School of Computing, Student Exchange Programme Frequently Asked Questions

1. **How can I apply for SEP?**
   Answer: Please submit your SEP applications online via EduRec *(Navigation Path: EduRec > Self Service > Global Education > External Study Application)*.

2. **I'm a year one student who wish to apply for SEP. Can I apply for SEP as a freshman?**
   Answer: Yes, freshmen can apply during SEP application round 2, after you have complete at least one semester here at NUS.

3. **I'm a DDP student but my host faculty is not SOC. Can I apply for SEP @ SOC?**
   Answer: No, DDP students must apply through their host faculty.

4. **Can I select other university-level partner universities (PU) not listed PDF found in the email or EduRec?**
   Answer: That's correct. The list in the PDF includes both SOC faculty-level and university-wide partner universities (where SOC has been allocated places). If you do not see the PU listed on the PDF or EduRec, then you cannot apply to it.

5. **I'm unable to find my preferred partner university (PU) in Round 1, should I try again in Round 2?**
   Answer: Please note that all possible places are offered in Round 1. Subsequent rounds would comprise SEP places left from previous rounds.

6. **What is the difference between the SEP places in "Any Semester, Semester 1 and Semester 2?"**
   Answer: The available SEP places are categorised under "Any Semester", "Semester 1" or "Semester 2". If there is a place available in " Any Semester", you will be able to choose the semester that you wish to go for the exchange. You need to indicate your preferred semester in your application.

   If it is a "Semester 1" place, you can only go for exchange to that university in semester 1. Similarly, you can only go for exchange in semester 2, if the exchange place offered states "Semester 2".

   Please note that there are some universities running on quarter system. Please check the partner universities' academic calendars for more information.

7. **For Universities with quarter system, can I go for two quarters instead of one?**
   Answer: No. Each SEP offer is for one quarter, so students can only embark on exchange for one quarter.

8. **Some of the partner universities' (PU) exchange semester overlaps with NUS' semester, can I still apply for them?**
   Answer: Yes, you can. In such situations, you might have to request that the PU allow you to take distance exams in Singapore or prepone your exams at the PU. If not, consider reading modules that have no exam component. Please note that NUS will not grant you a leave of absence (to take your exam at the PU) in the event that your exam at the PU happens during NUS semester period.

9. **What is the maximum number of universities that I can indicate in my application?**
   Answer: Students can list up to five universities in their application.

   Please note that SEP application is extremely competitive in SoC. On many occasions, students were only allocated their fifth choice. Popular destinations include USA, UK, Sweden, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Switzerland. You may want to note that almost 90% of the SEP places were allocated in SEP application Round 1.

10. **Is there a cut-off CAP for the different partner universities (PU) during the selection process?**
    Answer: No, there is no cut-off CAP; however competition for the PU is based on the applications received during the selection round.

    SEP selection is based on your SEP submission, academic achievements and CCA achievements alongside with the competiveness of the SEP spot. There will not be any face to face interviews. For your academic achievements, we will look at your pre- and post- S/U CAP. The cut-off CAP for the PU could be higher if there are more applicants applying for the limited SEP place.

11. **Are we supposed to provide study plan for all partner universities (PU) of my choice?**
    Answer: Yes, please be reminded that study plan is mandatory, otherwise your application will be deemed incomplete and will not be considered. No reminder will be given for missing supporting documents.

12. Why is the study plan mandatory?

Answer: The purpose of the study plan is to allow students to do the necessary groundwork and research of the suitability of partner universities. In most cases, you can find the information like teaching medium, modules restrictions, etc. in the partner universities factsheets on GRO website (http://www.nus.edu.sg/gro/global-programmes/student-exchange/partner-universities).

For example, based on the information in UCEAP's website, Engineering and Computer Science modules are not available at UCLA and UC Berkeley. Hence, you should prepare your study plan based on the campuses available for your major.

Please note that this is only an interim study plan and is NOT a submission for module mapping. It's possible for you to change your study plan nearing your exchange semester.

