Pre-Departure Orientation
National University of Singapore, Spring
October 22, 2014
Welcome to the Orientation

Be sure that you have not only logged into the Webinar on your computer, but that you have also called in to the webinar on your phone. Follow the instructions in your Meeting Confirmation e-mail.

Dial-In Number: (866) 740-1260

Access Code: 4787318

If you have called in and cannot hear the audio of this webinar, use the chat box to let us know.

There will be a Q&A session at the end of the presentation. Please write your questions down as they arise and wait until prompted to ask them.
In Singapore, Ms. Daisy Ling (daisyling.sg@eap.ucop.edu) is the first person to contact with questions about host or UC academics, finance, housing, health, or anything else!

She will know if it’s a question she can answer, or if it should go to your home campus or your host university. Your host university often will not understand exactly what rules or exceptions apply to UCEAP students – talk to Daisy to make sure you have the correct information!
This presentation covers highlights that apply to everyone. Details concerning questions, problems, or situations you may have while abroad are at the links below. Bookmark them!

- **Participants Portal** (guides, calendars, insurance, petitions, more...)
- **UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad** (includes detailed academic policies)
- **Singapore Program Guide** (details about program)

Your signed Student Agreement confirms that you have read and understand the policies and information in these guides. You can always contact Daisy or the Systemwide Office with any questions.
GETTING READY & ARRIVAL
Before You Go

- Review the program calendar on your Participants page and make travel arrangements to arrive before the official start date.

- Obtain your Student Pass as required. Follow the instructions on the PDC.

- Check the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website for health information.

- Register with U.S. Department of State Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP).

- Contact returnees and current participants through the UCEAP Singapore Facebook page.

- Pack light! You can buy almost everything you need in Singapore.

- Hand carry the arrival instructions from your PDC.

- Print your UCEAP insurance card, read both sides, and place it in your wallet.
All exchange students are required to obtain a Student Pass. Your offer of admission to NUS is conditional upon the successful application of your Student Pass.

Students enter Singapore on a tourist/single-entry visa and then convert it to a Student’s Pass during registration.

You are not allowed to travel outside of Singapore until your Student Pass ready.

SOLAR process prior to arrival:

1. When notified by NUS, access the Singapore Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) website and Student Pass Online Application and Registration (SOLAR) system to verify information and submit an electronic application (eForm16). Print the eForm 16 immediately after submission.

2. Submit the required payment (S$30+S$60 and extra S$30 for multiple entry visa) online. Print the receipt/payment history immediately after completion as proof of payment.

3. Complete the pre-registration and print the NUS ID and password given.

4. Submit the required payment (S$93/semester) for the NUS Health Service Fee and Student Services Fee online. Print the receipt immediately after completion as proof of payment.
Arrival

Singapore Changi International Airport (SIN)

- Immigration
  - Disembarkation/Embarkation (D/E) Card
  - In Principle Approval Letter (if applicable)
- Baggage Claim
- Customs
- Transportation
  - 40 minute cab ride
  - Airport Meet and Greet
On-Site Orientation

- **UCEAP Orientation**
  - Bring your required documents. Daisy will review and prepare your paperwork for registration.

- **Registration**
  - UCEAP students have a group appointment during the official registration period at NUS. You will submit the required documents and receive your In-Principle Approval (IPA) letter.
  - You will be assigned a date to pick up your passport and Student Pass.

- **NUS Orientation**
LIVING ABROAD
Make It Count!

While abroad, you will be a representative of not only the University of California, but also the state of California and the United States of America.

Think about what this means and how it will affect your behavior while abroad.

This is an amazing opportunity to meet people from other societies, make friends from other countries, and to make a difference in your life and in the lives of others.

“In the end, I had one of the most amazing times of my life here in Singapore, and I'm sure anyone participating in this program will have a very similar experience.”

– UCEAP Singapore Returnee
Housing

- Housing is extremely competitive and NUS is very strict with housing deadlines. Miss one deadline and your housing assignment will be given to another student.

- **On Campus Housing Options:**
  - Residence Halls
  - Prince George’s Park Residences (PGP)
  - University Town
    - U-Town Residence
    - Residential Colleges

- **You must go through a multi-step process to secure housing:**
  1. Online NUS Application – Request on campus housing.
  2. NUS Admission Notice – Complete online registration process during specified timeframe. Pay a mandatory, non-refundable fee.
  3. Receive housing assignment – Accept offer and pay acceptance fee.
  4. Contact housing office to confirm check-in date.
Money & Banking

- **Currency Exchange**
  - US $1 = S $1.2

- **Cash**
  - ATMs are the easiest way to get cash, but there will be fees added. Check with your bank before leaving for details about ATM fees while abroad.

- **Credit Cards**
  - Accepted at larger establishments.

