



# EXCHANGE REPORT

National University of Singapore

CINDRA

BSc in Quantitative Finance (Year 3)

## **PART I – MONTHLY ACTIVITY LOG**

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### **January 2017**

Before studying in Hong Kong for university, I actually studied in Singapore for 4 years. I decided to come to NUS because I miss experiencing Singapore's culture and atmosphere. The semester in NUS started much earlier, on the second week of January. Therefore, I came to Singapore on the 4th of Jan to settle my transfer and join orientation. The thing about Singapore that I love is that everything is very organized, where all procedures are clearly laid out. It was a very convenient process to settle in to the country and the campus.

Once I came to NUS, I fell in love with one of their campus are called UTown. It has unique building style and wide field that people often use to play frisbee or lie around for picnic. They also have a variety of food places within the campus, from food court to high end restaurants and bars.

### **February 2017**

As the academic semester went by, I realize that the study culture in NUS is even more intense than that in HKUST. The courses also have a different focus and requirements. Especially for courses in business school, classes are conducted in the form of a 3-hour seminar with much more interaction and requirement on class participation. It was difficult to adapt to the intense pace at the beginning.

However, aside from trying to juggle the courses workload, I managed to make new friends and catch up with old ones. I was invited to one of my friend's house where they treat me to home made local food. After living overseas for so 7 years (I am Indonesian), it was a rare and precious opportunity to taste proper home made food as well.

### **March 2017**

After exploring Singapore for 2 months, my friend and I decided to go to Johor Bahru, a state sitting on the southern end of in Malaysia, bordering right next to Singapore. The whole trip to reach JB from Singapore took us only slightly more than an hour of bus rides. Our trip consisted mainly of food excursion. Throughout the whole day, we managed to go to 8 different cafes and restaurant tasting a wide range of food from Malaysian local food to Japanese cheesecake.

### **April 2017**

April was a very intense month focused mostly on catching up with school work. I had quite a few deadlines for projects and test to study. For one of my

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CS courses, as a team we had to build a functioning task manager. It was a very intense process. My team spent around 32 hours straight without sleep to prepare the program and the presentation prior to the presentation day. It was a very tiring and rewarding experience. I found that this is not an uncommon situation in Singapore, where students pull an all-nighter to study or do their projects.

## PART II – GENERAL EXCHANGE PROCEDURE

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### Visa Procedure

NUS will help arrange your student visa and walk you through the procedure before coming to Singapore. As long as you follow the procedure given, you can pick up Singapore student pass once you arrive in NUS that can be used to freely enter and exit Singapore.

Summary of procedure:

- SOLAR System registration using the ID given by NUS.
- Submission of eForm16 using ICA website
- Refer to ICA's website for necessary documents to bring for subsequent procedures

<http://www.ica.gov.sg/page.aspx?pageid=325&secid=182#formalities>)

### Accommodation

NUS will provide student housing for exchange students. Explore the various campus housing available below. Although campus housing in UTown area is more expensive, it has really good facilities and meal plan.

Housing Options

<http://nus.edu.sg/osa/housing/non-graduating/hostel-options.html>

Housing Rates

<http://nus.edu.sg/osa/housing/non-graduating/hostel-and-meal-plan-rates.html>

Application Guide

<http://nus.edu.sg/osa/housing/non-graduating/application-guide.html>

From my experience, offer is for the period of **3 January 2017 (contract start date) to 7 May 2017 (contract end date) in Semester 2**. If you wish to stay during May 2017 vacation, you will have to submit a separate application sometime in April 2017. Deadline given to accept the offer and pay the full hostel fees (and meal plan, where applicable) was by **5 December (11.59pm, Singapore time) 2016**.

### Orientation and Starting up in NUS

Before you go, make sure you mark down all the mandatory orientation date. For Spring semester, orientation will start on the first week of January.

There will be a few activities organized on the week prior to the start of the semester. Therefore, do come early to settle down and meet with fellow exchange students. Always check your email because all exchange activities

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usually organized and introduced using the following email  
[nusincomingexchangers@groups.nus.edu.sg](mailto:nusincomingexchangers@groups.nus.edu.sg)

### Courses Registration

More details on datelines and application procedure would be available on the following website,

<http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/education-at-nus/non-graduating-programme.html>

This is a very useful timetable management website with brief introduction and review of the courses available during the semester,

<https://nusmods.com>

The application of courses and management of courses in NUS is divided for business school and non-business school. Therefore, during the add/drop period, to add/drop courses for Business School courses, contact the business school coordinator given. For non-business school courses, you can use the portal given (only available once you have your NUSNET ID),

<https://myaces.nus.edu.sg/PRJXIA/Student/Login>

### Transcripts Arrangement

Your transcript can only be printed 20th calendar days after the official date of result release. Your transcript will be mailed to your home university (exchange student) or home address (non-exchange student) about 2 months after the completion of your program.

