



NANYANG
TECHNOLOGICAL
UNIVERSITY
SINGAPORE



2023 - 2024

GEM TRAILBLAZER EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

INFORMATION SHEET

NTU, the perfect ‘soft landing’ in the heart of a booming Asia-Pacific.

An enriching array of learning opportunities featuring world-class pedagogy and exciting student activities on a sprawling garden campus awaits! Study in one of the world's top universities, while experiencing a uniquely Asian adventure. International students from partner universities are welcome to participate in study exchange via the GEM Trailblazer Exchange programme.

Updated: 31 Jan 2023



IMPORTANT DEADLINES

SEMESTER 1 (FALL)
AUGUST - DECEMBER 2023

NOMINATION WINDOW
15 - 28 February 2023

APPLICATION WINDOW
15 February - 15 March 2023

SEMESTER 2 (SPRING)
JANUARY - MAY 2024

NOMINATION WINDOW
1 - 15 September 2023

APPLICATION WINDOW
1 - 30 September 2023

The GEM Trailblazer Exchange programme welcomes both undergraduate and postgraduate applicants from our partner universities to study at NTU for one or two semesters. Choose to either read courses or conduct research. Prospective students must be nominated by their home universities.

What makes NTU a great choice?



RANKED 19TH
IN THE WORLD*



VIBRANT AND
DIVERSE, YET
UNIQUELY ASIAN



WIDE RANGE OF
STUDENT AND
RECREATIONAL
ACTIVITIES



A SAFE AND
FRIENDLY
DESTINATION



ONE OF THE MOST
BEAUTIFUL
CAMPUSES IN THE
WORLD



ACCESS TO STATE-
OF-THE-ART
FACILITIES



GATEWAY TO
SOUTHEAST ASIA
AND BEYOND

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

PROGRAMME

DATES

SEMESTER 1 (FALL)

14 August - 8 December 2023*

Revision + Exam period:
20 November - 8 December

SEMESTER 2 (SPRING)

15 January - 10 May 2024*

Revision + Exam period:
22 April - 10 May

* Includes exam dates

[../ACADEMIC CALENDARS](#)

STUDY LEVEL

The GEM Trailblazer Programme is open to both Undergraduates (UG) and Graduates (PG).

MODE OF STUDY

You may choose to read courses or conduct research during the exchange.

PROGRAMME DURATION

Study at NTU for one or two semesters. Research has a minimum duration of 3 months.

MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION

All courses, except language courses, are conducted in English.

SEMESTER WORKLOAD

UG students typically take 3 to 5 courses per semester based on 3 or 4 AUs per course (subject to their home university's and NTU's approval). There is no minimum workload. The maximum workload allowed is **6 courses or 20 AUs** per semester.

PG students may only read postgraduate courses. They must take at least one and up to five postgraduate courses in a semester.

DIRECT MASTERS STUDENTS

Direct Masters students are advised to apply under the UG category, to have access to advanced UG courses in addition to PG courses.

COURSE SELECTION AND RESTRICTIONS

NTU offers a wide range of undergraduate courses and **limited** selection of postgraduate courses. Exchange students are **strictly not allowed** to apply or appeal for restricted courses.

ACADEMIC UNITS AND GRADING SYSTEM

NTU's courses are assigned credits based on academic units. Most courses offered in NTU are worth 3 to 4 AUs.

The AU is a measure of the student's workload associated with both class attendance and preparation. For a typical one-semester course, the number of AU is calculated as follows:

- 1 hour of lecture/tutorial per week : 1 AU
- 3 hours laboratory/fieldwork per week : 1 AU

NTU uses the Grade Point Average (GPA) system in awarding grades. The Pass/Fail option is not applicable to exchange students.

../ACADEMIC STRUCTURE

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS

Two copies of the official NTU transcript will be mailed to your home university's exchange office within two months of completing the exchange programme. One copy will be for your retention, while the other shall be retained by your home university.

NTU does not issue electronic transcripts to exchange students.

WITHDRAWING FROM THE PROGRAMME

Before arriving at NTU

You must inform your home university in writing of your decision to withdraw, with NTU's Office of Global Education and Mobility (OGEM) in copy.

