



2025 - 2026

GEM TRAILBLAZER SEMESTER EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

INFORMATION SHEET

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

Explore a diverse range of learning experiences, including world-class pedagogy and thrilling student activities, all set on our expansive garden campus! Immerse yourself in the academic excellence of one of the world's leading universities, coupled with the excitement of a distinctly Asian adventure. International students from partner universities are invited to join our GEM Trailblazer Exchange program for a rewarding study exchange opportunity.



The GEM Trailblazer Exchange program 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.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

SEMESTER 2 (SPRING)
JANUARY - MAY 2026

NOMINATION WINDOW
1 - 15 September 2025

APPLICATION DEADLINE
30 September 2025

What makes NTU a great choice?



RANKED 12TH
IN THE WORLD*



VIBRANT AND
DIVERSE, YET
UNIQUELY ASIAN



WIDE RANGE OF
STUDENT AND
RECREATIONAL
ACTIVITIES



A SAFE AND
FRIENDLY
DESTINATION



ONE OF THE MOST
BEAUTIFUL
CAMPUSES IN THE
WORLD



ACCESS TO STATE-
OF-THE-ART
FACILITIES



GATEWAY TO
SOUTHEAST ASIA
AND BEYOND

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

PROGRAMME DATES

SEMESTER 2 (SPRING)

12 January - 8 May 2026

WELCOME WEEK

6 - 9 January**

RECESS WEEK

2 - 6 March

REVISION + EXAM PERIOD

20 April - 8 May

* Includes exam dates.

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



ACADEMIC CALENDARS

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.)

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

Two copies of the official NTU transcript will be mailed to your home university's exchange office within two months of completing the exchange programme. One copy is for your personal records, while the other will be retained by your home university. There is no need for you to request these transcripts. **NTU does not issue electronic transcripts to exchange students.**

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.



WHEN SHOULD YOU ARRIVE AT AND DEPART FROM NTU?

All inbound students are expected to attend classes from the first day of the semester. The best time to arrive is early in the week preceding the start of classes. This provides an opportunity to acclimate to your new environment and participate in the Welcome Week Activities for Inbound Students. The inbound team will provide more precise information regarding the recommended arrival date in due course. Arriving after the semester has begun is **strongly discouraged**.

Requests to modify registered courses after the add/drop period ends (Teaching Weeks 1 and 2) **will not be accommodated** under any circumstances. Additionally, remote learning options are not available. If you cannot arrive by the recommended time, please contact OGEM with valid reasons to seek further advice.

Arrange return flights **after** the semester ends, as exams may occur on the final day. Rescheduling exams is not possible, and requests for it will not be entertained. Students who miss exams without valid proof shall be considered to have failed the course, resulting in an "F" grade on their transcript.

APPLYING TO THE PROGRAMME

APPLICATION DEADLINES

SEMESTER 2 (SPRING)

Apply by: 30 September 2025

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 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 or equivalent
- I am proficient in the English language



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.

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.

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 *not* is the medium of instruction in the home institution. Refer to page 9 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

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.

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

The courses listed in your application will undergo evaluation by the offering School(s) based on the academic documents you submit. Courses considered suitable will be approved for you to read. Note: **Approval does not guarantee course enrolment**, as it is subject to availability of vacancies and the class/exam schedule. Course enrolment is a separate process which takes place at a later stage.



GOOD TO KNOW

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. Depending on your needs, alternative options may be found among the offerings of our other **five Engineering Schools** instead.

It is important to note that securing placement for highly popular courses can be challenging across the board. Flexibility in your course selection can help prevent disappointment.

To ensure a sufficient number of approved courses before arriving at NTU, you should list at least 10 courses in your application. Ensure these courses are approved by your home university and are integral to your academic progression. Stay abreast of information regarding course registration procedures and deadlines in the weeks leading up to the semester start.

If you have not secured enough approved or registered courses before arriving at NTU, you can still adjust your course plan during the two-week add/drop period in Teaching Weeks 1 and 2 after your arrival.

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. Upon approval of the Student's Pass (STP) application, an In-Principle Approval (IPA) letter will be issued, which includes a single-journey visa for entry into Singapore.

STUDENT'S PASS (STP)

You must hold a valid Student's Pass (STP) issued by the Singapore Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) for the duration of your programme. Guidance on the STP application process will be provided after you accept the Offer. We advise arranging your travel plans only **after** the STP application is approved.

Fees (subject to changes):

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

Note:

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

STUDENT'S PASS

RELEVANT FEE

As a nominated exchange student, you are not required to pay tuition fees to NTU, but a fee* of approximately S\$390 (Undergraduate) or S\$440 (Postgraduate) shall apply. This fee combines the prevailing miscellaneous and administrative fees

and contributes to the costs associated with providing student insurance, programmes and amenities, IT services, academic-related resources, administrative and onboarding support, as well as social activities for inbound students during their period of immersion at NTU. Miscellaneous fees for the second semester will also apply for students nominated for full year exchange.

Students are billed for the fees prior to the semester commencing and must settle payment 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 offered to exchange students subject to availability, with vacancies allocated by computer ballot. Students are billed per semester and hall fee refunds **will not be granted** for early withdrawal unless approved by the Office of Campus Housing under extenuating circumstances.

Eligibility

All exchange students on coursework may apply for campus housing. Research exchange students are not eligible for campus housing in view of their varied project dates.

Application and Allocation outcome

After accepting your offer, apply for campus housing via the GEM Trailblazer Exchange/Study Abroad Portal only. **Do not apply directly to the Office of Campus Housing.** Unsuccessful or late applicants must secure 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). Our pre-arrival guide will provide more information.

PERSONAL INSURANCE

Enrolment in NTU's compulsory student insurance schemes, including Group Personal Accident Insurance (GPAI), Group Hospitalisation & Surgical Insurance (GHSI), and Medical Scheme, is included in the fees payable by exchange students, regardless of existing coverage. 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](#)



WELCOME WEEK

Welcome Week kicks off in Week 0 each semester and is the perfect opportunity to meet fellow international students, make friends, and explore all that NTU offers.

Join the Orientation Briefing, enjoy the campus and city tours, and participate in engaging activities designed to help you settle in and start your NTU journey on the right foot!

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.

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!

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, requirements, and 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)

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.

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.