

National University of Singapore

Exchange semester	Autumn semester 2025
Study level	Graduate (Master)
Home faculty at GU	IT-Faculty
Studies at GU	Master's in Data Science

Courses during exchange

- Introduction to Quantitative Finance
- Frontiers of Physics, Digital Ethics and AI
- Economics of IT and AI
- Chinese 5

Studies

The on-campus accommodation made it easier to commute to class, there were a lot of interest groups that matched my interests and the workload was way heavier. The lectures also had a lot more of theory content compared to practice activities, and because of the high demand of CS and DS courses, my lectures had a little to do with my major back home.

Arrival, orientation and housing

I didn't receive the information to sign up to the buddy program and by the time I knew it was already late. The first days I had to figure out most of the school and Singapore related affairs on my own and I kind of missed a proper exchangers introduction from my dorm.

Finances

The living costs were overall the same, the difference is how the proportions are split: food and transport are way cheaper, and accommodation was a little more expensive than what I usually paid back in Sweden.

Life in a new country/culture

I felt that Singapore is one of the most diverse countries, and different ethnicities actually blended in with each other. I am from a Chinese family living in Europe and it was very refreshing meeting other overseas Chinese from both Singapore and other countries and still share the same background. I also learned that Singapore is actually a dictatorship and they have camera surveillance everywhere that ensure progress and safety, but is not looked down upon like in China. It made me realise that most of the

time westerners are too self centered in their own culture and values, but we can also learn from how easterners do things that actually work.

I also think that NUS actively promotes a healthy lifestyle through sports and interest groups, while keeping the party culture responsible. However, because the campus was so far from the city, at times it felt like we were living in a bubble rather than within Singapore itself.

Overall exchange experience

It was very positive, I managed to meet people from all over the world and travel to countries I wouldn't have done otherwise. It made me realise the privilege we hold as European Union passport holders and I felt so grateful to have that freedom to move around countries without visa. I also realised how being a Spanish born Chinese is still surprising compared to being American/Canadian born Chinese and how they have their own type of community back home. I hope this would also become a reality for Chinese descendants in Europe.