FAQ Guide

This document provides answers to a variety of questions asked by SoC freshmen at the faculty course briefings for Undergraduate Studies.

The questions and answers have been organized into various topics.

NUS SCHOOL OF COMPUTING

The information in this FAQ is provided for general reference only. Readers are reminded to refer to up-to-date information that may come in the form of website or email communications.

For specific advice, seek professional assistance.

1. PRE-ALLOCATED COURSES

1.1. Will our courses be pre-allocated at first semester?

SOC freshmen will be pre-allocated about 3 courses in the first semester. You can check via CourseReg - [View My Classes]

The user guide on CourseReg for students can be found here: https://nus.edu.sg/coursereg/docs/ModReg-Student-User-Guide.pdf

1.2. What are the pre-allocated courses?

It will be dependent on your course of study. You may check for details via the CourseReg - [View My Classes] to find out more on allocated ones.

1.3. Are the pre-allocated courses lecture slots already fixed or can we choose them after round 1 of bidding?

Pre-allocated courses come with lecture slots which you do not need to bid for separately.

However, note that you still need to bid for tutorials/labs/recitations, etc.

1.4. Can I drop a pre-allocated course (seen on CourseReg) and rebid for another one in my first semester?

Yes, you can drop your course via CourseReg. However, pre-allocated courses once dropped, will not be reinstated by administrator again.

Please check Vacancy Report at https://www.nus.edu.sg/CourseReg/resources.html before making decisions as the course quotas are not sufficient to serve the whole cohort in a single semester.

1.5. For changing of lecture group for pre-allocated course, do we have to drop it and rebid, or do we submit an appeal?

If you decide to change the lecture group of pre-allocated courses, you will need to drop the course via CourseReg. Please remember to check Vacancy Report first because there may not be any more seats for you to bid in the group you prefer.

1.6. How do I drop my pre-allocated course on CourseReg?

Please refer to the user guide: https://nus.edu.sg/coursereg/docs/ModReg-Student-User-Guide.pdf

1.7. Is it possible to write in to SoC to further pre-allocate more courses?

Generally, no. Pre-allocation is meant only for required courses.

1.8. Can I clarify when will the pre-allocated mods be released?

Please check regularly via CourseReg – [View My Classes] to check on the pre-allocated courses.

1.9. In CourseReg under [View My Classes], I am currently pre-allocated 2 courses. However, under Academic Records > View courses, I am only shown one of those courses, may I know which to follow?

Sometimes, the records are not synchronised on time because the synchronisation of course enrolment from CourseReg staging to EduRec and to Canvas is done in batches. You may wish to check again later. If the inconsistency remains, please drop an email to socug@comp.nus.edu.sg

1.10. At what point (what date) should we begin reaching out if we have no or not all 3 courses pre-allocated on myEduRec/CourseReg?

By CourseReg Round 1.

The schedule is available via:
https://www.nus.edu.sg/CourseReg/docs/UGCPE_CourseRegSchedule.pdf

2. COURSE BIDDING

2.1. When can we start bidding for our courses?

You can do so from CourseReg Round 1 after completing the Academic Plan Declaration Exercise. Please complete this step at least 24 hours in advance before you can access CourseReg features.

2.2. Do we choose the tutorial and lab sessions during the round 1 of course registration?

No, selection of tutorial and lab sessions is during "Select Tutorials/Labs Round 1" instead.

Do check schedule at: https://www.nus.edu.sg/CourseReg/docs/UGCPE_CourseRegSchedule.pdf

2.3. Am I allowed to take Design Your Own Course DYOC (AISG) in Semester 1?

With reference to https://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/academic-information-policies/undergraduate-students/design-your-own-course

To count the DYOC credits towards Semester 1, you must submit the DYOC application latest by the last day of Semester 1's examination period. Academic calendar can be found at: https://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/calendar.

You may also refer to this link: https://www.askstudentservice.nus.edu.sg/app/home for the FAQs on the DYOC Scheme. (Answers by Service > Student Matters > DYOC).