After arriving at NTU

Before firming up your departure travel plans, you must inform your home university in writing of your decision to withdraw, with NTU's Office of Global Education and Mobility (OGEM) in copy.



WHEN SHOULD YOU ARRIVE AT AND DEPART FROM NTU?

It is best to arrive in the mid-week just before the start of the semester. This allows you to attend the Orientation Briefing (usually held on Thursday or Friday) and gives you time to settle into your new surroundings.

Students arriving at NTU **after** the add/drop period (Teaching week 1 and 2) must understand that they will **not be allowed** to make modifications to their registered courses. Late arrivals are expected to begin attending classes no later than the start of Teaching week 3. There are no options available for remote learning.

Return flights should be arranged **after** the semester end date as exams may continue to be held on the last day of the semester. Re-scheduling of exams is **not allowed** and requests for such will not be entertained. Students who miss exams without proof of valid reasons shall be deemed as having failed the course. An "F" grade will be printed on their transcript.

APPLYING TO THE PROGRAMME

APPLICATION

DEADLINES

SEMESTER 1 INTAKE (FALL)

Apply by: 15 March 2023

SEMESTER 2 INTAKE (SPRING)

Apply by: 30 September 2023

RESEARCH

Apply by: at least 3 months before start of research project

CHECK YOUR ELIGIBILITY

- My home university is NTU's partner institution
- I am a full-time, matriculated student at my home university
- I have been nominated by my home university
- I have completed at least two semesters of study at my home university (at least seven semesters for Direct Masters applicants intending to read PG-level courses)
- I have a CGPA of at least 3.3/5 or equivalent
- I am proficient in the English language



IMPORTANT

Your completed application must be and received within the stipulated deadline. Late applications will not be processed. Incomplete submissions will result in delays with implications to downstream processes.

Students interested in applying to the GEM Trailblazer programme must be nominated by their home institution.

We do not accept direct applications. Once your nomination is submitted, you will receive the application link, together with information to help you begin your application.

DOCUMENTS TO SUBMIT

PASSPORT-SIZED ID PHOTO (.JPG, <100KB)

- Clear, coloured passport-sized ID photo taken recently
- Check **photo guidelines** (must be **strictly adhered to**)
- Photos or scans taken of photographic images will be **rejected**

PASSPORT BIO-DATA PAGE (.JPG, <200KB)

- Clear, coloured, scan of your passport bio-data page
- Showing all details on the bio-data page of the passport
- Valid for at least 6 months from the start of exchange at NTU (March and August for Sem 1 and Sem 2 applicants, respectively)

TRANSCRIPTS (.PDF, COMBINED INTO A SINGLE FILE)

- Official transcript **in English (signed by the Registrar and stamped with the home university's seal)**, reflecting all courses taken to-date
- List of courses taken in current semester (if not shown in transcript)

PROOF OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Not required where English is the core language of instruction in the home institution. Refer to page 9 for accepted English tests/indicative grades. The guidelines are in place to ensure that you can cope with the rigour of classes conducted in English. If you do not have any of the tests listed, you may request for a letter from your home university, confirming your language proficiency.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

- **PG applicants only:**
 - Bachelor's transcripts and degree certificate (.pdf)
- **Research applicants only:**
 - Current Curriculum Vitae (.doc, <600kb)
 - You must have a confirmed research title and **supervisor**, to be indicated in your application

COURSE MATTERS

In your application, you will be asked to select 10 courses for each applicable semester.

COURSES OFFERED

UG courses

Course offerings will only be published in May and November (for Semester 1 and 2, respectively). Use the previous year's courses offered as a reference.

PG courses

A very limited PG selection of courses is available for exchange students. Postgraduate and Direct Masters students may only select PG courses from a given list, to be published in March and September (for Semester 1 and 2, respectively).

RESTRICTED COURSES/PROGRAMMES

Exchange students are **not allowed** to apply for/read restricted courses and programmes. Students should not appeal for such courses.

../COURSE SELECTION

CREDIT TRANSFER

It is your responsibility to ensure that the NTU courses selected are transferrable for credit at your home university. To find detailed course syllabi, try a simple search on the NTU website. If you are unable to find what you need, write to Office of Global Education and Mobility (OGEM) to request it.

