



NANYANG  
TECHNOLOGICAL  
UNIVERSITY  
SINGAPORE



2024 - 2025

GEM TRAILBLAZER EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

# INFORMATION SHEET

**NTU, the ideal 'soft landing'  
in the vibrant heart of a  
booming Asia-Pacific.**

Explore a diverse range of learning experiences, including world-class pedagogy and thrilling student activities, all set on our expansive garden campus! Immerse yourself in the academic excellence of one of the world's leading universities, coupled with the excitement of a distinctly Asian adventure. International students from partner universities are invited to join our GEM Trailblazer Exchange program for a rewarding study exchange opportunity.

Updated: 07 February 2024



## IMPORTANT DEADLINES

**SEMESTER 1 (FALL)**  
AUGUST - DECEMBER 2024

**NOMINATION WINDOW**  
1 - 15 March 2024

**APPLICATION DEADLINE**  
30 March 2024

**SEMESTER 2 (SPRING)**  
JANUARY - MAY 2025

**NOMINATION WINDOW**  
1 - 15 September 2024

**APPLICATION DEADLINE**  
30 September 2024

The GEM Trailblazer Exchange program invites undergraduate and postgraduate applicants from our partner universities to study at NTU for one or two semesters. Participants have the option to enrol in courses or engage in research activities. 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)

12 August - 6 December 2024\*

Revision + Exam period:  
18 November - 6 December

### SEMESTER 2 (SPRING)

13 January - 9 May 2025\*

Revision + Exam period:  
21 April - 9 May

\* includes exam dates

[../ACADEMIC CALENDARS](#)

### STUDY LEVEL

The GEM Trailblazer Exchange 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 enrol in 3 to 5 courses per semester with each course typically worth 3 or 4 Academic Units (AUs), subject to approval from both their home university and NTU. There is no minimum workload requirement, but the maximum workload permitted is **6 courses or 20 AUs** per semester.

PG students may only read postgraduate-level courses. They must be registered to at least one and up to five postgraduate courses per semester.

### DIRECT MASTERS STUDENTS

Only Direct (Integrated) Masters students who have completed at least seven semesters of study at their home university are eligible 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. (Refer to 'Course Matters' on page 5 for more.)

## 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 records, and the other will be kept 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*

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, before firming up your departure travel plans.



## WHEN SHOULD YOU ARRIVE AT AND DEPART FROM NTU?

**All inbound students are expected to attend classes from the first day of the semester.** Arriving after the semester has begun is strongly discouraged. It is recommended to arrive on Wednesday or Thursday of the week preceding the start of classes. This provides an opportunity to acclimate to your new environment and participate in the mandatory Orientation for Inbound Students, typically held on Thursday or Friday.

Requests to modify registered courses after the add/drop period ends (Teaching Weeks 1 and 2) **will not be accommodated** under any circumstances. Additionally, remote learning options are not available. If you cannot arrive by the recommended time, please contact OGEM with valid reasons to seek further advice.

Arrange return flights **after** the semester ends, as exams may occur on the final day. Rescheduling exams is not possible, and requests for it will not be entertained. Students who miss exams without valid proof shall be considered to have failed the course, resulting in an "F" grade on their transcript.

# APPLYING TO THE PROGRAMME

## APPLICATION

# DEADLINES

### SEMESTER 1 INTAKE (FALL)

Apply by: 30 March 2024

### SEMESTER 2 INTAKE (SPRING)

Apply by: 30 September 2024

### 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 applications will cause delays, affecting subsequent 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

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

../COURSE SELECTION

## RESTRICTED COURSES/PROGRAMMES

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

../RESTRICTED COURSES

## CREDIT TRANSFER

It is your responsibility to verify that the NTU courses you select are eligible for credit transfer at your home university. Detailed course syllabi can be found on the NTU website through a simple search. If you can't find the information you need, contact the Office of Global Education and Mobility (OGEM) to request assistance.

## COURSE APPROVAL

The courses listed in your application will undergo evaluation by the offering School(s) based on the academic documents you submit. Courses considered suitable will be approved for you to read. Note: **approval does not guarantee course enrolment**, as it is subject to availability of vacancies and the class/exam schedule. Course enrolment occurs at a later stage.



## GOOD TO KNOW

Due to capacity constraints, courses offered by NTU's School of Computer Science and Engineering (SCSE) are temporarily unavailable to exchange students until further notice. Depending on your needs, alternative options may be found among the offerings of our other **five Engineering Schools** instead.

It is important to note that securing placement for highly popular courses can be challenging across the board. Flexibility in your course selection can help prevent disappointment.

To ensure a sufficient number of approved courses before arriving at NTU, you should list at least 10 courses in your application. Ensure these courses are approved by your home university and are integral to your academic progression. Stay abreast of information regarding course registration procedures and deadlines in the weeks leading up to the semester start.

If you have not secured enough approved or registered courses before arriving at NTU, you can still adjust your course plan during the two-week add/drop period in Teaching Weeks 1 and 2 after your arrival.

