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21 July 2016

To: All Science students matriculating in July 2016

Welcome to the Faculty of Science (FoS). You have made the right choice! Besides rigorous training in your choice of major discipline, you will also acquire life skills that will make you a versatile, articulate, IT-savvy, and highly employable Science graduate. For a start, we are providing you with the dates of key events and a series of useful and relevant information for your attention.

### **DEAN'S WELCOME TEA & SCIENCE FRESHMEN ORIENTATION BRIEFING AY2016/17**

We have organized a series of briefings on **26 July 2016** for you. The briefings will cover the following:

- NUS Modular System & Science Curriculum
- Centralized Online Registration System (CORS) & General Education Curriculum
- Student Life in Faculty of Science
- Department Academic Talks

All freshmen are strongly encouraged to attend this tea session.

### **REGISTRATION EXERCISE AY2016/17**

The Registration Exercise for all Science & Pharmacy freshmen will be held in 2 parts and both parts are compulsory. You should have received an email from the Registrar's Office (RO) detailing the registration procedures by now. You may refer to the following links for important details on the Registration Exercise.

- *Registrar's Office Registration Information:*  
<http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/event/registration.html>
- *Registration Guide:*  
<http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/info/info/Registration-Guide-for-Undergraduate-Students.pdf>

#### Registration (Part One)

All freshmen regardless of citizenship should have completed registration (Part One) and obtained your Student ID, Student PIN, NUSNET ID & NUSNET Password by now. You will need to use the NUSNET ID and NUSNET password to access the various online systems in NUS. Freshmen who are under 18 years of age at the point of completing Part One may refer to the Registration Guide above for other instructions.

#### Registration (Part Two)

Students are advised to read the Registration Guide for detailed instructions on this process. Briefly, the Part Two registration process will differ for freshmen with various age and citizenship profiles as follows:

- *Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents above 18 years of age and with Singapore address*  
Your student card will be sent to your address. Please activate your Student Card via myISIS immediately upon receiving your card so that you can access the Centralized Online Registration System (CORS) when it opens from **21 July 2016** to declare your major(s)/minor(s).
- *Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents below 18 years of age, above 18 years of age without Singapore address, and International Students*

Please complete the Registration in person at the Registration Centre, University Town Auditorium 1 on **25 July 2016** to collect your student card and other documents where applicable. Students are to report according to the schedule stated in the Registration Guide. You may then access CORS to declare your major(s)/minor(s).

If you encounter difficulty in completing the above-mentioned registration processes, please write to the RO at [UGRegistration@nus.edu.sg](mailto:UGRegistration@nus.edu.sg) or call them at Tel: (65) 6601 2749, to seek their advice. Please refer to the Registration Guide for other RO's operational hours and contact details.

### **NUS BULLETIN AY2016/17**

The bulletin contains details of modules offered in NUS: <http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/nusbuletin>

Please note that the contents of the bulletin are accurate as at the date of printing. Students are strongly advised to refer to the **Faculty of Science website** and individual **Department websites** for the latest updates: <http://www.science.nus.edu.sg/>

### **CENTRALISED ONLINE REGISTRATION SYSTEM (CORS)**

The schedule for AY2016/17 Semester 1 online registration of modules via CORS is as follows:

Module registration period	21 July 2016 (Thu) – 10 August 2016 (Wed)*
Lectures begin	8 August 2016 (Mon)
Tutorial registration for selected Physics Level 1000 Modules	8 August 2016 (Mon) – 12 August 2016 (Fri)
Tutorial registration for all other modules	12 August 2016 (Fri) – 19 August 2016 (Fri)
Tutorials begin	22 August 2016 (Mon)
Drop with 'W' & no refund of points	22 August 2016 (Mon), 0000hrs – 25 September 2016 (Sun), 2359hrs
Drop with 'F' & full refund of points	26 September 2016 (Mon), 0000hrs onwards

\* Freshmen will conduct actual modules bidding in CORS from **28 July 2016, 9 am**.

