



NANYANG  
TECHNOLOGICAL  
UNIVERSITY  
SINGAPORE

GEM TRAILBLAZER SEMESTER EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

# INFORMATION SHEET

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026 - 2027



# NTU, the ideal ‘soft landing’ in the vibrant heart of a booming Asia-Pacific.

Discover Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore), where world-class academics meet a vibrant campus experience in the heart of Asia. Consistently ranked among the world’s leading universities, NTU offers a wide range of courses, cutting-edge research facilities, and a welcoming global community.

As an exchange student, you will study alongside peers from around the world, learn from internationally recognised faculty, and enjoy life on a green, self-contained campus that blends academic rigour with dynamic student activities.

Beyond the classroom, Singapore offers a unique mix of cultures, innovation, and global connectivity—making your exchange both academically enriching and culturally immersive.

# IMPORTANT DEADLINES

## SEMESTER 1 (FALL)

AUGUST - DECEMBER 2026

### NOMINATION WINDOW

1 - 15 March 2026

### APPLICATION DEADLINE

30 March 2026

## SEMESTER 2 (SPRING)

JANUARY - MAY 2027

### NOMINATION WINDOW

1 - 15 September 2026

### APPLICATION DEADLINE

30 September 2026

An exchange at NTU is a launchpad for global perspectives, personal growth, and lifelong connections.

The **GEM Trailblazer Semester Exchange Programme** 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.



## Why choose NTU?

RANKED 12TH IN THE WORLD\*

VIBRANT AND DIVERSE, YET  
UNIQUELY ASIAN

ACCESS TO STATE-OF-THE-  
ART FACILITIES

WIDE RANGE OF STUDENT  
AND RECREATIONAL  
ACTIVITIES

ONE OF THE MOST  
BEAUTIFUL CAMPUSES IN  
THE WORLD

A SAFE AND FRIENDLY  
DESTINATION

GATEWAY TO SOUTHEAST  
ASIA AND BEYOND

*\*based on 22nd QS World  
University Rankings (WUR) 2026*

# ACADEMIC INFORMATION

## STUDY LEVEL

The GEM Trailblazer Exchange Programme is open to both Undergraduates (UG) and Graduates (PG).

## MODE OF STUDY

You can either read courses, conduct research, or opt for a combination of both throughout 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

A typical course load for UG students is between three to five courses per semester, subject to approval from both their home university and NTU. PG students may only read postgraduate-level courses. Each course is generally worth three or four Academic Units (AUs).

Students must maintain enrolment in at least one course throughout the programme, with a **maximum allowable workload of 20 AUs** per semester.

## DIRECT MASTERS STUDENTS

Only Direct (Integrated) Masters students who have completed at least **seven semesters of continuous 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.)

# PROGRAMME

## DATES

### SEMESTER 1 (FALL)

11 August - 4 December 2026

#### WELCOME WEEK

4 to 7 August\*\*

#### RECESS WEEK

28 September - 2 October

#### REVISION + EXAM PERIOD

16 November - 4 December

### SEMESTER 2 (SPRING)

11 January - 7 May 2026

#### WELCOME WEEK

5 - 8 January\*\*

#### RECESS WEEK

1 - 5 March

#### REVISION + EXAM PERIOD

19 April - 7 May

\* Includes exam dates.

\*\* Dates are tentative; students will be notified of the confirmed dates in the E-Welcome Package.

 ACADEMIC CALENDARS





## KEY THINGS TO KNOW: ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE

**All inbound students are expected to attend classes from the first day of the semester.** You are strongly encouraged to arrive early in the week before classes begin, which will give you time to settle in, adjust to campus life, and take part in Welcome Week activities organised for inbound students. The inbound team will share more detailed guidance on the recommended arrival date closer to the start of the semester. Arriving after the semester has begun is strongly discouraged.

Course changes are not permitted after the add/drop period (Teaching Weeks 1 and 2) under any circumstances, and remote learning options are not available.

If you are unable to arrive by the recommended time, please contact OGEM promptly with valid reasons so that we can advise you accordingly.

