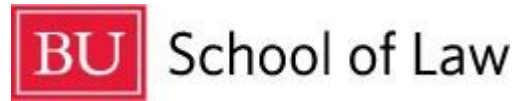


National University of Singapore Republic of Singapore



Study Abroad Program Information Package Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 Semesters

Important Dates

- **February 13, 2009**
BU Law application deadline
- **Mid-March, 2009**
Selections made
- **April 15, 2009**
NUS application deadline for the fall 2009 semester
- **August 3 – August 8, 2009**
NUS Fall Orientation
- **August 10 – December 5, 2009**
NUS Fall Semester (including examination period)
- **October 1, 2009**
NUS application deadline for the spring 2010 semester
- **January 11 – May 8, 2010**
NUS Spring Semester dates (including examination period)

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International Programs
Boston University School of Law
765 Commonwealth Avenue,
Boston, MA 02215

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www.bu.edu/law/jd/studyabroad

We are pleased you are interested in Boston University School of Law's overseas exchange program with the National University of Singapore (NUS). This package gives a general description of the program as well as details about some of its more important aspects. Carefully review this information before deciding whether to apply.

I. Some Preliminary – and Important – Points

At the outset, we would like to stress several aspects of the program which may be relevant to your decision to apply.

- A. **Timing:** This is a one-semester program that will be offered in fall 2009 and Spring 2010.
- B. **Credits:** The program is designed to grant participating students twelve semester credits toward their J.D. degree.
- C. **Academic Focus:** The program focuses on international and comparative law topics related to Asia and the Pacific Rim.
- D. **Eligible Students:** The program is open to second- and third-year students only who have spent at least one full-year at BU Law. First-year students cannot participate.
- E. **Language:** All courses at the National University of Singapore are taught in English.
- F. **Number of Participants:** Four students at most can participate. We may select fewer than four, but under no circumstances can we select more.

II. Why Study Law at the National University of Singapore?

A. The National University of Singapore's Global Focus

Located in Singapore, which for almost 200 years has been a major international commercial centre and a cosmopolitan city, the NUS law school is very much *Asia's Global Law School*. Ever since its establishment in 1957, the teaching of law at NUS has been conducted against the backdrop of legal developments in other parts of the world. Today, virtually all faculty at the NUS law school incorporate global perspectives from civil law or other common law jurisdictions in their teaching. In addition, each year the law school plays host to around a dozen visiting faculty who add to the cosmopolitanism of the law school by bringing their own unique perspectives to legal education. All this reflects the strong belief of the law school that with the increasing demands placed on legal practice by globalisation, it is essential for legal professionals to approach the study of law from a broader, multi-jurisdictional perspective.

Reflecting the cosmopolitan, outward-looking nature of the law school, NUS undergraduate and graduate students come from many countries, representing all the continents. In the 2006/07 academic year, students come from over 25 countries, including Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, China, Colombia, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Switzerland, the United States and Vietnam. In addition, the law school plays host

each year to students from more than 40 student exchange partners all over the world. The diversity of students at NUS adds to a vibrant and stimulating intellectual environment.¹

The National University of Singapore Law School's Web site is <http://law.nus.edu.sg/>.

B. Singapore – Island, City and State

Singapore is made up of not just one island but a main island with 63 surrounding islets. The main island has a total land area of 682 square km. However, its compact size belies its economic growth. In just 150 years, Singapore has grown into a thriving centre of commerce and industry. Singapore is the busiest port in the world with over 600 shipping lines sending super tankers, container ships and passenger liners to share the busy waters with coastal fishing vessels and wooden lighters.

One of the world's major oil refining and distribution centres, Singapore is a major supplier of electronic components and a leader in shipbuilding and repairing. It has also become one of the most important financial centres of Asia, with more than 130 banks. Singapore is an incredibly clean city where nothing is allowed to dull the shine – even down to the banning of chewing gum. Its strategic location, excellent facilities, fascinating cultural contrasts and tourist attractions contribute to its success as a leading destination.²

III. The NUS Exchange Program

A. What the Program is – and isn't

The exchange program with the National University of Singapore is designed to offer a serious study of international and comparative law, in a unique international setting. This is definitely not the same thing as a college semester abroad. If you are looking for a semester abroad with a light course load and plenty of time to sightsee, this is not the program for you. This is not to say that you will have no time to sightsee and familiarize yourself with the culture of Singapore. You will. But we do want to emphasize that this program is much more academically rigorous than many overseas programs at the undergraduate level.