13. Can I request my preferred campus for University of California?

Answer: No, students are not allowed to select their preferred UC campus; you will be assigned to the University of California campus by UCEAP. Please note that ULCA and UC Berkeley are not available for SoC students. You can refer to NUS' Global Relations Office (http://www.nus.edu.sg/gro/global-programmes/student-exchange/partner-universities) for more information.

14. Can I still go to ETH Zurich if my major is not Computer Science?

Answer: No, ETH Zurich only accepts Computer Science majors into their Computer Science department.

Additionally, the applicant must have a strong Computer Science foundation with at least 2 years of full-time studies prior entrance to ETH Zurich. ETH Zurich will only consider candidate with at least 2 years of Computer science studies (about 15 to 20 CS modules). This does not include other modules like math or Science. Therefore, if you wish to embark on an exchange to ETH Zurich, you must:

- Have a CAP of at least 4.00 and above; and
- Consider going for your exchange only after year 3 semester 1 (i.e. earliest at year 3 semester 2).

15. Is there a pre-approved list of modules for me to refer to?
Answer: Yes, you can refer to the SOC website (https://www.comp.nus.edu.sg/programmes/ug/beyond/module/) for more information.

Please be reminded that the pre-approved list is only a reference on the possible modules to map and you need to do more research like check if the module is offered during your exchange semester, if you eligible to read the module, etc. before submitting your study plan. Therefore, your study plan need not be limited to the pre-approved list available on EduRec.

If you would like to read a module that is not on the pre-approved list, you have to check that at least 70% of the content covered in the module offered by the partner university is also covered in the NUS module that you would like to map it to. If you are fairly confident that modules are sufficiently similar, you can add that module to your study plan. There is no need for you to submit module mapping request yet as this process will only start after you have been offered a SEP place.

16. I prefer to read only core modules during my exchange. Is this possible?
Answer: It is important for students to be extremely flexible in their study planning while on exchange. Neither our partner universities (PU) nor NUS can guarantee that you are able to secure the modules that you want to read during exchange, especially with the increasing popularity of Computer Science modules around the world. Seniors who have returned from SEP shared that it is extremely difficult to enrol for preferred modules during exchange, therefore back up modules are very important. It is common for students to read more UEMs during their exchange.

17. If I have been given an SEP offer and my CAP drops to below 3.0 in the next semester. Would I be removed from the exchange?
Answer: If your SEP application is successful, you will receive an internal offer. However, should the student subsequently be deemed ineligible for SEP, NUS reserves the right to revoke the offer.

Students will be asked to submit their applications to the partner university (PU) nearing to the semester of your exchange. Our PUs have the right to reject students if they deem the candidate is not suitable for exchange.

18. I am interested in applying for SEP or year-long NOC. As admission is not guaranteed, I would like to apply for both Programmes simultaneously and decide which Programme I would like to go for later. Is this possible?
Answer: No. Both SoC and NOC will not be giving priority for students who have an exchange offer on hand during their selection process. Additionally, EduRec does not allow you to accept a Programme offer if the Programme period overlaps with another. Hence, you should only apply to the programme which you feel more inclination towards. Please also note that there will be a SEP withdrawal fees of $300 applicable.

19. Can I proceed with SEP regardless of the Covid-19 situation?

Answer: At point of publication, NUS is going ahead with SEP for AY2022/2023. However, given that the COVID-19 situation worldwide is still evolving, we are proceeding with caution. For now, we will accept applications and issue SEP offers.

At the same time, students should plan to register for NUS modules in their SEP semester as a back-up plan. We will update students along the way if either our partner universities or NUS decides to suspend exchange. If exchange is suspended, your SEP offer will no longer be valid.

20. What happens if SEP gets cancelled/suspended?

Answer: Students should plan to register for NUS modules in their SEP semester as a back-up plan. We will update students along the way if either our partner universities or NUS decides to suspend exchange. Please also note that if SEP is suspended/cancelled, you will not be automatically allocated a place for local exchange (SUSEP). Application for SUSEP is a different process with limited quota.