Student Exchange Programme for BSc (Real Estate) Students – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Can I choose universities under both faculty level and university level?
   Yes, you can.

2. How much does it cost to go on SEP?
   Students should budget between S$5,000 to S$15,000 (excluding return airfare) as living expenses for food, accommodation, books and transport.

3. What are the SEP places available?
   Students will be informed about the available places when application opens.

4. Will my CAP be affected when the credits are transferred back to NUS?
   Only the credits, not the grades, will be transferred. A student’s CAP will therefore not be affected.

5. Is there any specific quota for foreign students and Singaporeans?
   No, there is no specific quota for foreign students or Singaporeans.

6. I am a Chinese national. Can I apply for SEP to my home country?
   The NUS International Relations Office (IRO) does not encourage international students to spend their SEP in their home countries.

7. Can I request for change of university or semester once the allocation of SEP place has been finalized?
   No, all allocations are deemed final.

8. What are the important factors that I need to consider before applying for SEP?
   A student needs to consider, among other things, his graduation plans, financial resources to meet SEP expenses, other personal commitments, and ability to meet the challenges of spending a semester in an overseas university.

9. Does the CAP play an important role for SEP application?
   The selection criteria include but are not limited to the following: CAP, available places, quality of essay in application form, and ability (emotional and intelligence quotient) to be a good ambassador to represent NUS.

10. I need to submit a study plan for the top three universities at the point of application. Is that a tentative study plan?
    Yes, it is only a tentative study plan.
11. I want to pursue a specialization in Real Estate Finance or Urban Planning and wish to go on SEP. Will I be able to map all real estate modules while on SEP?

Students on SEP should be flexible in module mapping to benefit from spending a semester in a partner university. In this regard, they should also be open to taking modules for mapping to breadths and unrestricted electives. Students will have to evaluate for themselves whether specialization or SEP is more important to them, and then decide accordingly.

The operative mindset is “FLEXIBILITY”. A student unable to cope with mapping uncertainty may want to consider spending his 4-year stint in NUS and take up other enrichment programmes such as the Summer Programme (RE4203) organized by DRE, REIP (RE4202), and other Summer Programmes organized under the auspices of the IRO.

12. If I need to make changes to my application after submission, can I do it in OPAS?

You will have to email Ms. Srividya at rtssn@nus.edu.sg indicating that you intend to make changes and we will open the OPAS system accordingly. Please note that changes in OPAS can be done only ONCE.

13. Different partner universities have different modular credit systems, how do I calculate the equivalent modular credits?

Each real estate module (essential, restricted or unrestricted elective) offered by DRE carries 4 NUS modular credits (MCS) and requires about 36 contact hours per semester. Besides module contents, the number of contact hours in the partner university’s module will also be taken into consideration when mapping proposals are submitted to the Programme Director for his/her approval. With regard to mapping real estate modules, the department generally adopts an approach that will facilitate module mapping, bearing in mind that it is difficult to find perfect matches in terms of contents and contact hours.

With regard to modules offered by other NUS departments, the mapping proposals will be sent to the relevant department for their approval.

14. Are the mapping approvals done at the application stage?

No, mapping approvals are done at a later stage before embarking on your SEP stint.

15. Will I be eligible to apply for graded REIP and RE Summer programme if my SEP application is successful?

There are limited places for the Graded REIP (RE4202) and Summer Programme (RE4203) organized by DRE. To ensure that enrichment programmes benefit as many students as possible, students who have already enjoyed other enrichment programmes such as SEP and NOC will be accorded lower priority.

16. I understand there are some restrictions to the modules offered in some of the North American Universities. Is that true?

Please refer to the IRO link for more information about each partner university (including information

17. The results of the SEP application have been released. However I have not received any email notification from OPAS even though I submitted my application before the actual deadline. Why? Successful applicants will be notified. If you require confirmation about the status of your application, please email Ms. Srividya at rstssn@nus.edu.sg.

18. Where can I find more information on the partner university that I am allocated to?
   You can find more information at: http://www.nus.edu.sg/iro/sep/partners/pu/index.html

19. What are the things that I need to take note of before embarking on SEP?
   You can find more information at: http://www.nus.edu.sg/iro/sep/out/prepare/index.html

20. Can I withdraw from SEP after my application has been approved?
   Yes, you can withdraw if the reasons are valid and subject to the department’s approval. Please notify Ms. Srividya accordingly at rstssn@nus.edu.sg.

21. What are the real estate modules that I can map while on SEP?

   The following table summarizes the real estate modules that BSc (RE) students were able to map during the past few semesters while on SEP. The information should be taken only as a general guide because modules offered by partner universities are subject to change from year to year.