

# National University of Singapore, Republic of Singapore



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## Study Abroad Program Information Package Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 Semesters

### Important Dates (Tentative)

- February 22, 2016  
*BU Law application deadline*
- Mid-March, 2016  
*Selections made*
- April 16, 2016  
*NUS application deadline for fall 2016 semester*
- Late July 2016 (\*exact date TBD)  
*NUS fall registration*
- August 3 – August 7, 2016  
*NUS fall orientation*
- August 10 – December 4, 2016  
*NUS fall semester*
- November 23 – December 4, 2016  
*NUS fall semester exam period*
- October 1, 2016  
*NUS application deadline for the spring 2015 semester*
- Early January 2017 (\*exact date TBD)  
*NUS spring registration*
- Second week of January 2017  
*NUS spring orientation*
- January 11 – May 6, 2017  
*NUS spring semester dates*
- April 25 – May 6, 2017  
*NUS spring semester exam period*

To receive 12 BU Law academic credits, participating students must take a minimum of 4 courses (the equivalent of a minimum of 16 NUS credits), all of which must be approved by BU Law's Assistant Dean for Graduate & International Programs.

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

Graduate and International  
Programs Office  
Boston University School of Law  
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[www.bu.edu/law/jd/studyabroad](http://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 during the fall 2016 and spring 2017 semesters.
- B. **Credits:** The program is designed to grant participating students 12 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 center 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 nature of the law school, NUS's graduate students from the 2009/2010 academic year hailed from 34 countries and territories: Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, China, Colombia, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, the United Kingdom, the United States and Vietnam. In addition, the law school plays host each year to students from more than 40 student exchange partner law schools from all over the world, including Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, South Africa, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the

United States. The diversity of students at NUS adds to a vibrant and stimulating intellectual environment.<sup>1</sup>

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 center 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 centers, 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 centers 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.<sup>2</sup>

### 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 2016 and spring 2017 semesters.

C. Program Dates (*Please note, these dates are tentative and subject to change.*)

Fall Registration:	Late July 2016 (*exact dates TBD)
Fall Orientation:	August 3 – August 7, 2016
Fall Semester:	August 10 – December 4, 2016
Fall Exam Period:	November 23 – December 5, 2016
Spring Registration:	Early January 2017 (*exact dates TBD)
Spring Orientation:	Second week of January 2017 (*exact dates TBD)
Spring Semester:	January 11 – May 6, 2017
Spring Exam Period:	April 25 – May 6, 2017

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<sup>1</sup> Most of this information was copied from the NUS Web site: [http://law.nus.edu.sg/about\\_us/index.html](http://law.nus.edu.sg/about_us/index.html).

<sup>2</sup> Most of this information was copied from the Singapore Tourist Board Web site: <http://www.visitsingapore.com>.

You will be expected to arrive in Singapore in time to attend the orientation programs for both the fall and spring semester. As the fall semester in Singapore starts far in advance of BU Law's fall term, students with summer internship opportunities should plan to participate during the spring semester.

While Singapore will send a certified letter confirming that 3L participants passed all of their courses prior to Commencement, final transcripts will not be available until late July. This certified letter meets the criteria for BU Law's commencement requirements and for the bar certification requirements of some, but not all, state bars exams. Any 3L student interested in participating should review the requirements the state bar exam he or she intends to sit for prior to participating in the spring semester.

#### 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:

- Human Rights in Asia
- Chinese Public Law
- International Tax Law
- Comparative Corporate Law
- International Trademark Law & Policy
- Civil Justice & Process
- Ocean Law & Policy in Asia
- Comparative Environmental Law
- International Commercial Litigation
- Conflicts & Obligations in Legal Ethics
- Biomedical Law & Ethics
- International Trusts
- Competition Law in Asia
- Chinese Intellectual Property Law

BU Law students will be expected to take a minimum of 4 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 offered during the 2015-2016 academic year can be found at

<http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/nusbuletin/modulesearch.html>. We expect that the course offerings for 2016-2017 will be very similar to those offered in 2015-2016. A list of courses open to exchange students is available at [http://law.nus.edu.sg/student\\_matters/course\\_listings.html](http://law.nus.edu.sg/student_matters/course_listings.html).

#### 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

In addition to the support team in the exchange program office of the Faculty of Law, the Office of Student Affairs at NUS offers support to incoming international students. To learn more about the services offered by this office, please visit <http://nus.edu.sg/osa/iss>.

## 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](http://www.bu.edu/law/jd/studyabroad), and submit all additional materials.
2. Complete an interview with Assistant Dean John Riccardi and Assistant Director Shannon Supitkowsky, scheduled through the Graduate and International Programs Office.

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 22, 2016.

\* 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

Once selected by BU Law to participate in the Singapore exchange program, students must complete the exchange student application for NUS. Fall semester applications are due no later than April 15, 2016 and spring semester applications must be completed by October 1, 2016.

The application process with NUS is as follows:

1. Submit online application at <https://aces01.nus.edu.sg/ngAdmForm/index.jsp>
2. Print a copy of completed online application form.
3. Prepare supporting documents
  - 1 passport-size photo\*
  - Nomination letter from home university
  - Original copy of academic transcript
  - Copy of passport page (showing the nationality and personal details)

\*To be uploaded in the online application  
<https://share.nus.edu.sg/registrar/info/ng/NGCheckList.pdf>
4. Send the application form and supporting documents to the following address:  
Registrar's Office (Non-Graduating Programme)  
National University of Singapore  
University Hall, Lee Kong Chian Wing  
UHL #04-01, 21 Lower Kent Ridge Road  
Singapore 119077
5. All supporting documents must reach the Registrar's Office by May 1 for Semester 1 and October 15 for Semester 2.