COURSE APPROVAL

The courses indicated in your application will be evaluated against your academic documents by the offering School(s). If deemed suitable, the courses will be approved for you to read. Note: **approval does not translate to course enrolment**, as enrolment is subject to availability of vacancies and the class/exam schedule. Course enrolment takes place in a later step.



GOOD TO KNOW

Due to capacity limits, courses offered by NTU's School of Computer Science and Engineering (SCSE) courses are **no longer available** to exchange students until further notice. Depending on your requirements, you may be able to find suitable alternatives offered under our other **5 Engineering Schools** instead.

It is worth noting that it can be very difficult to secure placement for courses that are highly popular. You can avoid disappointment by planning for back-ups and being flexible with your course plan.

To ensure that you have an adequate number of approved courses prior to arriving at NTU, select **no fewer than 10 courses** in your application. Stay abreast of information relating to course registration processes and deadlines in the weeks leading up to the start of the semester.

In the event that you do not have sufficient courses approved prior to your arrival at NTU, you may still add on or modify your course plan during the 2-week add/drop period after your arrival at NTU in Teaching Weeks 1 and 2.

OTHER MATTERS

STUDENT'S PASS (STP)

You are required to hold a valid Student's Pass (STP) issued by the Singapore Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) for the duration of your programme.

You will be guided through the process for the application of the STP after you accept our Offer. We recommend arranging your travel plans only *after* the STP application is approved.

Exchange students holding the STP are not allowed to engage in work activities, whether paid or unpaid, for the duration of the immersion period.

.../STUDENT'S PASS

ENTRY VISAS

Students who require an entry visa to enter Singapore need not apply for one. Upon approval of the STP application, an In-Principle Approval (IPA) letter will be issued, wherein a single journey visa is incorporated for entry into Singapore.

COVID-19 & ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Travelers to Singapore are exempt from COVID-19 testing or quarantine if they are fully vaccinated with approved vaccines at least two weeks before arrival in Singapore, and are able to show proof of vaccination. Other general entry requirements will apply.

../ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

HEALTH/MEDICAL DECLARATIONS

To ensure that your wellbeing is addressed, you should declare existing conditions (medical, physical/mobility, sensory impairment, neurological deficits and/or learning disabilities, etc) in your application. Medical documentation and/or specialist assessment reports will be requested for evaluation.

ON-CAMPUS HOUSING

Campus Housing is offered to exchange students on an availability basis.

Eligibility

All exchange students on coursework may apply for campus housing. Research exchange students are not eligible in view of their varied project dates.

Application

Apply for campus housing via the GEM Trailblazer Exchange/Study Abroad Portal after the acceptance of Offer. **Do not apply directly with the Office of Campus Housing.**

Allocation outcome

Vacancies are allocated randomly via computer balloting. Unsuccessful applicants and those who miss the application deadline must be prepared to rent off-campus accommodation.

../CAMPUS HOUSING

AIRPORT RECEPTION

NTU does not provide airport transfer services to exchange students. The campus is easily accessible by public transport (MRT and taxis).

MISCELLANEOUS FEES

The compulsory miscellaneous fees help to meet part of the costs of providing insurance, programmes and amenities, IT services, and other academic-related services to students. Estimated cost: between S\$260 to S\$300.

PERSONAL INSURANCE

All exchange students must be insured under the NTU student insurance schemes: Group Personal Accident Insurance (GPAI), Group Hospitalisation & Surgical Insurance (GHSI) and Medical scheme. This applies even if you have existing coverage. The cost of the NTU student insurance premiums is included in the compulsory NTU miscellaneous fees.

It is a good idea to have comprehensive travel and COVID-19 coverage for your travel to and from Singapore, and during the semester. You may want to purchase additional personal or travel insurance to ensure that you are adequately covered.

[../NTU STUDENT INSURANCE COVERAGE](#)

HEALTH SCREENING

If your programme duration at NTU exceeds 6 months, you must undergo a health screening after arrival as part of the Student's Pass requirements.

ORIENTATION BRIEFING

An Orientation Briefing is held at the beginning of each semester (usually on a Thursday or Friday in the week before semester starts) for new exchange students. It's a great time to learn more about the services at NTU and to meet other exchange students! All students are strongly encouraged to attend.

