

SWoB 2009

Science Without Borders

Info Pack

for UNSW Students

Contents:

- Information on Short Exchange Programme offered by NUS
- *SWoB* Application Form

A short exchange programme for science students jointly offered by the Faculty of Science, UNSW & Faculty of Science, NUS.



6 February 2009

**Science Without Borders (SWoB) – Short Exchange Program June/July 2009
Faculty of Science, UNSW**

Dear Science Student,

Once again the Faculty of Science UNSW, in conjunction with the Faculty of Science at the National University of Singapore, is offering science students the opportunity to undertake a short term exchange program in Singapore from **20th June 2009 to 26th July 2009**.

This handout is to provide you with some details about the programme. Please read it carefully before filling out the Application Form on pages 7 & 8.

To assist you in making a preliminary decision please read the following:

Information Sessions

Two informal information sessions will be held to allow students to obtain firsthand information about the programme and to answer any questions that you may have. You may choose to attend one of the sessions before you submit your application.

If you are keen to attend, contact Chong Eng Tay (Email: ce.tay@unsw.edu.au or edsquad@unsw.edu.au / Tel: 0293858551) to register your interest before **Fri 27 Feb 09**. The info sessions may be cancelled if we do not get sufficient number of respondents.

Info Session	Date	Time	Venue	Remarks
1	Tue 10 th Mar 09	5pm – 6pm	Old Main Building G31	Please send email to register interest.
2	Wed 11 th Mar 09	5pm – 6pm	Old Main Building G31	

Eligibility

- Undergraduate students enrolled in any program offered by the Faculty of Science.
- Completed at least 48 units of credit (uoc) at the end of S1 2009.
- A total WAM of 65 or greater, i.e. a credit average. If your WAM is between 60 and 64 and you believe there are reasons why you have not been able to perform to the best of your ability, you are invited to apply outlining your reasons.
- Students currently enrolled in their Honours year are not eligible.
- International students are eligible except Singaporean nationals. The UNSW international exchange rules do not allow students to take exchange in their home country.
- Students who are able to communicate fluently in **both** Bahasa Indonesia and Chinese Language are **not** eligible. However, if you can communicate fluently in only **one** of the languages stated above, you are eligible to apply.

Requirements

- You need to have 6 uoc available as an elective. Successful applicants will be enrolled in SCIF3001 for session 2 2009. A combined mark from the courses you study in Singapore will be used as the mark for this course and it will count in your WAM and uoc load.
- You will be required to pay the appropriate tuition fees for a 6 uoc course in UNSW like any other course you have taken, and the additional costs outlined on page 5. Your return economy airfare to Singapore will be paid by UNSW.
- A **passport** with at least **6 months validity**. If you plan on coming and you don't have a passport, please **apply for one immediately**. Most passport holders do not need a visa for Singapore for the length of your stay (approx 5-6 weeks). However nationals from some SE Asian countries do, e.g. the People's Republic of China. If you are an international student you will need to check this with the Singaporean authorities or visit the following websites to find out more:

NUS Faculty of Science

http://www.science.nus.edu.sg/undergraduates/curriculum/abroad/summer/incoming_admin.html.

Singapore Immigration and Checkpoints Authority

<http://app.ica.gov.sg/travellers/>

- You may be required to sit for the UNSW examinations while at NUS depending on your exam timetable. Arrangements will be made by the faculty if this situation arises.
- You will need to attend a briefing session before departure to Singapore.

Modules offered by NUS

Students will enrol in 2 modules (worth 8 Modular Credits) of which please note the following:

- **LSM4263 Field Studies in Biodiversity** is the anchor module for the exchange programme and incorporates a one week long field trip to Tioman Islands, Malaysia.
- Students are only allowed to choose **either one of the language modules - LAB1201 Bahasa Indonesia 1 or LAC1201 Chinese 1**. You will be required to indicate your choice in the application form. Please note that the language module chosen should **not** be one which the student has studied or been previously exposed to it before.

LSM4263 Field Studies in Biodiversity

Modular Credits: 4

Field studies have been regarded as a key component in the training of biologists, and in addition, it strengthens the ability to work with people of different backgrounds and interests. Over the last 30 years, the departments of botany and zoology, now biological sciences, had been annually conducting week long field courses for Honours year students to emphasize the field component of biology. This gives even experimental and molecular biologists an opportunity to experience a key component of modern biology education. It is well established that the best way to study biodiversity in a diversity rich region like SE Asia is to have field courses. This experiential-mode of study is significant.

The field course emphasizes teaching of multiple species-rich habitats with operational learning through assigning teams of students specific research goals. There will be 6 lectures (2 hours each) on the mission and various aspects of field work. There will also be up to 4 hands-on practical and/or tutorials (3 hours each) that will get the students ready (via local field trips, tutorials, discussions etc.). Students will then gather information on the specific research goals, preparing for logistics, legal and safety issues etc. They will work as small teams of 8 to 10, advised by a lecturer and tutor. The total hours expended by each student is calculated at an average of 8 hours a week (including 2 hours of formal contact each time) for discussions and planning over the next 3 weeks. The tutors, technologist and lecturers will follow the students through the entire module, including the fieldtrip. The actual fieldtrip will be one week long (7 operational days) on Pulau Tioman in Malaysia. The field site is overseas as there are no local biomes of sufficient breadth or scale. There will be a group debriefing each evening. The duration of each working day for the students and staff will be 12 hours, including field work,

analysis, discussions, preparations etc. After returning from the trip students will be asked to give presentations of the study they were assigned and defend their findings and conclusions in the class.