- **Local Bank Account**
  - Development Bank of Singapore (DBS)/Post Office Savings Bank (POSB), United Overseas Bank (UOB), and Overseas-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited (OCBC Bank)
  - Passport, SOLAR, and NUS Admission Notice required
Staying in Touch

As a UCEAP participant, you are obligated to:

- Contact a family member to notify them of your safe arrival
- Keep in touch and provide up-to-date contact details in MyEAP
- Check your UC email address regularly
- Provide a local cell phone number after arrival

Send an email, text, and/or complete the Travel Signout form to notify Daisy that you will travel out of town.
Communication

- **Cell Phones**
  - Bring an unlocked phone or buy a phone after arrival
  - Purchase SIM card and reload
  - Many students use Skype to communicate with family & friends in the U.S.

- **Internet Access**
  - Wireless internet available on campus
  - Wired internet in dorms
  - Computer Labs/PC Clusters
Meals

- NUS Residence Halls and Residential Colleges have mandatory meal plans
- Basic kitchenette available with on campus housing
- Other options include: campus canteens, hawker centers, food courts, cafes, and restaurants

Transportation

- Mass Rapid Transit (MRT)
  - Nearest train station is Kent Ridge

- Buses
  - NUS Shuttle

- Taxis

- The EZ-Link Transportation Card can be purchased at MRT stations. You can reload your card at TransitLink machines in every station.
Activities

- Study Center Excursions
- NUS Student Organizations
- Sports & Outdoor Activities
- Festivals
- Performing Arts
Health

- All exchange students are required to purchase **NUS insurance** (S$60/semester).
- Review your **UCEAP Insurance Plan** so you understand all your health coverage and how to use it.
- Research any required medication to find out if you can obtain it in Singapore, or if it is even legal! Remember, all medication must be carried in their original, labeled containers.
- Review services offered by Europ Assistance. They are a tremendous resource should you require medical care.
- If you become ill while abroad (including mental health issues):
  - Contact Europ Assistance.
  - Notify Daisy. She is there to help! In fact, notify Daisy about any issue that is impacting your academic performance and/or attendance.
Safety

- Trafficking, manufacturing, importing and exporting of drugs carries a death penalty.
- Singapore’s “low” threat for crime does not mean no crime. Individuals should still take common sense precautions to avoid being victimized.
- Theft and Scams
  - Be aware of pick-pockets, especially in tourist areas, airports, public transportation
  - Phone scams requesting advanced payment to win a prize
- Nightlife
  - Alcohol consumption impairs our judgment and increases risky behavior, which increases the risk for crime.
- Monsoon Season
  - December to March and June to September
Cultural Adjustment

- Stress abroad is not unique or uncommon. There may be times when you feel UCEAP just isn’t working for you. It’s normal to feel homesick, isolated, have family or breakup issues, or academic or money concerns. You may experience emotional ups and downs, and even depression, or illness.

- You may also experience “culture shock.”

- Follow the lead of the locals. Exercise, journal/blog, do activities that you enjoy at home, try new activities, laugh at mistakes, make friends & get involved in the community. Learn about your new culture and try to fit in. Reach out to others.

- You might even consider withdrawing, but be sure to seek advice to explore all other solutions before reaching this important decision. Consult with Daisy and, if necessary, an onsite counselor before filing paperwork to leave. There can be academic and financial consequences.
ACADEMICS
Immersion Program
- Attendance, class participation, assignments, projects and final examination performance will be counted towards your grade.

NUS courses are called modules. Most modules are 4 credits (6 UC quarter units).
- 1000 level-one modules are UC lower-division credit
- 2000 level-two and 3000 level-three modules are upper-division credit (except for language courses). These are recommended.
- 4000 level modules are graduate level and are rarely open to undergraduates. To take these courses, you must get approval from the instructor and submit a UCEAP General Petition for approval from the UCEAP Systemwide Office.

Course Registration
1. Online NUS Application – Request courses.
2. NUS Admission Notice – Approved courses listed.
3. NUS Add/Drop Period (after arrival) – Adjust course list during pass times.
   - Acceptance into classes is not automatic. Take your most recent transcript with you to Singapore to verify completed coursework. In addition you must be able to provide documentation for the UC classes that you have taken recently that are not on the transcript submitted with your application. A letter of introduction from a UC faculty member in your home department could be useful to help in securing a space in an oversubscribed course.
Your MyEAP Study List is your official UC record. Make sure it accurately reflects the courses you are taking in this program. Do not try to enter anything into MyEAP until after you have received instructions.

UC students are required to enroll in 24 UC quarter units (ex. four NUS courses) each semester.

One course may be taken P/NP.

Keep all course material and assignments – you will need them to petition for major, minor, GE credit when you return to campus.

Grades can take up to 90 days to get from NUS to your campus registrar, but NUS fall grades are usually available in late January and spring grades in early to mid-July.
Returning Home

- Pay all outstanding fees to NUS and to UCEAP. Program costs, housing charges, library fines, utility bills, or more will delay the release of your grades and may block on UC registration.

- Bring home course materials to assist you in petitioning for course approval to satisfy major requirements – especially syllabi and any returned graded work, but also any other assignments that will demonstrate what you did.

- Check your airline’s luggage restrictions.

- Read about reverse culture shock and be aware of common reactions to returning home.

- Upon your return, please complete surveys or questionnaires sent to you by UCEAP! Your feedback helps us maintain the quality of the programs, and improve them for future students.
Questions?