3. OVERLOADING/UNDERLOADING

3.1. After the 1st semester, what will be the maximum units that I can take up in a semester?

Student may submit a max workload waiver for up to 30 Units depending on the student's GPA performance in previous semester.

3.2. Can I under-load in my final semester?

Yes, you can underload in your final semester as you just need to complete your outstanding requirements.

4. TIMETABLE

4.1. How do we choose between the different tutorial and lab sessions? Is it just based on our personal schedule, and is there any other factors we should consider?

Please select the slots that you are available to attend. You should not select a slot that clashes with another lecture/tutorial/lab slot. Exam date clashes are not allowed as well. SoC Office of Undergraduate Studies does not grant such waivers and please adjust your study plan.

4.2. I'm taking a second major in Statistics, but the ST1131 and CS1010a lectures clash. Do I have no choice and to take ST1131 in the next semester?

That's correct as timetable clashes are not waived. Please adjust your study plan accordingly.

4.3. If I bid 2 consecutive lectures (in terms of timing), will I be able to reach the second class on time?

Lectures of at least 2 hours in duration should end 25 minutes before the hour to allow students time to commute to the next lecture venue. Depending on the venue, please note that the next class could be some distance away. Plan wisely. For classes with 1-hour duration, classes will end 15 minutes early for travelling.

4.4. On NUSMods, one of the classes for CS1101s is [REC], may I know what does [REC] stands for?

REC stands for "recitation"; it is a small-group problem solving teaching session.

4.5. Does NUSMods automatically make sure your classes don't clash?

What NUSMODs does is to highlight the time-table clashes when you put in courses for time-table creation based on your choices.

4.6. What about lectures that are located at the same place, but are labelled LEC[1], LEC[2], LEC[3]. What are differences between these 3 lectures, if any?

Are you referring to IS1108? If yes, course coordinator has plans to alternate week schedule for classes for different group.

4.7. What's the difference between mini semesters and normal semesters? Do we follow the mini semester or normal semester schedule?

There are some courses in NUS that are planned using mini semesters.

SoC courses are planned according to the normal semester schedule.

4.8. In NUSMods, there appears two different venue options for certain lectures. One option was LT15 and the other was E-learning. Does this mean that is a physical lecture and online lecture happening simultaneously?

Yes, for example, CS1231S has that. The physical lecture and online lecture are concurrent. The physical lecture is hybrid (on Zoom) and will be webcasted. As the venue is not big enough to accommodate all students, the online lecture is to allow all students to attend and ask questions. Only one lecturer will be conducting the lecture.

For additional queries on CS1231S, you may contact Prof Aaron Tan at tantc@comp.nus.edu.sg You may check out the website https://www.comp.nus.edu.sg/~cs1231s

For queries on class arrangements for other courses, it is best to approach the respective course coordinators.

4.9. Where can we see the list of lecturers for our courses?

For SoC courses, the link is as follows: https://www.comp.nus.edu.sg/cugresource/soc-sched/

5. COURSE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

5.1. What is the difference between CS1010, CS1010A and CS1010S? Does the allocation depend on our course?

You should read the one specified in your degree requirement:

CS1010 for Information Security students, CS1010A for Business Analytics students, CS1010J for Information Systems students, CS1101S for Computer Science students.

5.2. For CS1231S, I am pre-allocated to the physical room. Will I be given the zoom link for e-learning and attend the online version of the lecture instead?

An announcement will be sent to all CS1231S students before the semester starts. You may refer to the announcement on Canvas or check your NUSNET mailbox.

5.3. If I have been exempted from CS1101S/CS1010 or its equivalent, will another course be pre-allocated in its place?

We will allocate the next Programming Methodology course.

5.4. What's the programming language used in CS1010A?

It will be Python.

5.5. Can CP2106 be considered a pre-requisite for CP3200?

Not required, however many students use CP2106 work to help them during NUS Overseas Colleges (NOC) interview with start-up companies.

6. STUDY PLANS

6.1. Are there any suggested courses besides the pre-allocated courses?

One General Education Course and one other Core Curriculum Course is recommended. You may also choose Unrestricted elective courses.