Please visit the website of Paya Beach Resort, Tioman (www.payabeach.com) to have a preview of where you will be travelling to. Please also visit the [Field Trip 2007 photos gallery](http://staff.science.nus.edu.sg/~james/tioman/) (URL: <http://staff.science.nus.edu.sg/~james/tioman/>)!

LAB1201 Bahasa Indonesia I

Modular Credits: 4

Indonesia is the largest country in Southeast Asia, both in area and population. It consists of some 13,670 islands that cover 742,308 square miles (1,922,570 square kilometers) of land along the Equator between the Indian and Pacific oceans and has a population of over 220 million. There are about 583 languages and dialects spoken in the archipelago. They normally belong to the different ethnic groups of the population. Some of the distinctly different local languages are: Acehnese, Batak, Sundanese, Javanese, Sasak, Tetum of Timor, Dayak, Minahasa, Toraja, Buginese, Halmahera, Ambonese, Ceramese, and several Irianese languages. To make the picture even more colorful, these languages are also spoken in different dialects. Bahasa Indonesia is the national language which is akin to Malay, written in Roman script and based on European orthography. In all tourist destination areas English is the number one foreign language and is fairly well spoken and written, whereas some Dutch is still spoken and understood in the bigger cities.

This module aims to develop language proficiency in an integrated approach. Students will acquire language skills through participation in various communicative tasks. Through the exposure to the language, students will develop a general understanding of the cultures, the sociolinguistic and pragmatic aspects of the language. By the end of the module, students will acquire basic skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing to maintain communication on common topics.

LAC1201 Chinese I

Modular Credits: 4

China is the only country in the world with a literature written in one language for more than 3,000 consecutive years. This continuity results largely from the nature of the written language itself. It is the use of characters, not letters as in Western languages, that is most important in the Chinese language. The characters stand for things or ideas and so, unlike groups of letters, they cannot and need never be sounded. Thus Chinese could be read by people in all parts of the country in spite of gradual changes in pronunciation, the emergence of regional and local dialects, and modification of the characters. There are two elements to the Chinese language: the written language, based on individual symbols called characters, each of which represents an idea or thing; and the spoken language, which includes a number of different dialects. The written language originally had no alphabet, but it was easily understood by literate people no matter what dialect they spoke.

Some of the numerous dialects of spoken Chinese are totally different from each other. All of them use tones to distinguish different words. Mandarin, which is spoken in the Beijing region and in northern China generally, has four common tones. Cantonese, spoken in southeastern China, has nine tones and is quite different from Mandarin. Today Putonghua, which is based on Beijing-area Mandarin, is the official language of government and education, and everyone is expected to learn to speak it. The central government is also expanding the use of the Pinyin romanization system and is urging citizens to learn this alphabetized system of writing Chinese words.

This module is designed to provide an insight to Mandarin as a language and a window to Chinese culture in general. This is a beginners' course consisting of two components, i.e., language conversation and Chinese characters learning. Vocabulary items, sentence patterns and short texts will be taught. Students are expected to be able to communicate in Mandarin in simple daily situations after taking this module. This module consists of two parts, i.e., Lecture and Tutorial. Classes are conducted in various ways including Vocabulary introduction, short texts reading and reciting, story-telling, tongue twisters practices, songs learning and film appreciation if time allows.

For more details of the modules available for the exchange programme, please visit the website: http://www.science.nus.edu.sg/undergraduates/curriculum/abroad/summer/incoming_academic.html

Travel Details

- Dates
Tentative departure and return dates: **Sat 20 Jun 09 – Sun 26 Jul 09.**
- Airfare
Return economy airfare to Singapore will be paid by Faculty of Science, UNSW.
- Airport Transfers
Transport to and from Sydney airport will not be provided. However, return coach transfers to the airport in Singapore will be provided by NUS.
- Accommodation
NUS will put students up at the Prince George's Park Residences while at NUS Campus. The room rates are as follows:

Room Type (All Single Rooms)	Daily Charges*
Type A [#] (with en-suite toilet, a shower, and air-condition)	S\$20/room/pax
Type B (with wash basin)	S\$12/room/pax
Type C	S\$10/room/pax

*The rates are subject to GST (7% as at 2008).

[#] Type A rooms may not be available due to high demand.

Please note that although students will be indicating their preferences in the application forms, the assignment of room types, subject to availability, will be made by NUS and will be final.

For more information on the accommodation, visit:

http://www.science.nus.edu.sg/undergraduates/curriculum/abroad/summer/incoming_accommodation.html

- Tioman Islands Field Trip
Costs for the one week trip, including transport, food and accommodation at Tioman Islands, will be covered by NUS.

