td>
<td>Transportation Engineering</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>CE 3121</td>
<td>Transportation Engineering</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MANA 201</td>
<td>Intro to Business and Management</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>MNO 1001</td>
<td>Intro to Business and Management</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Global Relations Office (GRO)
**SEU Report**

### 2. Accommodation

What kind of accommodation did you stay in during your exchange (eg. on campus / off campus)?
Would you recommend this accommodation to future outgoing students?
Do you have any other suggestions?

I stayed off campus at an Airbnb that was 30 minutes away from SGW campus. It was a large apartment with 7 rooms. Though it was old, it was furnished with everything that we need and the stores are within walking distance. I will just take the bus everywhere since I have the bus concession and I got to visit many places in Montreal with it. Since we only booked the rooms, we did not have to clean the common areas like the toilet and kitchen which the owner will clean regularly.

The accommodation was affordable as we booked it 2 months early and for long durations. There are many apartments available for rent through Kijiji but most of them are either unfurnished or was expensive. It was difficult to negotiate as 4 months was not considered long term. We chose Airbnb as we did have to go down in person for traditional apartment hunting. However we had an Airbnb that got cancelled during one of our trip so do have some have some backup plan in mind.

The apartment was booked with other NUS student which I got to know after someone contacted IRO to exchange contacts.

### 3. Activities during SEP

Were there any activities organized by school/student group/external organizations at your host university which you would like to recommend to other students?

In Canada, it is very easy to keep in touch with everyone on Facebook. Many activities will be posted on Facebook. The following are some useful pages to follow.

- Concordia Ski & Snowboard Club (CSSC)
- Concordia Outdoors
- Concordia Student Exchange Association (CSEA)
- Concordia Chinese Student Association (CCSA)
- MTL Blog

The Concordia groups will organise transport so you can visit places even if you can’t drive like us. However, tickets were limited and sold out fast.

I will definitely recommend going skiing with CSSC and try to ski down the mountain from the top. Mountain trekking with Concordia Outdoors is also nice. There are plenty of sights to see especially during fall as the tree changes colours.
4. Cost of Living

Please provide an estimation of how much money you spent during your SEP? Please list travel expenses separately.

1 SGD ~ 1.09 CAD so the currency are very similar. Grocery can be cheaper but food are more expensive as there are no food centre. We rarely eat out as a meal can cost about $12 and an additional tip of 15% is to be expected. Interestingly, the price of groceries are cheaper compared to Singapore so I bought a lot of Canadian snacks back to share with my family and friends.

All prices are in SGD for a period of 4 months

Flight: $1750
Phone: $115
Accomodation: $2065
Food: $1325
Entertainment: $345
Transport: $310
Others: $955
Insurance: $435

Travel: $1340

Total: $7500

*Extra: $1500 for unforeseen circumstances (i.e. flight cancellations)

5. Challenges

Did you face any challenging issues during your SEP stint? How did you overcome it/them?

Of course not everything will go smoothly. I’ve had my flight postponed and accommodation cancelled at the last minute. Just need to manage the circumstances accordingly and it turned out fine. Reading up will helps bring awareness of what can be done in such circumstances. I tried to keep a level head and If not sure, just need to ask the staff and they will most likely help you if you ask politely.

Communication is very important if you want to get things done. Not to worry if you are don’t know anyone as NUS and the partner university will organise networking session to for students to exchange contact and make some friends. More likely than not, there are people in the same situation or other exchange students are always happy to make friends.
6. Overall SEP Experience

Please write one paragraph about your exchange experience and attach some photos that represent your exchange experience.

My exchange was an interesting experience. Tried local food like poutine and their deli and went on many trips to different mountains and cities, Canada is just so big! I was fortunate to meet a room mate that I get along with which added to the experience.

7. Suggestions for future outgoing students

Please share any other suggestions for future outgoing students.

- Do check out thefacebook pages as there will be activities for you to participate in.
- Just try everything, especially things that cannot be done in Singapore like winter activities and mountain trekking.
- Apps like Google map (offline) was super useful and “Transit” can check public transport across Canada
- Do check out USA (especially New York) as it is very near
- Heard can get a flight to see the northern lights