

Frequently Asked Questions on SEP

Q1: When can I apply for SEP?

An email on the call for application will be sent out by the CDE Student Exchange around every October (Round 1). Instructions on how to apply, the number of available PUs and all other information relating to SEP will be provided in the email. All students who are planning to embark in Semester 1 and Year-long programmes MUST apply during the first round for their programme. If you are an Engineering Polytechnic direct-entry student or an E-Scholar in your first year of study, you may also apply in the first round.

Q2: How much does it cost to go on SEP?

You will only need to pay the standard NUS tuition fees for your semester abroad. Additionally, do ensure you have sufficient funds for airfare, accommodation, and daily expenses. For more details, please check the partner universities' websites. You may visit the following URLs should you require financial assistance:

1. [Loans](#)
2. [Awards & Scholarships Outgoing Students](#)
3. [Bursaries](#)

Q3: What happens after I have submitted the application?

An email on the outcome will be conveyed to you, which you will have to accept the offer via EduRec. There will be further emails on the application procedure to the PU, roughly within the following periods:

for Semester 1 application: Jan to Jun
for Semester 2 application: Jul to Dec

Q4: When is the Round 2 application period?

The Round 2 call for application takes place around late January or February (subject to availability of places). This round caters for students who did not receive any offers from Round 1. This round is also meant for students who wish to apply for SUSEP. Students who decline their offers in Round 1 may reapply in Round 2, but there is no guarantee of receiving an offer, and they cannot request their Round 1 offer again.

Q5: Are we only allowed to choose universities with a preference for CEE shown in the document provided in the email during the call for application?

No, you can choose those listed as either "CEE" or "ALL" from the list.

Q6: I am a recipient of the NUS merit scholarship, which guarantees me a spot in one of the Partner Universities. If the eventual spot is not one of my 5 choices, is it possible to reapply again in the next round with a different ranking of my choices?

If you reject a spot that has been offered to you, you can participate in Round 2 but there is no guarantee of receiving an offer and you are not allowed to request for your Round 1 offer again.

Q7: I am a student with a high GPA of more than 4.0. Do I stand a higher chance of being accepted to good PUs for SEP?

Students are not only evaluated based on their GPA but on their non-academic considerations as well. There will be a personal statement assessment during the application and students are expected to be able to produce evidence of any factual information provided in their application.

Q8: I have accepted the offer in EduRec but I have to withdraw from SEP for some reason.

Withdrawals are taken seriously as students who withdraw would have deprived others who could have gone in their place. A penalty of S\$300 for SEP and \$200 for SUSEP will be imposed for those who withdraw after accepting the internal offer in EduRec. This penalty will be collected by the University together with your subsequent semester's fees. Also, withdrawal without valid reasons may result in a lower priority or disqualification from application for other programs in the future.

Q9: I was wondering if the PUs guarantee boarding for incoming students, or is there a chance that we might not get on-campus accommodation and have to rent someplace outside of the university campus?

It varies from PU to PU. Even if they don't guarantee campus accommodation, the PU SEP office will provide assistance in getting suitable accommodation for incoming students. Please refer to [Outgoing Exchange Students](#), under "Preparing For Exchange, Step 2".

Q10: If we are able to secure an internship for Semester 1, can we go for SEP in Semester 2?

You can go in Semester 2 if you specify during the application. Do note that you need to consider all the criteria (e.g. matching calendar, IAP, exam at PU, etc.) to ensure that your learning at NUS and PU does not lead to undesirable consequences (e.g. delayed graduation).

Q11: Is it too late to start learning a language for a non-English medium University after receiving an offer?

It is up to you to decide but we would recommend you to have a strong background in the language before considering applying for the relevant non-English medium University.

Freshmen without prior knowledge of French, German or Korean and would like to go on SEP to Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Korea or Switzerland are strongly encouraged to apply for the Language Preparation Program (LPP). Please refer to [Language Preparation Programme – Centre for Language Studies](#)

Q12: Why does my course mapping get rejected? I understand that previous years' mappings for this course were approved.

Past mappings should only be used as a reference and cannot be followed closely as the syllabus would have changed. In general, course mapping will be approved if there is at least 70% similarity of content and no of hours of effort (as a general guide, each 4-unit NUS course will require about 130 hours of effort).