B. Number of Students

As noted above, we will be selecting up to four BU Law students to attend the National University of Singapore in the fall 2009 and spring 2010 semesters.

C. Program Dates

Please note, these dates are subject to change.

Fall Orientation:	August 3 – August 8, 2009
Fall Semester:	August 10 – December 5, 2009
Spring Semester:	January 11 – May 8, 2010

You will be expected to arrive in Singapore in time to attend the orientation program for the fall semester and week of January 4th for spring semester.

¹ Most of this information was copied from the NUS Web site: <http://law.nus.edu.sg/faculty/faculty.htm>

² Most of this information was copied from the Singapore Tourist Board Web site: <http://www.visitsingapore.com> and <http://app.stb.com.sg/asp/index.asp>

D. Course Offerings and Selections

BU Law students will be able to select from the course offerings in either the LL.B. or the LL.M. curriculum. Students may also request permission from the conveyer of the course to enroll in the survey, "The Singapore Legal System." Among the many courses that are offered, a few that might be of interest for BU Law students include:

- Chinese Contract Law
- Chinese Public Law
- Globalization and International Law
- World Trade Law
- Maritime Law
- Law, Governance and Development in Asia
- Environmental Law in Singapore and Southeast Asia
- Human Rights in Asia
- Introduction to Indian Business Law
- Commercial Law in Vietnam
- Introduction to Indonesian Law
- International Labour Law
- Comparative Environmental Law
- Chinese Intellectual Property Law

BU Law students will be expected to take a minimum of four courses for 16 NUS credits, at the National University of Singapore in order to earn 12 credits towards their BU Law degree.

Courses generally meet in either one or two three-hour sessions during the week. A complete list of courses, timetables and descriptions for the 2008-2009 academic year can be found at http://law.nus.edu.sg/current/LLB/curriculum_courses.htm We expect that the course offerings for 2009-2010 will be very similar to those offered in 2008-2009.

E. Exams and Grades

Exams at NUS take place at the end of the course and are written exams, typically three hours in length. Students may also write papers during the semester for each course, which are calculated into their final grades.

NUS uses a letter grading system: A, B, C, D and F. Grades are typically based on a combination of final exam, research papers, assignments, class participation and other factors, depending on the course requirements.

G. International Student Support at NUS.

The Office of Student Affairs offers support to incoming international students at NUS. To access an extensive welcome brochure for non-graduating international students, visit <http://www.nus.edu.sg/osa/international/svcs/guides.html>

IV. How to Apply

If you decide to apply, you must do two things:

1. Complete an application available online at www.bu.edu/law/jd/studyabroad, and submit all additional materials.
2. Complete an interview with Associate Dean Marx and Assistant Dean John Riccardi, scheduled through the Office of Graduate and International Programs.

In screening applicants, we will look for such things as a strong academic record, a favorable faculty recommendation, serious interest in international and comparative law, and experience with different cultures and overseas travel.

The application deadline is February 13, 2009.

* For first-year students applying to participate in their second year, we will be unable to make a final decision until after we have received your second semester grades in mid-summer.

V. National University of Singapore Exchange Student Application

Participating students must complete the NUS application online no later than April 15, 2009. The NUS application can be found at <http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/edu/ng.html>.

A completed NUS application includes:

1. A completed online NUS application
2. A letter or email from BU Law stating that you have been selected to apply for the NUS exchange program
3. Your BU Law transcript
4. Two passport photos

All materials must be mailed to:

Ms. Tan Swee Hiang
Administrative Manager
International Programmes
Faculty of Law
National University of Singapore
469G Bukit Timah Road
Eu Tong Sen Building
Singapore 259776

VI. Student Evaluation and Grades

Your exams will be graded in the first instance by the NUS faculty in accordance with the NUS grading system. NUS grades its students in the International Program on a scale of A-F, similar to that in the U.S. However, because grading standards between BU Law and NUS may differ, a direct translation to BU Law's letter grading system is extremely difficult. Therefore, participating BU Law students will, upon successfully completing a course, receive a designation of "credit" for the course on their transcripts. This designation will include an asterisk or footnote indicating that the actual grade is available upon request, and that it will be accompanied by an explanation of the host institution's different grading system.

ACCEPTANCE OF ANY CREDIT OR GRADE FOR ANY COURSE TAKEN IN THE PROGRAM IS SUBJECT TO DETERMINATION BY BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW. We expect, however, that all credits earned at NUS will count towards Boston University School of Law credits.