6.2. Is there any recommended combination of courses to take in the first year? Or are we free to take any courses we want, as long as we meet the prerequisites?

Depending on which programmes you are in, typical first year courses are taken as follows:

Computer Science (CS):

Programming methodology, Discrete Structures, either Calculus for Computing or Linear Algebra for Computing

Refer to degree requirements for more information:
https://www.comp.nus.edu.sg/cugresource/per-cohort/cs/cs-23-24/

Information Systems (IS):

Programming methodology, Digital Ethics and Data Privacy, Calculus for Computing

Refer to degree requirements for more information:
https://www.comp.nus.edu.sg/cugresource/per-cohort/is/is-23-24/

Information Security (InfoSec):

Programming methodology, Discrete Structures, either Calculus or Linear Algebra for Computing

Refer to degree requirements for more information:
https://www.comp.nus.edu.sg/cugresource/per-cohort/isc/isc-22-23/

Business Analytics (BZA):

Programming methodology, Introduction to Business Analytics, Linear Algebra for Computing

Refer to degree requirements for more information:
https://www.comp.nus.edu.sg/cugresource/per-cohort/ba/ba-23-24/

6.3. Is there a sample study plan for polytechnic graduate?

Due to the various exemptions available for different polytechnic diplomas, there is no one tailored study plan. Students can refer to the pre-allocated courses and degree requirements to choose the remaining courses that they wish to read in the first semester. You can write in to socug@comp.nus.edu.sg if you need further assistance.

6.4. Which year are we allowed to apply for Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme (UROP)?

UROP is usually done in the third year.

You will also need to have at least 60 Units in progress/completed at the point of application. There is a GPA requirement of at least 3.80 and applications are subject to approval of CS/ISA dept.

6.5. If I am in Information Systems and want to transfer to Computer Science programme after my first semester of study, will it affect the number of units I have to complete to graduate?

It does not affect the number of units (which is 160 Units) you need to complete to graduate. Do make sure you complete the courses required under CS after your transfer, and prepare the right prerequisites timely.

6.6. A Minor in Management requires 20 Units. The website says that only 8 out of the 20 Units can be double counted into degree requirements. Are Unrestricted Electives (UEs) considered as "degree requirement"? Can I count all 20 Units of my minor into my UEs?

You can use the units from unrestricted electives available to you to meet either minor or second major requirements.

6.7. Is it advised to do ES2660 in the first semester and IS1108 in the second semester or the other way around?

It is fine either way depending on seats available and your seniority to secure them.

7. DEGREE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

7.1. As a Computer Science (CS) student: I have course exemptions as a polytechnic graduate. I will need 132 Units to graduate from university. Can I do 2 summer internships worth 12 Units and graduate in 3 years? My summer internships will be after semester 4 and semester 6 respectively.

For CS Breadth and Depth, you only need to complete at least 6 Units and at most 12 Units of Industry Experience courses. We discourage students to complete their internship courses in the final semester/last special term.

For taking internship in the final semester, you'll also need to get the permission of SoC Office of Industry Relations. You can contact them via AskIR@comp.nus.edu.sg.

7.2. As a CS student: Is it possible to take up a double major in electrical engineering or computer engineering? Will it be a double degree or double major?

This is not a permissible combination as NUS already offers the BEng in Computer Engineering which covers CS and EE curriculum - https://ceg.nus.edu.sg/curriculum/

7.3. As a CS student: How many courses can I take up in the first semester?

Typically, 5 courses, 20 Units.
The cap is at 23 Units for the first semester of study for Single degree students.
DDP and CDP students can have up to 27 Units from Round 3 course selection.

7.4. As a CS student: In the programme requirements, it says that we can take "at most 12 Units of Industry Experience courses". Does that mean we can only take 12 Units worth of internships? Or does that mean we can take more, but only a maximum of 12 Units will be counted as "CS Breadth and Depth", and additional units of Industry Experience will not be counted into graduation requirements but still be reflected in our portfolio?

It is correct that only 12 Units worth of internship can be counted towards your degree requirement. Additional units attained will be counted towards unrestricted electives.

