NTU has established an International Student Exchange Programme (INSTEP) to enable you to study overseas for a period of time while pursuing your degree in NTU. This has been made possible with the Academic Unit System in the university that allows a greater flexibility in the way a student completes a degree. Besides broadening your learning experience, INSTEP is a timely response to Singapore’s regional and global economic thrust. It provides opportunities for you to develop global perspectives in the disciplines you are pursuing.

INSTEP is administered by the International Relations Office (IRO) of the university and supported by the Schools. There is an Exchange Coordinator in each School whom you may approach for enquiry and apply for the programme. You can also visit the IRO for more information and advice on INSTEP.

WHY INSTEP?

- Once-a-life-time opportunity
  INSTEP is a once-a-life-time opportunity for you to spend a few months in a foreign university, experiencing life and learning in a new and interesting environment, without having to interrupt your university studies. This combination of study and experience will definitely give a new dimension to your university degree and life experience that will last forever.

- Develop and network with friends from around the world
  Whether you live with a family or in university housing, you will have the opportunity to interact and mix with people from different nationalities, abilities and background. We hope that you will benefit from it and eventually establish long lasting friendships.

- Cross-cultural exposure
  You will see places and learn about another country. This may add to your understanding of the cultural diversity in the world, encouraging you to see your own culture through foreign eyes and developing an appreciation for others.

- Challenge your thinking
  Studying abroad will add a different and new perspective to your studies, thus enhancing your education and allowing you to see things from another point of view. This will certainly be of great benefit towards the development of your analytical and critical thinking skills.

- Stand out from the crowd
  In an age of global economies and information superhighways, your overseas experience and exposure will certainly add value to your resume and appreciated by your prospective employers.
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"INSTEP gave me the opportunity to meet the locals and gain a global perspective beyond academic life in NTU. It’s an truly amazing experience without a dull moment!"
- Grace Lee
NBS / Year 3
If you are enrolled in a full-time degree course and have completed at least one year of study at NTU, you are welcomed to apply.

You should have, at least, satisfied the following criteria if you wish to apply for INSTEP:

**Academic Performance**
- Have an academic record showing a B grade average and have the approval from your School.
- Some universities may require a higher average.

**Financial status**
- Be able to demonstrate access to sufficient funds to finance your exchange and meet student visa requirements.

**Personal Qualities**
- Be a suitable ‘ambassador’ for NTU and Singapore.
- Have a positive attitude towards studying and living in different environment.
- Be independent and resourceful.

INSTEP enables you to study in another university overseas for either one or two semesters. Foreign students are only allowed to apply for one-semester exchange.

1. You can earn Academic Units (AUs) towards your NTU degree. The subjects you are taking overseas will be subject to approval by your School.
2. You will sit for the examinations at the overseas university and the appropriate AUs will be transferred back to your academic record at NTU.
3. You will be classified as a non-graduating student at the overseas university.
4. You will return to NTU to complete the rest of your course of studies and CANNOT register for a degree at the overseas university which you have participated in the exchange programme.
5. The period of candidature for your degree and for the award of honours will continue to apply should you spend time overseas on exchange. Please go through the NTU Academic Unit System handbook in the STUDENTLINK for details.

**WHO CAN APPLY?**

**Scheme Options**

A. **Exchange Scheme - Scheme 1**
- There is reciprocal fee-waiver exchange agreement in place with an overseas university.
- A formal Memorandum of Understanding is signed between NTU and the overseas university.
- Students continue to pay their tuition fees to NTU during the period of their overseas exchange.
- Students are not required to pay tuition fees to the overseas university.

B. **Fee-Paying Scheme - Scheme 2**
- The overseas university which you would like to go does not have any formal agreement signed with NTU.
- Insufficient Scheme 1 places.
- Students will pay their tuition fees to the overseas university for the period of their overseas study.
- Students are not required to pay tuition fees to NTU for the period of their overseas study.

The difference between Scheme 1 and 2 lies in the payment of tuition fees. Students under both schemes must be able to meet the costs of their traveling and living expenses.

If you time it right, you may even be able to extend your stay overseas for your Industrial Attachment/Professional Attachment/Professional Internship (applicable to Singaporean students only).
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There are various forms of financial assistance like travel grants/scholarships/loans available to assist you in your study abroad stint. However, such financial assistance is only applicable to students who are applying under the Exchange Scheme - Scheme 1. The application forms for the different types of grants/scholarships/loans are obtainable from the International Relations Office.

FINANCIAL AIDS

WHERE CAN I GO?

The costs of studying overseas will vary considerably, depending upon the types of scheme, location and duration.

You may wish to factor the following costs when drawing up your budget for the study abroad stint:

• Tuition fees
  This is only applicable if you are considering to go under Scheme 2. For those of you going under the Exchange Scheme - Scheme 1 (less expensive option), you will continue to pay your tuition fees to NTU. This amount will be similar to the amount you would pay if you were studying full-time on NTU campus.

• Living costs
  It is estimated that you need approximately S$1,500 per month for your living and accommodation expenses. You can also refer to the website of the respective university which you are interested to get a more realistic breakdown of the living and accommodation costs.

• Airfare
  This amount will vary depending on where the overseas university is located and period/season of your traveling time.

For Enquiries

* Visit the IBO Resource Room at Level 2, International House and read up the resource material on the various universities.
* Visit the websites of the exchange universities.
* Attend the INSTEP Information Session held twice a year.
* Contact the International Relations Office (instep@ntu.edu.sg) or the School’s Exchange Coordinator.
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"The exchange was fantastic because I made lots of new friends from many different countries!"

- Tang De Rong
EEE / Year 4

NTU has developed student exchange links with more than 130 universities across 30 countries. If the university you are interested to go cannot be found in our list, it is still possible for you to go under the Fee-paying Scheme - Scheme 2, provided you seek approval from your School and all arrangements will have to be made between yourself and the university you have selected.

The costs of studying overseas will vary considerably, depending upon the types of scheme, location and duration. You may wish to factor the following costs when drawing up your budget for the study abroad stint:

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**WHERE CAN I GO?**

The costs of studying overseas will vary considerably, depending upon the types of scheme, location and duration.

**CAN I AFFORD?**

You may wish to factor the following costs when drawing up your budget for the study abroad stint:

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