### Summary of Procedures

Activity	Deadline	Details
<b><u>Hostel Application</u></b>	<b>Round 1: 15 to 21 November 2016</b>  <b>Round 2: 22 November to 14 December 2016</b>	If your offer letter indicates that you have been offered campus accommodation, you are required to apply via the <a href="#">UHMS System</a> with your Application Number (e.g. A160001234) and the 8-character Password. Please read the step-by-step <a href="#">guide</a> before you submit an application.  Click <a href="#">here</a> for more information on the accommodation result notification date and the deadline to accept this offer.

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<b><u>Student's Pass Application</u></b> – for <b>International Students only</b>	<b>End November to Early December 2016</b>	<p>A Student's Pass Online Application and Registration (SOLAR) number will be emailed to you for your Student's Pass application. The online Student's Pass application must be completed before coming to Singapore.</p> <p>Other Useful links:  <a href="#">Student's Pass website</a> (by Singapore Immigration and Checkpoints Authority, ICA).  <a href="#">FAQs on Student's Pass matters</a>.</p>
<b><u>Registration (Part One)</u></b> – All students	<b>01 to 15 December 2016</b>	<p>Access the <a href="#">Registration System</a> with your NG Application Number (e.g. A160001234) and the 8-character Password.</p> <p>You would be issued your Student ID (e.g. A9876543X), PIN and NUSNET (e.g. E1234567) account information after completion of Registration (Part One).</p> <p>If you have forgotten any of these login credentials, please access the <a href="#">Non-Graduating Students Application System</a> and click on the appropriate link to retrieve the information.</p> <p>Make payment for Miscellaneous Student Fees (MSFs) before proceeding to Registration (Part Two). Refer to page 12 of the <a href="#">NUS Non-Graduating Registration Guide</a>.</p>
<b><u>Orientation Briefing for International Students</u></b>	<b>04 January 2017</b>	<p>Attend the briefing. Refer to the details as follows:  Time: 2: 00 pm  Venue: Lecture Theatre 27 (Faculty of Science)</p>
<b><u>Registration (Part Two)</u></b> – All <b>International Students</b>	<b>05 January 2017</b>	<p>Report in person to <a href="#">UTown Auditorium 1</a> as per the schedule on page 3 of the <a href="#">NUS Non-Graduating Registration Guide</a>.</p> <p>Those below 18 years of age are to submit the following declarations, in hardcopy format, duly signed by their parents/guardians:  Release of Liability,  Authorisation of Medical Procedures and  Nomination of Local (Singapore-based) Representative which can be  The above declarations are downloaded and printed from the <a href="#">Registration System</a>.</p>
<b><u>ICA Student's Pass Enrolment Formalities</u></b>	<b>05 January or 06 January 2017</b>	<p>Complete Student's Pass enrolment formalities at ICA booths in the Registration Centre according to the time stipulated in the appointment letter (issued at the Registration Centre only).</p>

## PART II – GENERAL EXCHANGE PROCEDURE

Please <a href="#">click here</a> for the list of documents required for submission to ICA. For a copy of the Terms and Conditions of the Student's Pass Form, refer to Annex 1 in the <a href="#">NUS Non-Graduating Registration Guide</a> .		
<b><u>Module Add exercise</u></b>	<b>09 to 10 January 2017</b>	Via the <a href="#">NG Module Registration (MoRe) System</a> .
	<b>16 to 20 January 2017 (Appeal Round)</b>	Via the hard copy APU form.
<b><u>Module Drop exercise</u></b>	<b>09 January 2017 and onwards</b>	Via the <a href="#">NG Module Registration (MoRe) System</a> .
<b><u>Start of Instructional Period</u></b>	<b>09 January 2017</b>	Week 1 of lessons in NUS.

### Other Arrangement

#### Transportation

Singapore has really good and easy to understand transportation system. People mostly use MRT and bus to go around. It is advisable to get an EZ-Link card (equivalent to Octopus Card) to make things easier.

#### Climate

Singapore has a tropical climate with only Rainy and Hot season. Most of the time, it is relatively hot and humid. Therefore, it is better to bring light wardrobe.