When planning your return travel, please ensure that your flight is scheduled **after the official end of the semester**, as examinations may be held on the final day. Examination dates cannot be rescheduled. Students who miss an exam without valid supporting documentation will be deemed to have failed the course, and an “F” grade will be reflected on the transcript.

## ACADEMIC UNITS AND GRADING SYSTEM

NTU's courses are assigned credits based on academic units. Most courses offered in NTU are worth three to four 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

Official NTU transcripts will be made available to your home university's exchange office within two months of completing the exchange programme. There is no need to request these transcripts.

## 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.

Withdrawals requested **after arriving at NTU** will be counted as a utilised exchange spot.



*Academically, NTU offered a very high standard of teaching, with engaging courses and classes that combined theory with real-world applications, making the learning experience both challenging and rewarding. Campus life was equally impressive: the vibrant hall community and student activities made it easy to connect with people from all over the world and feel part of a dynamic international environment.*

- Federico Tuti, from Technical University of Denmark (AY25/26 Semester 1 exchange student)



# APPLYING TO THE PROGRAMME

**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.

## APPLICATION

# DEADLINES

### SEMESTER 1 (FALL)

Apply by: 30 March 2026

### SEMESTER 2 (SPRING)

Apply by: 30 September 2026

### 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 consecutive 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 3.3/5.0 or the equivalent of a B-average
- I am proficient in the English language

## DOCUMENTS TO SUBMIT

### PASSPORT-SIZED ID PHOTO (.JPG, <100KB)

- Clear, coloured passport-sized ID photo taken recently
- **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
- Machine-readable zone must be clearly visible
- 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 registered in current semester (if not shown in transcript)

### PROOF OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

**Required only where English is *not* the medium of instruction in the home institution.** Refer to the appendix for accepted English tests/indicative grades. 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

## IMPORTANT

**Your completed application must be received within the stipulated deadline.** Late applications will not be processed. Incomplete applications will cause delays, affecting subsequent processes.



*NTU's diversity is incredible. People from all over the world learn from one another through group projects, random conversations and shared meals. There's a sense of openness and collaboration. Differences become a strength rather than a barrier, and I genuinely feel part of a global community.*

*- Maxime Bezot from EFREI Paris, France  
(AY25/26 Semester 1 exchange student)*



# COURSE MATTERS

In your application, you will be asked to list 10 courses for each applicable semester. At least 50% of these courses should be from the School corresponding to the 'Equivalent NTU Programme' option you select. Ensure that these courses are approved by your home university and are integral to your academic progression.



## COURSES OFFERED

### *Undergraduate courses*

UG course offerings will only be published in May and November (for Semester 1 and 2, respectively). The previous year's courses offered may be as a reference.

### *Postgraduate 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 **strictly not allowed** to apply for/read restricted courses and programmes. Students should not appeal for such courses.

## RESTRICTED COURSES

### CREDIT TRANSFER

You are responsible for ensuring that the NTU courses you select are eligible for credit transfer at your home university. Detailed course syllabi are available on the NTU website via a simple web search. If you have difficulty finding the necessary information, please contact the Office of Global Education and Mobility (OGEM) for assistance.

### COURSE APPROVAL AND ALLOCATION

The courses listed in your application will be evaluated by the offering School(s) based on the academic documents submitted, and courses deemed suitable will be approved. In addition to your initial course choices, you will have two further opportunities to request approval for additional courses.

NTU will endeavour to allocate up to four approved courses prior to your arrival, subject to vacancies and timetabling. You may make changes to your registered courses by adding or dropping courses during the add/drop period (self-registration phase).

Detailed information regarding the course registration process will be provided upon acceptance of the exchange offer.

## ✓ KEY THINGS TO KNOW: COURSE ENROLMENT

Some courses at NTU are highly popular, and places can be competitive across all schools. To maximise your chances of securing a suitable course load, it is important to remain flexible in your course choices.

