Semester Study Abroad Pre-Departure Briefing
For Semester 2 of AY 2017-18
Briefing Overview

1. Introduction
2. Before Departure
3. Upon Arrival
4. Credit Matters
5. While Abroad
6. Before Return
1. Introduction
Introduction

- **Setting your expectations**
  - “The best experience of my life”
  - Facing bureaucracy, culture shock, homesickness
  - Leaving your comfort zone - exciting & scary!

- **Reflecting & planning before you go**
  - Identifying worries & addressing them when possible
  - Academic and professional goals, connection to future plans
  - Budget planning
  - Your semester abroad “bucket list”

- **Keep in mind**
  - In a new environment, you may need to find a new balance between academics, cultural immersion, socialising, and traveling (oh, and maybe sleeping)
  - This is your semester abroad, but you are a representative of Yale-NUS and Singapore/your home country
2. Before Departure
Need-based financial assistance

- Very limited amount of need-based assistance
- Application outcome will be ready the week of 27 November
  - Submit budget, your estimated contribution, amount requested
- A note on scholarships

Payment logistics

- What does CIPE pay?
  - Tuition fees of host institution for one semester or one trimester (first trimester if students go for two trimesters)
  - Insurance coverage for duration of program
  - Other mandatory student fees

- What does Yale-NUS need?
  - Invoices addressed to Yale-NUS College, not individual student

- A note on extending your stay abroad
  - Must submit application by regular study abroad deadline (early February 2018)
Before Departure

Academics
- Complete Part 1 Semester course planning form for your own security
- If courses are not yet available, use past catalogues for reference

Career Services
- Work with your CIPE advisor on your resume before you go abroad
- Speak to your CIPE advisor or Career Services about penultimate internship planning

Accommodation
- Apply for enrolment and accommodation (if separate) by the host institution’s deadlines
- Note host institution’s check-in timing and book alternative accommodation if arriving earlier

Immigration
- Ensure that your passport has 6 months’ validity after your return date
- Apply for the right visa as soon as you have all the supporting documents
Before Departure

Travel Arrangements and Insurance

- Research for your flight but do not purchase until you have your host university’s acceptance
  - Buying flight vs getting visa: which to do first?
- Information on NUS Blanket insurance can be found on [http://www.nus.edu.sg/finance/InsuranceCoverforOfficialNUSTrips.html](http://www.nus.edu.sg/finance/InsuranceCoverforOfficialNUSTrips.html)
- Some host institutions also require an additional insurance policy. If this is required, CIPE will cover the cost.
- Be sure to review your health insurance policy, and consider purchasing your own travel or supplemental insurance as needed
Before Departure

Health & Wellness
- Get the necessary vaccinations for your host country, if any
- Have check-ups in Singapore/your home country and bring medications overseas
- Familiarize yourself with wellness resources at your destination ahead of time
- Talk with your VRs, DFs, CIPE, and other resources here to plan for your time away

Finances
- Inform your bank to activate overseas use for your ATM cards
- Plan a budget that covers travels, food, transport, clothing and entertainment

Packing
- Pack smartly and take extra money for emergency or contingency
  - “When preparing to travel, lay out all your clothes and all your money. Then take half the clothes and twice the money.” – Susan Heller
- Inform yourself: Talk to others who have been there or gone for exchange
  - “Google’ is not a synonym for ‘research’.” – Dan Brown
  - “But it is a start.” – CIPE
- Research your host country/city/institution: weather conditions, cultural norms, academic culture and student life, etc.

Notification
- Register with Singapore MFA (Singaporeans/PRs) or your country’s diplomatic missions (international students) and notify MINDEF (NS men only)
4. Credit Matters
Credit Matters

Full load

- Students must do the full load at the host institution as determined and communicated by CIPE via email.
  - This may differ slightly from what your host institution policies say or what other students tell you. If you have any concerns or questions about the full load determination, please contact CIPE. We will have the final say in what constitutes a full load.

- If for any reason you need to drop below a full load during your semester, please contact CIPE. Please do not drop below a full load without receiving approval from CIPE, which will be granted only under extenuating circumstances.

- The maximum credit transfer per semester is 20 MCs which will be prorated over the number of courses. Overloading is not encouraged but if students choose to do so, the 20 MCs can be prorated over the number of courses successfully completed, including or excluding the extra course(s) beyond the full load equivalent.

Grades

- Students must take courses at the host institution on a graded basis, unless the course is only offered on a pass-fail basis. If a course is offered on both a graded and pass-fail basis, students must take it on a graded basis or the credit will not be transferred.

- Grades earned abroad will not affect your Yale-NUS CAP and will not appear on your Yale-NUS transcript. They will appear on your host institution transcript.

- Students who earn a failing grade, as determined by the host institution, will not be able to transfer credit for that course.
## Credit Matters

### Sample completed Part 1 Semester course planning form (Retain for yourself)

**For Major/Minor/Academic Advisor approval**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Host Institution Course No and Course Name</th>
<th>Type of Course to be Counted as at Yale-NUS (Major/Minor/Elective)</th>
<th>Yale-NUS Equivalent Course Name and No or type of Requirement</th>
<th>Name of Major/Minor/Academic Advisor</th>
<th>Signature of Major/Minor/Academic Advisor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>History of Money HM1</td>
<td>Major</td>
<td>Introductory</td>
<td>Prof Adams</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th Century Politics CP2</td>
<td>Major</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Prof Adams</td>
<td>Not approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient cities AC3</td>
<td>Minor</td>
<td>Topical 3000 Level</td>
<td>Prof Wong</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginner’s Swahili SW1</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>Prof Adams</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Note