One final point about grading. None of the grades for the NUS semester will count toward your BU Law GPA or towards School of Law honors and awards (such as the scholarly awards, graduation prizes or degree rankings, such as cum laude, magna cum laude and summa cum laude).

VII. National University of Singapore Program Director and Staff

The Program Director is Amirthalingam Kumaralingam. Professor Amirthalingam joined the National University of Singapore in 2000. He holds a doctorate in law from the Australian National University, where he began teaching in 1994. Kumar's teaching commitments are mainly in criminal law and torts. His research has a strong comparative element and he has a special interest in the tort of negligence, especially medical negligence and economic loss. Kumar is actively involved in international education; he was the International Student Adviser at the ANU Law Faculty and is presently the Director, International Programmes at the NUS Law Faculty.³

Professor Kumaralingam's Contact Information is:

Professor Amirthalingam Kumaralingam
Director, International Programmes
Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore
Eu Tong Sen Building
469G Bukit Timah Road
Singapore 259776

Professor Kumaralingam is supported by the Senior Administrative Manager, Ms. Tan Swee Hiang. She is the main contact for visiting exchange students and handles all of the applications, orientation, and student affairs-related issues. Her contact information is:

Ms. Tan Swee Hiang
Senior Administrative Manager, International Programmes
Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore
Eu Tong Sen Building
469G Bukit Timah Road
Singapore 259776

VIII. Academic and Library Facilities

The C J Koh Law Library is one of the constituent libraries within the NUS Library system. The original NUS Law Library was established in September 1957, catering primarily to the Faculty of Law which was then at Bukit Timah Campus. In April 1980, the Library moved to Kent Ridge, occupying two floors of the new Faculty of Law building. It was renamed the C J Koh Law Library on 1 January 2001, in appreciation of Mr Koh Choon Joo's generous donations to refurbish the Library's facilities and expand its book collection. On 27 February 2002, the Honourable Chief Justice Yong Pung How presided over the official opening under its new name. Following the

³ This information was copied from the NUS web site
<http://law.nus.edu.sg/faculty/staff/profileview.asp?UserID=lawka>

Government's announcement to reallocate Bukit Timah Campus to NUS on 28 May 2005, the Library and Faculty of Law made their historic return to their first home in August 2006.

The C J Koh Law Library collection development policy emphasises the acquisition of the complete primary resources of Singapore and Malaysia. The legal resources of the United Kingdom, United States of America, India, Canada, Australia and New Zealand are also extensively acquired. Over the years, the library has developed collections on public international law, international business transactions as well as the laws of the European Community, the ASEAN nations and the People's Republic of China. As at 1 July 2006, the unique title collection of the library numbered 51,245 books, 3,874 periodicals and 59 e-resources. The Law Library's major online databases include Lexis.Com and HeinOnline.⁴

IX. Provisions for Students with Disabilities

The National University of Singapore Law School facilities are accessible to individuals with disabilities. If you are interested in the program and will need some special assistance due to a disability, please speak with Associate Dean Christine Marx or the Assistant Dean for Graduate and International Programs, John Riccardi. They will then contact NUS to obtain information about the availability of needed services.

X. Student Housing and Living Arrangements

Exchange students are welcome to apply for on-campus housing at NUS. Due to the number of requests they receive, however, BU Law students are not guaranteed to be granted a place in on-campus housing.

BU Law students can apply for on-campus accommodation in either one of the six Halls of Residence or Prince George's Park Residences by submitting an application form to Residential Services, at the Office of Student Affairs, preferably two months before their arrival. The application form can be downloaded from [Student Residential Services' website](#) and should be submitted together with your NUS application. Rooms are granted based on availability.

Living in one of the six Halls of Residence will be similar to living in an undergraduate dorm. Students will be required to participate in social activities including sporting events and community service. Students living in the Halls of Residence are also required to have a meal plan.

Living in the Prince George's Park Residences will afford students more of an independent lifestyle. Single and double rooms are in a cluster and there are shared kitchens and bathrooms. Taking part in social activities within the Residence is not compulsory and meal plans are not available for those students.⁵

On-campus student housing will cost approximately \$200/week. Please also be advised that the majority of the rooms are not equipped with air conditioning. Both the Halls of Residence and the Prince George's Park Residences are located in walking distance to the campus facilities. For more information on on-campus accommodation options, visit http://www.nus.edu.sg/osa/housing/acc/ngd_options.html.