Q13: Is there a minimum no of courses to be mapped?

Students are required to map a minimum of 18 units of coursework, in line with NUS's minimum workload requirements. For semester-long exchange programmes, the total number of NUS-equivalent units approved for credit transfer should not exceed 24 units. In addition, students should take note of the residency and minimum unit requirements set out in the [Continuation and Graduation Requirements - Singapore](#).

Q14: I am a Poly Direct-Entry student. As I am granted APC (Advance Placement Credits), hence how many modules can I map based on the requirement stated in Q13 above?

There is a programme requirement of at least 60% that must be earned from NUS courses which means 36 units (out of 60 units) must be earned in NUS and leaves only 24 units that can be earned outside of NUS. So for poly students, they have 10 units exemption for IA (programme requirements) and if they map 4 courses (16 units), then they have 26 units which will exceed the limit of 24 units. For poly students who want to go for SEP, they are advisable to map 3 or less programme courses. The rest of the mapped courses should not be related to programme requirements (can be UEM for example).

Above is to ensure that you are adhering to the graduation rule (Q13).

Q15: When should I start to do my course mapping?

Students should submit their course mapping requests at least two months before departing for SEP. The course mapping approval process typically takes about 3 weeks, so please ensure that all mappings are approved before your departure. If you have not received a decision after 3 weeks, please contact us by email for assistance.

Q16: How many S/U courses can I take during my exchange?

Please be aware that the S/U option is only available for courses taken at NUS and does not apply to courses completed overseas. If you take a course overseas that is graded on a letter or pass/fail basis, you may transfer the units as long as you pass and earn them. Once the transfer is completed, these courses will be marked as 'OVS' on your record, rather than 'S/U'.

Q17: Can I map language courses to dummy-code (UEM)?

No. All language-related courses must be mapped to a specific code under the Centre for Language Studies (CLS).

Q18: I am currently doing my SEP. Am I still allowed to do course mapping now as the courses that I have previously mapped are no longer offered in the PU?

Yes, you may do so. Please submit the mapping request via EduRec and email to us to notify the urgency in the mapping requests.

Q19: If a PU's website does not explicitly mention that we cannot take the graduate-level modules, then are we allowed to map to those modules?

Presumably yes, but to be certain, please check the PU's info page at NUS's Global website or clarify with the PU.

Q20: Can I map courses for my second major/minor?

You can plan and obtain course mapping approvals for courses that correspond with your second degree, major, or minor. However, it's important to understand that having these mappings approved does not guarantee that you will be able to enroll in those specific courses during your exchange. Additionally, please be aware of the university's minimum residency and unit requirements. For more information, you can visit: [NUS Office of the University Registrar](#).

Q21: What are the modules that cannot be mapped?

No mapping is allowed for CDE common modules except for the GEC, GESS and GEN pillar. Please refer to [Course Mapping - College of Design and Engineering](#).
No mapping is allowed for Engineering Core except EG2401A.

Q22: I would like to submit my mappings, but I can't because I've exceeded the maximum number of mapping requests. What should I do?

Please do not submit multiple mappings for the same course, as the mapping worksheet only allows a maximum of 20 mapping requests. You may email to us (ceejbm@nus.edu.sg) to delete the unwanted mappings.

Q23: How do I submit for credit transfer?

Credit transfer is not automatic. Once you have received the official transcript from the PU, please email a copy to us (ceejbm@nus.edu.sg) and mark in EduRec the modules you wish to transfer. Please note that credit transfer will only be processed upon receiving your official transcript.

Q24: What is shown on my NUS transcript after the credit transfer?

OVS grade will be reflected in EduRec for courses that you have successfully transferred. Only the total credits earned and the name of the PU will be displayed in your official NUS transcript. This means that courses completed during your exchange will not affect your GPA. Please keep your PU transcript safe with you as the modules read in the PU will not be shown in the NUS transcript.

Q25: I have a D for one of my courses. Can I submit a credit transfer for this course?

As long as you complete your courses at the PU and earn credits, you may transfer those credits, regardless of whether they are letter graded or a "Pass". However, if you fail or do not complete a course and do not receive any credits from the PU, credit transfer will not be possible.