# OTHER MATTERS

## COVID-19 & ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

As of February 13, 2023, COVID-19 measures for travellers arriving in Singapore have been lifted, regardless of vaccination status or traveller profile. However, travellers must still ensure they meet all other general entry requirements.

../ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

## ENTRY VISAS

Students needing an entry visa to Singapore do not need to apply separately for one. Upon approval of the Student's Pass (STP) application, an In-Principle Approval (IPA) letter will be issued, which includes a single-journey visa for entry into Singapore.

## STUDENT'S PASS (STP)

You must hold a valid Student's Pass (STP) issued by the Singapore Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) for the duration of your programme. Guidance on the STP application process will be provided after you accept our Offer. We advise arranging your travel plans only after the STP application is approved.

Note:

- ***It remains a requirement for all STP applicants to be fully vaccinated with the approved COVID-19 vaccines.***
- If your programme duration at NTU exceeds 6 months, you must undergo a health screening after arrival as per the STP requirements.
- Exchange students holding the STP are ***not allowed*** to engage in work activities, whether paid or unpaid, for the entire duration of the immersion period.

.../STUDENT'S PASS

## 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 for campus housing in view of their varied project dates.

### *Application and Allocation outcome*

You will be guided to apply for campus housing via the GEM Trailblazer Exchange/Study Abroad Portal after accepting the Offer. Do not apply directly with the Office of Campus Housing.

Vacancies are allocated randomly via computer balloting. Applicants who are unsuccessful or miss the application deadline should be ready to seek off-campus accommodation for rent.

../CAMPUS HOUSING

## COMPULSORY FEES

As a nominated exchange student, you are not required to pay tuition fees to NTU, but the following fees\* shall apply:

- A registration fee (S\$153) is payable at the point of application.
- The miscellaneous fees (between S\$230 to S\$280 per semester) are payable after acceptance. These cover the costs of providing insurance, health services, programmes and amenities, IT services, and other academic-related services.

*\* Fees shown are mandatory and non-refundable, include GST at the prevailing rate, and may be subject to revision at any time.*

## HEALTH/MEDICAL DECLARATIONS

To ensure that your wellbeing is addressed, you should declare all existing conditions (medical, physical/mobility, sensory impairment, neurological deficits and/or learning disabilities, etc) in your application. Documentation such as medical records or specialist assessment reports may be requested for evaluation purposes.

## PERSONAL INSURANCE

All exchange students must be enrolled in NTU's student insurance schemes, including Group Personal Accident Insurance (GPAI), Group Hospitalization & Surgical Insurance (GHSI), and Medical scheme, regardless of existing coverage. The premiums for NTU student insurance are incorporated into the compulsory NTU miscellaneous fees.

To ensure sufficient coverage for unexpected events, it's advisable to invest in additional comprehensive travel and COVID-19 insurance for your journey to and from Singapore, as well as throughout the semester.

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

## GETTING TO CAMPUS

NTU is located on the western end of the island and is easily accessible by public transport (MRT and taxis) when you arrive at Changi airport. Ride-hailing (eg. Grab, GoJek, TADA) is another popular way to get around. More details can be found in our pre-arrival guide.

## ORIENTATION FOR INBOUND STUDENTS

The Orientation is held at the beginning of each semester (usually on a Thursday or Friday in the week before semester starts) for new inbound students. This is an excellent opportunity to discover more about the services offered at NTU and to connect with fellow international students! Attendance is highly encouraged for all exchange students.

## BANKING FACILITIES ON CAMPUS

Banking services are 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?

More information about course selection, campus housing and more can be found in our [Programme Brochure](#). If you have a specific query, contact the Inbound Mobility Team at the Office of Global Mobility (OGEM) at [GEM-Trailblazer@ntu.edu.sg](mailto: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 presents over 20 courses across five distinct tracks. Join us for a summer at NTU, Singapore—an ideal launching pad to delve into the vibrant cultural tapestry of neighboring 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, upload all mandatory documents, and pay the registration fee within the stipulated deadline (see page 4).

### 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 allow you to 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 and start attending classes while you finalise your courses during the add/drop period (Teaching weeks 1 and 2).

## APPENDIX

### ENGLISH PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS

Proof of English proficiency is required where English is **not** the core language of instruction in the home institution. These guidelines are in place to ensure that exchange students are suited to cope with the rigorous curriculum conducted in English.

We accept the following English proficiency tests and indicative grades:

- IELTS/IELTS Indicator: a minimum 6 (Overall) and 6 (Writing)
- TOEFL/TOEFL iBT® Special Home Edition : a minimum of 600 (paper) or 90 (internet) or 237 (computer)

For other English proficiency tests that are accepted by NTU, please refer to the **Office of Admissions' website**. Alternatively, if you do not have any of the tests above, you may provide a letter issued by your home university, confirming your English proficiency and ability to follow classes in English.

**Note:**

- TOEFL MyBest® scores are not accepted.
- For IELTS and TOEFL, only scores obtained in the 2 years leading up to the application deadline will be considered.