⁴ This information was copied from the NUS web site: <http://www.lib.nus.edu.sg/llb/about.html>

⁵ Much of this information was copied from the NUS web site: http://www.nus.edu.sg/osa/housing/acc/ngd_options.html.

XI. Anticipated Tuition, Fees and Living Costs

Because this is a revenue-neutral exchange program, participating BU Law students will pay Boston University the normal tuition for a semester at BU Law. Eating out, entertainment and transportation are less expensive than in Boston. NUS informs us that students can expect to pay the following:

- On Campus Housing: \$3,400-\$4,500/semester
- Books and Supplies: \$80-\$100/month
- Meals:
 - University canteens: \$200-\$300/month
 - Meals outside campus: \$440-\$525/month
- Public Transportation: \$100-\$120/month
- Personal Expenses: \$150-\$200/month

Students should therefore budget at least \$1,000 per month for on-campus dorms and living expenses, taking into account the fact that they are abroad and will therefore potentially spend more money than during a typical semester at BU Law.

XII. Program Cancellation Information

We expect the program to go forward as planned and anticipate no obstacles to implementation. However, the ABA requires that we inform you about our contemplated course of action in case of cancellation or change and in case a State Department Advisory is issued for the program area.

A. General Policy

In the highly unlikely event that the entire program has to be canceled, students selected for the program will be informed immediately by telephone and by mail, email, or in person, and notices of cancellation will be posted on the BU Law website. In addition, individual meetings will be arranged with any student who wishes one. If in the even more unlikely event that the Program is canceled after students have arrived in Singapore, Associate Dean Christine Marx and/or Assistant Dean John Riccardi will contact all participating students by telephone, if possible, or by email.

Should particular courses be canceled or rescheduled, students selected for the program will be informed by email, telephone, or in person, and notices will be placed on the BU Law website to the extent that we are made aware of these changes.

B. State Department Advisories

BU Law will supply participating students with State Department Consular Information Sheets for Singapore, which will include any information on "Areas of Instability." We do not anticipate that any State Department Advisory will issue for the Singapore area; nor is there any particular reason to believe that such an eventuality will materialize. However, in case an Advisory does issue, we will take the following steps:

In General – If an Advisory is issued before students are selected for the program, notice will be posted on the BU Law website and all applicants interviewed for the program will be personally informed. If such an advisory is issued after students are selected or during the program term, all participating students will be notified immediately.

Area of Instability – If the State Department declares the site to be an Area of Instability, students will be allowed to withdraw from the program. If such an event takes place while the program term is underway, the student will be permitted to choose either a refund of fees billed by Boston University, in accordance with the University's refund schedule (this would exclude room, board, and any travel costs associated with getting to the host country prior to the date the site was declared an "Area of Instability"), or completion of the semester's study at Boston University School of Law if such is feasible. **WE CANNOT GUARANTEE THE OPTION OF COMPLETING THE SEMESTER AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW (AND THUS NOT LOSING A SEMESTER'S PROGRESS TOWARD THE J.D. DEGREE)**. This option is dependent on resources and the availability of course and independent study opportunities at BU Law. In the event that arrangements at the School of Law are not feasible, or the student elects a refund, the student will be refunded fees as above, in accordance with the University's refund schedule.

Travel Warning – If the State Department issues a Travel Warning for Singapore, the program will be canceled if the term has not yet begun, or terminated immediately if the term is already underway. If the program is canceled prior to commencement of the term, all students will be refunded in full all fees paid to Boston University (excluding any advance room, board, and travel costs associated with getting to the host country that have been paid). In addition, all students will be integrated into the regular semester at Boston University School of Law. If the program is terminated while underway, a participating student may choose either a refund of fees (except for room, board, and any travel costs associated with getting to the host country prior to the date the Travel Warning was issued), or completion of the semester's study at BU Law if such is feasible. See discussion of declaration of Area of Instability, above.

XIII. Visa Information

U.S. citizens do not require a visa to study in Singapore, but must obtain a Student's Pass before arrival in Singapore. The International Students Office will apply for a Student's Pass on student's behalf, once a student's application has been approved. Once the Student's Pass application has been approved, the student will receive an In-Principle Approval [IPA] letter, which will be given to you during the registration exercise at NUS

XIV. Program Reports

Please note that all BU Law students selected to participate in a study abroad program will be required to submit to the Office of Graduate and International Programs:

1. A one-page mid-semester written report, assessing their experiences in light of their academic goals
2. A two-page report at the end of their program, evaluating their experiences

Students will not receive academic credit until they submit these reports.