Course registration is an ongoing process that continues until Teaching Week 2 of the semester. Even if you have not secured enough approved or registered courses before arriving at NTU, you will still be able to review and adjust your course plan during the add/drop period in Teaching Weeks 1 and 2 after your arrival.

Please note that course approval does not guarantee enrolment. Final enrolment is subject to the availability of vacancies as well as class and examination timetable considerations, and takes place through a separate registration exercise at a later stage.

Due to capacity constraints, courses offered by NTU's College of Computing and Data Science (CCDS) are temporarily unavailable to exchange students until further notice. However, students from partner universities with **pre-arranged access** to CCDS courses may still be allowed to read these courses, subject to availability and NTU's approval. Depending on your academic requirements, suitable alternatives may be found among the offerings of NTU's other **five Engineering Schools** [↗](#).



# OTHER MATTERS

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Inbound travellers to Singapore must ensure they fulfil the prevailing entry requirements.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

## ENTRY VISAS

Students needing a visa to enter Singapore do not need to apply separately for one. Once the Student's Pass (STP) is approved, the In-Principle Approval (IPA) letter issued will include a single-entry visa for entry to Singapore.

## STUDENT'S PASS (STP)

You must hold a valid Student's Pass (STP) from Singapore's Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) for the duration of your programme. Application guidance will be provided after you accept the offer. Travel should only be arranged after your STP is approved.

Fees (subject to changes):

- Processing fee: S\$45
- Issuance fee: S\$60
- Multiple-journey fee (if applicable): S\$30

Note:

- If your NTU programme exceeds six months, you must undergo a health screening as per the STP requirements.
- Exchange students holding the STP are **not allowed** to engage in work activities, whether paid or unpaid, for the duration of their stay.

### STUDENT'S PASS

## ADMINISTRATIVE FEE

As a nominated exchange student, you do not pay tuition fees to NTU. However, a mandatory fee of about S\$410 (Undergraduate) or S\$460 (Postgraduate) applies per semester. This administrative fee covers student insurance, programmes and amenities, IT services, academic resources, administrative support, and social activities. Miscellaneous fees for the second semester will also apply for students nominated for full year exchange.

## VAPING IS PROHIBITED

**Vaping is illegal in Singapore.** Under the Tobacco (Control Of Advertisements And Sale) Act, it is an offence to purchase, use or possess these products and/or their components.

**NTU is a 100% Vape-Free Campus.** The use or possession of vapes, e-vaporisers, or substances such as etomidate is strictly prohibited. Offenders will face immediate termination from their programme, further penalties under NTU and Singapore law, and barred from applying to future exchange or Visiting opportunities at NTU.

### ADVISORY ON VAPING & E-VAPORISERS

Payment is billed before the semester starts and must be settled by the second week of the semester.

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

## ON-CAMPUS HOUSING

Campus housing is subject to availability and allocated by computer ballot. Fees are billed per semester, with refunds due to early withdrawal only granted under extenuating circumstances approved by the Office of Campus Housing (OCH).

### *Eligibility*

Exchange students taking courses may apply. Research exchange students are not eligible because of varying project dates.

### *Application & Allocation*

After accepting your offer, apply through the GEM Trailblazer Exchange/Study Abroad Portal. **Do not apply directly to the Office of Campus Housing.** If you are not allocated a room or apply late, you will need to arrange off-campus housing.

### CAMPUS HOUSING

## OFF-CAMPUS ACCOMMODATION

Students seeking off-campus accommodation should begin their search well in advance of arriving in Singapore. We recommend focusing on areas near NTU, such as Boon Lay, Jurong West, and Jurong East.

### ALTERNATIVE HOUSING OPTIONS



## HEALTH/MEDICAL DECLARATIONS

To ensure that your wellbeing is addressed, declare all existing conditions (medical, physical/mobility, sensory, neurological, learning disabilities, etc.) in your application. You may be asked to provide medical records or specialist reports for evaluation.

## MEDICAL AND WELLBEING SERVICES

Medical, dental, and counselling services are available on campus to support your wellbeing. For after-hours care, visit a nearby clinic, or in emergencies, go to Ng Teng Fong General Hospital.