Examinations

Note that you will be taking the UNSW exams whilst you are in Singapore. These will be held on the same day as they are held at UNSW. This means that for short periods you may miss out on some of the class time for the courses you are taking in Singapore. Although this is a demanding challenge in the exchange program, previous years' students have coped very well. The examination conditions at NUS are comfortable (and air-conditioned).

Estimated Costs

Although you will not be charged for tuition costs at NUS including the field trip to Tioman Islands, you will be required to pay the appropriate tuition fees for a 6 uoc course like any other course you have taken in UNSW. In addition, you will incur some costs for the following:

S/N	Item	Estimated Cost (SGD*)	Remarks
1.	Accommodation	S\$420 (with GST)	Based on S\$10/room/pax (Type C daily room charge) for 42 days.
2.	Medical Insurance	S\$32.95 (with GST)	NUS Medical Group Insurance. Compulsory for all students. <i>(This is required by NUS, even though you are covered by a UNSW policy whilst on official study away from UNSW.)</i>

S/N	Item	Estimated Cost (SGD*)	Remarks
3.	NUS Student Pass	S\$50–S\$80 (without GST)	Depending on student's nationality. (S\$50 is the purchase price of the cash card which will be needed to pay for the minimum S\$40 student card at the Singapore's immigration authority.)
4.	NUS Registration Fee	S\$15.75 (with GST)	
5.	NUS Student Activity and Services Fee	S\$14.18 (with GST)	Sports + Internal Shuttle Bus
6.	NUS Academic Related Fee	S\$9.13 (with GST)	Class Fees + Computer Account Fee
7.	NUS Language Module	S\$33 (with GST)	Textbooks and instructional materials
8.	Living Expenses	S\$600 (with GST)	Based on approx. \$15(with GST)/day for 40 days.
9.	Total	S\$1175 (with GST)	Estimated based on S\$43(with GST) student pass.

*SGD – Singapore Dollars. \$1 Australian Dollar buys approximately \$0.98 Singapore Dollars (obtained from Yahoo! Finance on 6 Feb 09). Goods and Services Tax (GST) of 7% applies.

Application Procedure

1. Complete the application form (pages 13–14).
2. Attach all required documents and photographs.
3. Submit the application form to the Faculty of Science–EdSquad at Room 113/116, F20 John Goodsell Building by **Monday, 23rd March 09**.

For more information on the exchange programme at NUS, visit

<http://www.science.nus.edu.sg/undergraduates/curriculum/abroad/summer/incoming.html>

If you have any queries, please contact Chong Eng Tay at Email: edsquad@unsw.edu.au / Tel: 93858551.

We look forward to your application.

Faculty of Science
Science Education Research and Development Unit

Science Without Borders (SWoB) – Short Exchange Programme June/July 2009
Faculty of Science, UNSW

Application Form

Personal Details

Name (as shown on your passport): _____

Nationality (as shown on your passport): _____

Passport No. : _____

Gender: _____

Phone numbers: _____ (Session) _____ (Mobile)

Your next of kin:

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Phone number(s): _____

Do you need any special assistance, e.g. diet, physical disabilities, medical condition, etc? This is for both the flight and whilst in Singapore. Please specify:

Degree Details

UNSW Student ID: _____

Programme code: _____ Study Plan or Major: _____

Language Module

Students are only allowed to choose* one of the two language modules offered by NUS: **LAB1201 Bahasa Indonesia 1** or **LAC1201 Chinese 1**.

The language module chosen should **not be one which the student has studied or been previously exposed to it before. You will not be eligible if you have studied or been previously exposed to both of the languages.*

Please to indicate your preference:

LAB1201 Bahasa Indonesia I

LAC1201 Chinese I

Accommodation

Please write 1, 2 or 3 in each of the boxes to rank your choice* of accommodation:

- Type A (with en-suite toilet, a shower, and air-condition) at S\$20/room/pax/day
- Type B (with wash basin) at S\$12/room/pax/day
- Type C at S\$10/room/pax/day

* Please note that assignment to room types, subject to room availability, will be made by NUS and will be final. Type A rooms (with air conditioning and en-suite bathroom) may **not** be available due to high demand.

Attachments

Please ensure that you have attached the documents listed below with this form. Applications will not be considered without these attachments.

1. A copy of your academic transcript
2. Two colour passport photographs (using pencil / ball-point pen, please **write lightly** your name on the back of your photograph)
3. Two good photocopies of the identification page from your passport (i.e. the one with your photograph, particulars and passport expiry date).

I understand the requirements of the SWoB programme (see pages 2-3) and that the standard UNSW international student exchange policy applies.

Signature

Date

Please return completed form with attachments to Faculty of Science – SciERDU at Room 113/116, F20 John Goodsell Building by **Monday, 23rd March 09**.

SciERDU Use Only

Completed form and attachments received and checked by*:

Name & Signature

Date

**Incomplete forms, including those with missing attachments, will be returned to the student. Only completed forms with all required attachments will be accepted.*