7.5. What business analytics courses can be taken during special terms?

Only a limited number of computing courses will be offered during special terms. When taking courses during special terms, please check for updates to determine whether the course is relevant to your programme. In addition, you may wish to note that you will be subjected to special term's course fees if you plan to read courses during special term.

7.6. As an Infosec student: Do we need to take ES2660? I notice that CS students are required to take ES2660.

ES2660 is not compulsory for InfoSec students. Always follow the curriculum structure designed for your programme of study.

8. DOUBLE DEGREE PROGRAMME [DDP]

8.1. How may we apply for a DDP? I am interested in a DDP with Business, and are there any requirements, e.g. prerequisite courses etc?

Please check for updates on application window and application window via the SoC website: https://www.comp.nus.edu.sg/cug/

Students of SoC may apply for structured DDP between second to fourth semester of study, or self-designed DDP between third to fourth semester of study; subject to application window of both faculties.

You may also refer to Double Degree Programme Framework and Guidelines:

https://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/academic-information-policies/undergraduate-students/special-programmes/double-degree-programmes/double-degree-programme-framework-and-guidelines

8.2. Is it advisable to take DDP? I am in a situation where I only need to clear 132 Units. Hence, I am interested in taking up a DDP to make full use of my 4 years in NUS.

Yes, you can plan for DDP. Please look out for the call for DDP applications that we will send out to the student population each semester.

For the different DDP admission requirements you can refer to https://www.comp.nus.edu.sg/cugresource/per-cohort/

8.3. I understand that DDP students can take up to 6 courses in the first semester. Would I need to make any special arrangements to do so?

You can choose your 6th course from CourseReg Round 3 onwards.

8.4. Is a DDP (CS + Math) usually 4 or 5 years? Also, I would like to know the academic requirements on the Math side.

Normally, students can complete within 4 - 5 years.

Students can refer to the programme requirements here: https://www.math.nus.edu.sg/ug/ddp/

For DDP matters, you can write to Ms Diana Wong at comwpd@nus.edu.sg to check.

8.5. I'm taking DDP (CS + Math). From the degree requirements, do we have to complete exactly 200 - 206 Units? I noticed that that 5 Courses (20 Units) are double counted, so do we need to take up additional courses to make up for the 20 Units?

Generally, you will need to complete both Math and CS degree requirements, with double counting policies in place. Please refer to the degree requirement page and we can clarify with you further via email.

8.6. Are courses double counted automatically (where applicable) or must we declare the intent to double count on edurec?

This will be done via the graduation checks via NUS system. If you are a DDP student, you have to work with the respective home DDP administrators to ensure that your study plan is feasible and do not exceed double counting limit.

8.7. For DDP BIZ and BZA, can I double count one of my BIZ core courses for SoC Common curriculum (as a Cross-Disciplinary course)? Some of these courses such as ACC1701 are listed in the list of Cross-Disciplinary courses but with an X, so is it possible to double count the non-X variants?

The various faculties are updating the programme requirements for new semester. Please check https://nus.edu.sg/prog/bizsoc/ regularly for updates. You may submit email enquiries for additional clarification after the new semester programme requirements are released.

8.8. For DDP (CS + Business Administration) students, how are STR1000 and STR2000 allocated? When should these two courses be taken?

Business School will be pre-allocating STR1000 first. Note that STR2000 requires ST1000 as pre-requisite.

8.9. If one currently in CS would wish to take up a double degree, for example CS + Biz in the future, would you recommend that in the academic plan declaration that they declare Biz as a 2nd major for now?

All 2nd majors can be declared via Academic Plan Declaration as they are restricted 2nd major/minors. You can refer to https://bba.nus.edu.sg/academic-programmes/majors-minors/non-business-students/cohort-2021-after/ for BIZ second major in progress admissions. Meanwhile, you can try to bid for the courses as Unrestricted Electives (UE) first.

9. DOUBLE MAJOR

9.1. For changing/dropping of 2nd major/minor, is it done during academic plan declaration?

Yes, you can do so in the Academic Plan Declaration (APAD) exercise. Please note that you can only complete the academic plan declaration once per semester, therefore please decide well before you drop the 2nd major/minor.