## GETTING TO CAMPUS

NTU is located in the western part of Singapore and is accessible from Changi Airport via MRT, taxi, or ride-hailing (Grab, GoJek, TADA, etc). Our pre-arrival guide will provide more information.

## PERSONAL INSURANCE

Enrolment in NTU's student insurance schemes (comprising Group Personal Accident Insurance, Group Hospitalisation & Surgical Insurance, and Medical Scheme) is included in the fees payable by exchange students. Coverage under these schemes is mandatory, regardless of any existing insurance you may already hold. You should also purchase comprehensive travel insurance for your trip to and from Singapore and any travel during the semester.

 [NTU STUDENT INSURANCE COVERAGE](#)

## BANKING FACILITIES ON CAMPUS

OCBC bank on campus offers banking services, with an early closure fee for accounts closed within six months. ATMs are available across campus for cash withdrawals.

 [OCBC PERSONAL BANKING SERVICES](#)



Taking in the sights! ☀️

## Welcome Week and GEM Buddies Programme

Kick off your exchange journey with **Welcome Week**—a vibrant line-up of activities designed to help you settle in, make friends, and feel at home on campus from day one. Join the Orientation Briefing, explore NTU and the city through guided tours, and meet fellow exchange students from around the world. This is your first step towards starting your semester with confidence, community, and plenty of memorable moments.

You will also be introduced to GEM Club, NTU's student-led exchange community. Through the GEM Buddies Programme, you will be paired with a friendly NTU student who can help you navigate campus life, answer questions, and ease your transition into university life.



GOOD TIMES WITH THE BESTIES



Friends for life!



Thanks for the memories!  
xoxo

# 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 application, ensuring that the [application instructions](#)  are followed closely.

## STEP 2: ACCEPT THE OFFER

SEM 1: MAY-JUN, SEM 2: OCT-NOV

When your application is approved, you will receive the E-Welcome Package with login details for the **GEM Trailblazer/Study Abroad Portal** to accept your offer and begin Step 3 tasks.

## STEP 3A: APPLY FOR CAMPUS HOUSING

All eligible applications received within the stipulated deadline will be considered for campus housing.

## STEP 3B: APPLY FOR STUDENT'S PASS

Student's Pass (STP) applications must be submitted between two to three months before your intended arrival date.

## STEP 3C: COURSE REGISTRATION

Course registration is an ongoing process that extends into the start of the semester. Students must stay informed about all tasks, deadlines, and requirements concerning course registration.

The **GEM Trailblazer Exchange/Study Abroad Portal** contains key pre-arrival enrolment formalities and information, including:

- Letter of Enrolment (LOE)
- On-campus housing application
- Student's Pass (STP) application
- Course registration processes and deadlines
- Other essential arrival details

## STEP 4: ATTEND PRE-ARRIVAL BRIEFING + Q&A

The briefing will go over course registration, STP application, and travel preparation details, with opportunities for additional questions during follow-up Q&A sessions.

## STEP 5: MAKE 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 6: ARRIVE AT NTU

Plan to arrive the week before the semester starts. Join the Welcome Week Activities, and start classes while finalizing courses in the add/drop period (Teaching weeks 1 and 2).

## APPENDIX

### ENGLISH PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS

Proof of English proficiency is required where English is **not** the medium 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 570 (paper) or 90 (internet) or 237 (computer)

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.

### OTHER ACCEPTABLE EVIDENCE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMPETENCY

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.

# HAVE A QUESTION?

Detailed information about course selection, campus housing and more can be found in our **Programme Brochure** [↗](#). If you have a specific query, reach out to 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](#)
- [WELLBEING AND SUPPORT](#)
- [CAMPUS HEALTH SERVICES](#)



## THE GEM TRAILBLAZER SUMMER PROGRAMME [↗](#)

The future is hot in Asia! The GEM Trailblazer Summer Programme offers many courses across five tracks. Spend your summer at NTU, Singapore, and explore the vibrant cultures of neighbouring countries!