Please refer to the CORS website at <http://www.cors.nus.edu.sg/index.html> for detailed schedule for bidding in AY2015/16 Semester 1. You can also refer to the CORS briefing video at: [http://vidcast.nus.edu.sg/camtasiarelay/CORS\\_Briefing - Flash %28Large%29 - 20100702\\_04.44.17PM.html](http://vidcast.nus.edu.sg/camtasiarelay/CORS_Briefing_-_Flash_%28Large%29_-_20100702_04.44.17PM.html)

#### Major/Minor Declaration

You will be prompted by the system for Major/s and Minor/s declaration upon the first login. The minimum requirement of your candidature is to read 1 Major Programme and the maximum allowance is 2 Major Programmes with 2 Minor Programmes. You may amend your declaration each semester during the first login to CORS. No amendment is allowed **beyond the fifth semester of study**.

#### Workload per semester

All Single Degree students can select and bid up to a **maximum of 23 MCs** while Double Degree students and students involve in Special Programmes will be allowed to select and bid up to a **maximum of 27 MCs**. Do note that the stipulated **minimum workload** that each student should have from AY2015/16 Semester 1 onwards is **18 MCs per semester**.

#### Bidding

Always bid for module(s) in earlier rounds. If you are able to see your desired non-Science modules available for bidding under the 'Regular' modules category, please proceed to select them for bidding. The category under which you bid for the module and the module type code set for CORS will **not** affect how the module will be used for your graduation requirements.

## Assistance

You may register for modules online via any computer with internet access. For students who prefer to do the online registration in the Faculty, please proceed to S16-05-101 Computer Lab. Should you require any assistance, please approach the Science Computer Based Learning Centre (CBLC) Helpdesk during the module registration period at S16 Level 2.

The contact information and operating hours of Science CBLC Helpdesk for AY1617 Semester 1 are as follow:

21<sup>st</sup> July 2016 – 10<sup>th</sup> August 2016

Hotline - 6516 8701

Email - [helpdesk@science.nus.edu.sg](mailto:helpdesk@science.nus.edu.sg)

Monday – Thursday	0900 – 1730 hours
Friday	0900 – 1630 hours
Weekends & University/Public Holidays	Closed

**Please bring along your NUSNET ID and NUSNET Password, and O-level & A-level certificates during the module registration period. Your NUSNET ID and NUSNET Password will be issued to you ONLY after you have completed your pre-registration online.**

**Students should not reveal their login/email passwords and NUS Smartcard PIN number to anyone. Disciplinary action will be taken against those who do so.**

## MODULE AND EXAMINATION TIMETABLE

The class and examination timetables for AY2016/17 Semester 1 can be found at the following URL:

<https://myaces.nus.edu.sg/cors/jsp/report/ModuleInfoListing.jsp>

The onus is on the student to map out their study plan and avoid registering for modules with clashes in class or examination timetable. Students may use the NUS Timetable Builder to generate your own personalized timetable: <https://webrb.nus.edu.sg/ctt/builder.aspx>

## OVERLAPPING MODULES

Some modules offered may overlap substantially in content with each other. Students are discouraged from reading overlapping modules unless both are required for attaining a double major, for example. In such situation, students may be allowed to read the overlapping modules, but only the modular credits of one will be counted towards the graduation requirements.

Similarly, if you have obtained approval to read a precluded module, only the modular credits of one of the modules will be counted towards your graduation requirements.

Students are expected to exercise personal responsibility to check if they are reading overlapping or precluded modules. When in doubt, students should consult the module coordinator or an academic advisor. Please refer to the following links for the list of precluded and overlapping modules.

- <http://www.science.nus.edu.sg/undergraduate-studies/ugreq/curriculum-structure/186-undergraduate/ugreq/curriculum-structure/218-overlapping-modules>
- <http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/nusbuletin/>

## QUALIFYING ENGLISH TEST (QET)

Students will be notified by the Centre for English Language Communications (CELC) of your QET results.

- Students who obtain Band 1 will have to take ES1000 followed by ES1103.

- Students who obtain Band 2 will have to take ES1103.
- Students who obtain Band 3 are exempted from these English modules.