9.2. For double major programme, what is the maximum courses/units can i get in one semester? Is it also 6 courses like DDP programme?

Double major students can only read 23 Units in the first semester.

9.3. If I plan to take a second major but the courses in that second major has preclusions that I have taken as an IS student, does that mean I'm not allowed to take the second major?

Note that students will be precluded from applying for the second majors on the onset if there are too many overlapping courses. Should you decide to apply for the second major, we can check with the programme hosts on the precluded courses.

9.4. For 2nd major in Statistics (40 Units), the website stated it is possible to double count up to 16 Units. Does that mean in total, I only need to take 160 Units (Primary major) + 24 Units = 184 Units for all 8 sems?

Double counting means that the courses that you have read for your primary major can be used to fulfil to the 2nd major. You can complete your 2nd major/minor using the Unrestricted Elective (UE) space.

9.5. Can cross disciplinary courses under the SOC common curriculum be double counted into second major requirements?

Yes, double counting rules will apply.

10. S/U EXERCISE

10.1. How many courses am I allowed to S/U in the first year (1st and 2nd semester respectively)? If I perform well and I don't S/U the courses, will the S/U limit be carried over to the next semester? Also does S/U exercise occur after our results are released?

SU exercise is done after the release of examination results and within the 3-day SU window stipulated by Registrar's Office.

Additional information on S/U can be found via https://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/academic-information-policies/undergraduate-students/continuation-and-graduation-requirements#SU

10.2. Is there a restriction on what courses you can S/U?

Yes.

Please refer to this website: https://www.usp.nus.edu.sg/curriculum/academic-structure/satisfactory-unsatisfactory-s-u-options/

In the above website, there is an internal link for students that provides more details such as what courses are eligible for S/U: https://myportal.nus.edu.sg/studentportal/academics/ug/su-homepage.html

11. STUDENTS FROM NUS COLLEGE/RESIDENTIAL COLLEGES

11.1. How does NUSC programme work?

You can refer to https://nuscollege.nus.edu.sg/academics/the-nusc-curriculum/nusc-course-listing/ for more details on the NUS College Curriculum and how it interacts with your primary degree.

11.2. If a student is in NUS College, would the NUSC course of Thinking with Writing (NTW%) replace the ES2660 writing requirement for the CS Major?

Please check at: https://nuscollege.nus.edu.sg/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/NUSC-Webpage_NUSC-and-Majors.pdf

11.3. As a CS student, could I find out if ES2660 is a graduation requirement and if so, which of the University Level Requirements (ULR) mods can/cannot be replaced by Residential College (RC) mods?

ES2660 is a compulsory course for CS and it double counts for GEX pillar.

It is not replaced by the RC course.

11.4. Could I check if the bidding includes Residential College (RC) courses that replace general courses?

Yes, you have to bid for your RC courses via CourseReg just like courses needed for other degree requirements.

11.5. I will be staying in Residential College (RC), and I understand some of the RC courses are mappable to GE pillars in the NUS Curriculum. I would like to know:

a) Are the courses for primary major and RC course registration separate?

b) If so, do I need to manually declare this mapping and how can I do so?

All undergraduates register their courses via CourseReg.
RC will advise which RC courses will meet the GE pillars.

11.6. I will be enrolling into the RC programme which will cover 4 of the GE pillars and 1 of them overlaps with ES2660 as they fall under the Critique and Expression pillar. Do I still have to take the course ES2660 if I will be completing that specific pillar under the RC programme as an InfoSec student? And if so, will the course fall under Unrestricted Elective (UE) since it overlaps the GE pillar?

Only If your course requires ES2660, then you must read ES2660. Residential College (RC) course will then meet Unrestricted Elective (UE) requirements instead.

As per https://www.comp.nus.edu.sg/cugresource/per-cohort/isc, please note that ES2660 is not part of the GE requirement for Information Security course.

12. INTERNSHIPS

12.1. If I have a compulsory internship which is 12 credits, can I take other courses simultaneously with the internship to fulfil the minimum workload requirement?