Students who do the full load for one semester or two trimesters will transfer 20 MCs whereas those who do the full load for one trimester will transfer 14 MCs. The course planning form is for students’ security that the courses at the host institution can fulfil major/minor requirements. If courses change subsequently, students should seek approval via email and keep the correspondence as proof.
### Credit Matters

#### Sample completed Part 2 Semester credit transfer form (submit in August with host institution transcript if you have it)

**Step 1: For completion by CIPE**

**Number of MCs at Yale-NUS:**
- Full load: 3 modules (12 credits)
- 1 module of 4 credits = 5 MCs

**Name of staff:** Beth Uding

**Signature:**

**Step 2: For Major/Minor/Academic Advisor approval**

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<th>Host Institution Course No and Course Name</th>
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<th>Yale-NUS Equivalent Course Name and No or type of Requirement</th>
<th>Name of Major/Minor/Academic Advisor</th>
<th>Signature of Major/Minor/Academic Advisor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beyond Evolution BE3</td>
<td>Major</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>Prof Adams</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Architecture AH2</td>
<td>Minor</td>
<td>Topical 2000 Level</td>
<td>Prof Wong</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginner’s Swahili SW1</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>Prof Adams</td>
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**Note:** Students must attend a Credit Transfer session with CIPE to begin the credit transfer process upon return. Registry requires the faculty member to know the number of MCs before approving the major/minor requirements so if the student approaches the faculty member first, the form might be rejected. If the faculty member indicates vague wording such as “can count towards major”, students should remind the faculty member to provide the specific major requirement such as “Historical Distribution (Modern)”. Incorrectly filled forms will be delayed in processing and the credit transfer may not be updated by the end of the returning semester.
5. While Abroad
While Abroad

Academics
- Attend your classes and balance your priorities
- Reflect about your discipline/Capstone

Networking
- Get to know more peers and faculty members
- Observe and respect cultural differences

Traveling
- Consider responsible tourism/voluntourism/ecotourism
- Be open-minded
  - “The traveler sees what he sees, the tourist sees what he has come to see.” – G. K. Chesterton
  - “Which one are you- traveler, tourist, student or all of them?” – CIPE

Staying in touch with CIPE
- Maintain regular contact with your CIPE Advisor and International Programs Team while abroad
- Look out for regular email updates and news from CIPE

Safety
- Be alert, trust your instincts and always put your safety first
- Record security number of Host Institution and NUS Campus: +65 6874 1616
## While Abroad

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Culture shock</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Honeymoon</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>What you will say at the start: “Wow, my dream has come true. This is paradise!”</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>“Everything in life is temporary. So if things are going good, enjoy it because it won’t last forever…” – Rob Bell</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Frustration</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>What you might utter more than once: “Did I come all the way here to face this bureaucracy/fill-in-anything-negative?”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“…And if things are going bad, don’t worry. It can’t last forever either.” – Rob Bell</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adjustment</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>What you will realize as you are overcoming obstacles: “Neither my host country nor my home country is perfect but I will love them just the way they are.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“To travel is to discover that everyone is wrong about other countries.” – Aldous Huxley</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Acceptance</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What you will conclude once you are at peace: “Life is not a bed of roses and it does not change just because I am spending a semester abroad but I can rise to the challenge.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“People travel to faraway places to watch, in fascination, the kind of people they ignore at home.” – Dagobert D. Runes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reversal</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What you might say once you are back in Yale-NUS College: “There is no haze in my host country!” but did you forget about the time when train workers in your host country went on strike?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“My worst enemy is my memory.” – Vincent Kabape</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stay in touch with **CIPE**. We are **always here** for you!
6. Before Return
Before Return

Academics
▪ Students at non-partner institutions: arrange for your transcript to be sent to Yale-NUS
▪ Submit your Part 2 Semester credit transfer form via email in August and official transcript (if it gets sent to you) to CIPE
▪ Late submission may result in the credits not being reflected by the end of the returning semester. See detailed instructions here

Accommodation
▪ Clean and check out on time

Appreciation
▪ Say Thank You and Goodbye to all who have helped you along the way

Re-integration
▪ Follow Yale-NUS timelines for the next semester
▪ Look out for emails about signing up for housing, registering for modules and CIPE’s welcome back session

Reciprocity
▪ Give back to the community by sharing your experiences with your peers
▪ Talk to those who are interested and hear what others have been up to too
Check [http://cipe.yale-nus.edu.sg/international-programs/semester-study-abroad/semester-study-abroad-faqs/](http://cipe.yale-nus.edu.sg/international-programs/semester-study-abroad/semester-study-abroad-faqs/)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lindsay ALLEN</th>
<th>Beth UDING</th>
<th>Fang Wei GOH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Portfolio</td>
<td>● Latin America &amp; Caribbean</td>
<td>● USA</td>
<td>● UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Spain</td>
<td>● Canada</td>
<td>● Scandinavia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Middle East</td>
<td>● Europe except Spain/UK/Scandinavia</td>
<td>● Asia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>● Multi-Country Programs</td>
<td>● Oceania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>● Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lindsay.allen@yale-nus.edu.sg">lindsay.allen@yale-nus.edu.sg</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:beth.uding@yale-nus.edu.sg">beth.uding@yale-nus.edu.sg</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:fangwei.goh@yale-nus.edu.sg">fangwei.goh@yale-nus.edu.sg</a></td>
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</table>
How does your upcoming study abroad experience connect with your potential career interests?
Career Services, Graduate School, and Fellowships

What you can do..

Now: Identify gaps to achieve career goals
Next Semester: Fill gaps intentionally through Relevant Coursework, Campus Activities, Alumni Networks

Looking for an internship?
- Application process begins in end-Jan on Symplicity
- Pre-caution about J-1 visa for U.S. opportunities