BANKING FACILITIES ON CAMPUS

Banking services available at the OCBC bank located on campus. An early closure fee may apply if you close a bank account within the first six months of opening it. Cash withdrawals can be made at ATMs located around the campus.

[../OCBC PERSONAL BANKING SERVICES](#)

HAVE A QUESTION?

Find more details about course selection, campus housing and more in our [Programme Brochure](#). If you have a specific query, please write to the Inbound Mobility Team at the Office of Global Mobility (OGEM) at GEM-Trailblazer@ntu.edu.sg

RESOURCES

[../GEM TRAILBLAZER EXCHANGE](#)

[../CAMPUS HOUSING](#)

[../FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION](#)

[../STUDENT LIFE](#)

[../WELLNESS AND SUPPORT](#)

[../CAMPUS HEALTH SERVICES](#)



THE GEM TRAILBLAZER SUMMER PROGRAMME

The future is hot in Asia! The GEM Trailblazer Summer Programme offers 20+ courses across FIVE different tracks. Spend a summer at NTU, Singapore - a springboard to explore the rich cultural diversity in neighbouring countries!

FROM APPLICATION TO ARRIVAL

PRE-APPLICATION

Your exchange coordinator will nominate you in our portal. Once your nomination is submitted, you will receive an email with the application link and instructions to begin your application.

STEP 1: APPLY ONLINE

SEM 1: MAR, SEM 2: SEPT

Complete the online application and upload all mandatory documents within the stipulated deadline (see page 4). Incomplete applications will result in processing delays.

STEP 2: ACCEPT THE OFFER

SEM 1: MAY/JUN, SEM 2: OCT/NOV

You will receive the E-Welcome Package upon application approval. This will let you accept the Offer and have access to the **GEM Trailblazer/Study Abroad Portal** to begin Step 3 tasks.

STEP 3A: APPLY FOR CAMPUS HOUSING

All eligible applications received within the stipulated deadline will be considered for campus housing.

The **GEM Trailblazer Exchange/Study Abroad Portal** provides you with one-stop information and access to the relevant admissions matters that require your attention prior to arrival:

- Letter of Enrolment (LOE)
- Student's Pass (STP) Application
- On-campus housing application and outcome
- Course registration processes and deadlines
- Other essential arrival details

STEP 3B: APPLY FOR STUDENT'S PASS

Student's Pass (STP) applications must be submitted **at least one month and no more than two months** before arrival.

STEP 4: MAKE YOUR TRAVEL PLANS

It is recommended to book your flights only **after** receiving the In-Principle Approval (IPA) letter, issued when the STP application (Step 3B) is approved. You should also purchase travel insurance.

STEP 3C: COURSE REGISTRATION

Students must stay abreast of details regarding course registration processes taking place during this time.

STEP 5: ARRIVE AT NTU

Plan to arrive in the middle of the week prior to the start of the semester. Attend the Orientation Briefing and start attending classes while finalising your courses during the add/drop period (Teaching weeks 1 and 2).

APPENDIX

ENGLISH PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS

We accept these English proficiency tests and indicative grades:

- General Paper of the Singapore Cambridge GCE 'A' Level Examination (sat in 2007 onwards): A, B, C, D, E
- General Paper of the Singapore Cambridge GCE 'A' Level Examination (sat in 2006 or earlier): A1, A2, B3, B4, C5, C6
- IELTS: a minimum of 6 for the Writing sub-test
- TOEFL: a minimum of 570 (paper) or 90 (internet) or 237 (computer)
- SAT1: a minimum of 600 for the Verbal section; or 7 for the Essay section
- IB: a minimum of 4 for Higher Level English or 4 for Standard Level English
- MUET: Band 6 and a minimum of 50 for writing
- GEPT: High intermediate Stage 2 consisting of writing and speaking modules (applies to students from Taiwan universities only)

These guidelines are in place to ensure exchange students are suited to cope with the rigorous curriculum conducted in English. If you do not have any of the tests above, you may request for a letter from your home university, confirming your English proficiency and ability to follow classes in English.