In general, you are not advised to take courses while you are having full-time internship as your company might want you to focus on your internship.

That said, however, if your internship spans in a regular semester plus special term and you manage to get the consent of your internship company and the course coordinator, you may apply to take a course during your internship.

12.2. Can Advanced Technology Attachment Programme [ATAP]/Industry Internship Programme [IIP]/Student Internship Programme [SIP] be used for BT4104 industry experience requirement of 12 Units?

2 SIPs do not replace 6-month industry experience requirements required by Business Analytics and Information Systems programmes.

12.3. For internships to be counted towards our degree completion, do they need to be completed during the academic year or can summer internships be counted as well?

SIP: CP3200 and CP3202 are credited during special terms.

CP3107 and CP3110 are also credited during special terms.

12.4. If I decide to do an internship during year 1, would I need to clear it with the university first?

Yes, all credit bearing internships need approval from SoC Industry Relations Office. You need to have prerequisites to do it.

13. Exchange programme

13.1. Am I allowed to go for internship as well as overseas exchange programme during my course of studies? Where will these units be counted towards (e.g. my Unrestricted Electives (UE)s?)

Yes, you may. If you plan to apply for exchange programme, you will need to determine which courses you intend to pursue at the partner university and submit a course mapping request before the courses from partner university can be counted towards your degree programme.

13.2. If I were to leave for LOA after year 1, would it be possible to go for exchange programme immediately after returning from LOA?

Please note that LOA approvals are subjected to Vice Dean's approval. It is possible for you to apply for exchanges upon your return and note that you must submit the necessary documents for SEP application.

13.3. Is it possible to go for SEP for polytechnic diploma holders and can they graduate within three years?

That's possible with proper planning alongside with being flexible with your choice of universities.

13.4. How can I find out more about the exchange programmes available?

You can find out more from https://www.comp.nus.edu.sg/programmes/ug/beyond/sep/

13.5. Is there a list of partner universities with possible mappings available?

Yes, you can find the pre-approved list on EduRec and you may refer to https://www.comp.nus.edu.sg/programmes/ug/beyond/course/ for details.

The pre-approved list is not exhaustive and you can consider proposing more course mappings, and the requests are subjected to approval by the host departments.

14. General Questions

14.1. For the Cambridge A-level holders, I understand that they are able to take CS1010 Programming Methodology Placement Examination. However, I received my offer after the deadline of registration for the examination. Are there any additional opportunities to receive the units?

There is no alternate test date for the placement test. Therefore, you will need to read the course in your first semester.

14.2. Are there any bridging courses for local Returning National Servicemen (RNS)?

RNS were invited to read the iBLOC prior to registration as an undergraduate. There is no additional bridging course for RNS.

14.3. What if I do not do well in 1st semester and feel too stressed to continue with the course?

You may consider applying to another faculty if you find that computing is not suitable for you at the end of the first semester. This application is subject to approval by the receiving faculty.

14.4. In South Korea, all men are required to serve in the military for approximately 1 year and 6 months. In such cases, they may need to take some years off from the school. From what year and semester, would it be possible to submit the application of taking year off from the school?

You should complete at least one semester of courses before applying for leave of absence to fulfil your military conscription.

14.5. How do I know how many advanced placement credits (APCs) I have from my polytechnic diploma studies?

You can check via Education Records System (EduRec), Student Self-service centre, Academic Records, View Transfer Credit Report to find out the APCs granted to you.

14.6. How is the workload of the Co-curricular activities (CCA)?

The workload greatly depends on the type of CCA and positions held. It will be good to check with the CCAs and interest groups directly.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

CourseReg FAQ

Link: https://nus.edu.sg/coursereg/faqs_undergraduate.html

List of Contacts during CourseReg exercise

Link: https://nus.edu.sg/coursereg/contactus.html

Modular System (Includes list of NUS terminologies)

Link: https://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/academic-information-policies/non-graduating/modular-system

Internships

Link: https://www.comp.nus.edu.sg/industry/intern/student/