Please note that any student accepted into the Singapore exchange program will be assisted with this process by the Graduate & International Programs Office at BU Law.

## 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 Professor Joel Lee, Vice Dean of International Programmes. Joel Lee is an honors graduate of the Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. He spent 2 years in New Zealand legal practice before returning to Singapore to teach at the NUS Faculty of Law. He went on to obtain his Masters of Law at Harvard Law School. At Harvard, Joel focused his research and studies on Alternative Dispute Resolution, Negotiation and Mediation. He now runs the Negotiation and Mediation workshops at the Faculty of Law. He has taught these subjects and Postgraduate Practice Law Course run by the Board of Legal Education and has also been on the Faculty for the Masters of Public Policy Executive Programme "Effective Negotiation in an Era of Rapid Change," run in conjunction with NUS, Conflict Management Group and the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, since 1999. Vice Dean Lee's full profile is available at [http://law.nus.edu.sg/about\\_us/faculty/staff/profileview.asp?UserID=lawleej](http://law.nus.edu.sg/about_us/faculty/staff/profileview.asp?UserID=lawleej).

Joel Lee's can be reached via email at [lawleej@nus.edu](mailto:lawleej@nus.edu).

Professor Lee is supported by Ms. Grace Lam, Assistant Dean and Ms. Rahima Hussain, Management Assistant Officer. Ms. Hussain is the main contact for visiting exchange students and handles all of the orientation and student affairs-related issues. Her contact information is:

Ms Rahima Hussain  
Management Assistant Officer

Faculty of Law  
c/o International Programmes  
National University of Singapore  
469G Bukit Timah Road  
Eu Tong Sen Building  
Singapore 259776

Email: [lawsep@nus.edu.sg](mailto:lawsep@nus.edu.sg)  
Telephone: (65) 6516 6631  
Facsimile: (65) 6779 0979  
URL: [http://law.nus.edu.sg/student\\_matters/student\\_ex.html](http://law.nus.edu.sg/student_matters/student_ex.html)

In addition, the National University of Singapore has an International Relations Office, which offers assistance to all international students at NUS. The contact information for this office is:

National University of Singapore  
3rd Storey, Unit 03-03,  
Shaw Foundation Alumni House,  
11 Kent Ridge Drive,  
Singapore 119244  
Phone: (65) 6516 4356 Fax: (65) 6778 0177  
Web: <http://www.nus.edu.sg/iro>

The Student Services Advisor for incoming students at the International Relations Office is Ms. Teng Teng Lim, who can be reached via email at [iroltt@nus.edu.sg](mailto:iroltt@nus.edu.sg).

## 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 Honorable Chief Justice Yong Pung How presided over the official opening under its new name. Following the 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 emphasizes 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.<sup>3</sup>

## 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 Assistant Dean for Graduate and International Programs, John Riccardi. He will then contact NUS to obtain information about the availability of needed services.

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<sup>3</sup> This information was copied from the NUS web site: <http://www.lib.nus.edu.sg/llb/about.html>.

## 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.

The following link provides information on the student residences at NUS:

<http://www.nus.edu.sg/osa/housing/General/options.html>.

On-campus housing is handled by the Office of Student Affairs (OSA). You may wish to contact OSA directly on your housing matters:

Tel: (65) 6516 1384 (General Line)

(65) 6777 0155 - General Fax Line

Link: <http://www.nus.edu.sg/osa/>

Details of matters relating to accommodation can be obtained from the OSA website at

<http://nus.edu.sg/osa/housing/nongraduating/index.html>

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.<sup>4</sup>

On-campus student housing will cost approximately \$1,050 to \$3,000 for the entire semester while living off campus can cost as much as \$900/month. Please also be advised that the majority of the rooms on-campus are not equipped with air conditioning. Both the Halls of Residence and the Prince George's Park Residences are within a reasonable commute of the LAW campus facilities.

## 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 (*the following estimates are based off conversion rates as of January 2015*):

- On Campus Housing: \$240 - \$610/month
- Off Campus Housing: \$900/month
- Meals: \$350 - \$700/month
- Public Transportation & Personal Expenses: \$225 - \$300/month
- Books and Supplies: \$175 - \$250/semester

Participating students living in on-campus dorms should budget at least \$1625 per month for expenses, while students living off-campus should budget at least \$1825. Please be advised that if

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<sup>4</sup> Much of this information was copied from the NUS web site:  
<http://www.nus.edu.sg/osa/housing/undergraduate/options.html>.



you plan to travel while abroad, your personal expenses will exceed \$300 per month. In addition, you will need to obtain a multiple entry visa, which costs an additional \$23.

In addition, BU Law students will be asked to pay the following one-time fees, prior to their arrival:

• Student Health Fee:	\$45
• Student's Services Fee:	\$25
Total one time fees:	\$70

It is advisable to take up travel insurance to cover things such as lost luggage or trip cancellation. The NUS Group Medical Insurance Scheme does not cover travel to and from Singapore.

If you have queries about the Health Insurance, please email [uhc\\_health@nus.edu.sg](mailto:uhc_health@nus.edu.sg)

## 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, 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 formal visa to study in Singapore, but must obtain a Student's Pass upon 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. The following link provides details on procedures for applying for a Student Pass:

<http://www.nus.edu.sg/osa/international/svcs/spass.html>.

All international students must hold a valid Student's Pass issued by the Singapore Immigration & Checkpoints Authority for their studies in NUS. All information on obtaining the student's pass will be provided by NUS after admission into the exchange program. Thus, while the Graduate and International Programs Office is happy to help participating students liaise with the International Students Office in Singapore, it is ultimately the responsibility of the student to obtain the Student's Pass.

For more information on immigration-related matters, students may visit the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority website:

<http://www.ica.gov.sg/index.aspx>

### 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 Graduate and International Programs Office:

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.