Students are strongly advised to complete the required module(s) within the first year of study. Students who are required to read both ES1000 and ES1103 may read ES1000 in AY2016/17 Semester 1 and ES1103 in AY2016/17 Semester 2. For students who are required to read only ES1103, you may read it during Semester 1 or Semester 2 of AY2016/17. Please refer to the CELC website for more information: <http://www.nus.edu.sg/celc/programmes/get.php>.

### **COMPULSORY COMMUNICATION MODULE**

All science students matriculated from AY2015/16 onwards (except Pharmacy and Environmental Studies students, USP and SPS students and students from any Residential Colleges) are required to read **SP1541 Exploring Science Communication through Popular Science**. Students are strongly advised to complete the module within the first year of study. Students who are required to read ES1000 and/or ES1103 should try to read this module in AY2016/17 Semester 2 or latest by AY2017/18 Semester 1. Please refer to the following website for more information:

<http://www.science.nus.edu.sg/undergraduate-studies/ugreq/curriculum-structure/186-undergraduate/ugreq/curriculum-structure/708-es1541>.

### **GENERAL EDUCATION (GE) CURRICULUM**

As part of Graduation Requirements, all students admitted from AY2016/17 (except students from Law, Medicine, Dentistry, the University Scholars Programme and the University Town College Programme) are required to read one General Education Module from each of the five pillars to satisfy the University Level Requirements (ULR). The five pillars are:

- i. Human Cultures
- ii. Asking Questions<sup>1</sup>
- iii. Quantitative Reasoning<sup>2</sup>
- iv. Singapore Studies
- v. Thinking and Expression

<sup>1</sup> The "Asking Questions" pillar has not been launched. More information will be available in AY2016/17 S2. The module that RVRC residents (admitted from AY2016/17 onwards) will read in fulfilment of the "Asking Questions" pillar is currently under review and will be made known in due course.

<sup>2</sup> Only one module is offered under the Quantitative Reasoning pillar, GER1000 – Quantitative Reasoning. All students who matriculated in AY2016/17, including those in University Scholars Programme (USP) and University Town College Programme (UTCP), have to read GER1000 as part of their General Education Curriculum.

You may refer to the following site for more information: <http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/gem/home>

### **S/U OPTION ENTITLEMENT**

With the launch of Enhanced Grade-free Scheme with effect from AY2016/17 Semester 1, students may exercise the S/U option for up to 32 MCs in the first two regular semesters. If this is not fully utilised, the S/U option may be exercised in subsequent semesters, for up to 12 MCs.

Variations on the limit of S/U options that can be exercised apply for specific groups of students:

- i. Students without prior university experience but are granted 20 or more Advanced Placement Credits (APCs) at the point of admission to NUS may exercise the S/U option for up to 20 MCs in the first two regular semesters; if this is not fully utilised, the S/U option may still be exercised in subsequent semesters, for up to 12 MCs.
- ii. Students with some prior university experience (which are being recognised towards the NUS degree) may exercise the S/U option for up to 12 MCs anytime during their candidature, including the first two regular semesters.

- iii. Students with a prior university degree are not eligible for the grade-free scheme.

Student Type		S/U Options Available	
		First two regular semesters	Beyond first two regular semesters (if unutilised)
Newly admitted students without prior University experience. This also includes students with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clean slate transfer from another University or Faculty.</li> <li>Re-admitted into NUS on a clean slate.</li> </ul>	< 20 APCs	32 MCs	12 MCs
	≥ 20 APCs	20 MCs	12 MCs
Students with some prior University experience. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transfer from another University with credits.</li> <li>From partner Universities whose first year of study is not at NUS.</li> <li>Enrolled in DDP where Law is one of the partner faculties and hence spent their first year in Law.</li> </ul>		12 MCs	12 MCs
Students with a prior University degree		0 MCs	0 MCs

The abovementioned entitlement is applicable for the following modules:

- All Level 1000 modules.
- Level 2000 modules without NUS modules as pre-requisites.
- Centre for Language Studies' (CLS) language modules at all levels.
- Yale-NUS College's (YNC) language modules at all levels.
- Centre for English Language Communication's (CELC) Level 2000 Communication and Ideals & Exposition modules. (ES2002, IS2101, CS2101, ES2660, ES2007D, ES2331, UTW2001%)

The abovementioned entitlement is not applicable for the following modules:

- Level 2000 modules with NUS modules as pre-requisites.
- Modules of Level 3000 and above.
- Modules dropped with W or F-grade (during the module dropping period).
- Modules assigned IC grade.
- Modules in which student had committed academic offense.
- Modules in which the Board of Discipline had prescribed a revised grade.
- University Scholars Program's (USP) Writing and Critical Thinking modules (UWC2101%) and Quantitative Reasoning modules (UQF2101%).
- Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music (YSTCM) Major Study modules.
- Zero-MC modules.

#### Key Points to Note

- Both the 'S' and 'U' grade count towards the total S/U Option entitlement.
- For modules read on an S/U basis, the modular credit is obtained only if a student attains a Satisfactory 'S' grade for the module.
- A Satisfactory 'S' grade is an equivalent of a 'C' grade and above.
- All modules read on S/U basis are excluded from the computation of the CAP.
- S/U option, once exercised, is irrevocable. Students may not later request for a conversion to a letter grade.

#### **CONTINUATION, PROBATION & DISMISSAL**

To remain in good academic standing, and to continue in an undergraduate programme of study, a student may not have CAP below 2.00 for two consecutive semesters. For any semester in which the student's CAP falls below 2.00, s/he will be placed on probation. If the student's CAP remains below 2.00 for the second consecutive semester, the student will be issued a letter of dismissal by the Registrar's Office and

denied re-admission. The student may appeal against the dismissal if there are extenuating circumstances. However, each student is only allowed to appeal **once** during his/her candidature.

With the launch of Enhanced Grade-free Scheme:

- For students eligible to exercise  $\geq 20$  MCs of S/U options, the above continuation rules are applied from the third semester onwards.
- For students eligible to exercise  $\leq 12$  MCs of S/U options, the above continuation rules are applied from the first semester onwards.

Students who face difficulties in coping with their studies are encouraged to approach their academic mentors for guidance and support. The respective mentors will be able to guide and advise students of the various avenues where help is available. More information on the Science Academic Mentorship scheme is provided at <http://www.science.nus.edu.sg/students/ams>.

### **FEE REBATE POLICY**

With effect from AY2014/15, a rebate in tuition fees paid in excess of the total fees for the stipulated candidature period may be granted to eligible students who graduate on time within the stipulated candidature period.

A student is eligible for tuition fee rebate if s/he meets **all** of the following conditions:

- Admitted into an undergraduate degree under the modular system in NUS from AY2014/2015;
- Completed NUS modules during the following period(s):
  - prior to the undergraduate candidature (e.g. NUS iBLOC, NUS H3 subjects, NUS modules taken as NUS High School students, and NUS modules taken under the Polytechnic Advanced Placement Programmes); and/or
  - during Special Terms within the undergraduate candidature;
- Paid tuition fees in excess of the fees for completing the undergraduate degree programme on time in the candidature period applicable for fee rebate (as defined in the table below).

S/N	Degree Type	Candidature Period for Fee Rebate <sup>#</sup>
1	Single Degree/ Joint Degree Programme (120 MC)	6 consecutive semesters
2	Single Degree/ Joint Degree Programme (160 MC)	8 consecutive semesters
3	Double Degree Programme (DDP)	9 consecutive semesters

<sup>#</sup> Include all approved Leave of Absence (LOA) periods, except those given for medical reasons.

Please refer to the link for more details: <https://share.nus.edu.sg/registrar/student/info/FAQ-on-Fee-Rebate-Policy.pdf>

### **PROGRAMMES OF INTEREST**

#### **1) Second Majors offered by FoS**

Science students who wish to enhance and broaden their undergraduate studies may opt for a second major. Please refer to the following website for more information: <http://www.science.nus.edu.sg/undergraduate-studies/ugprog/second-majors>.

#### **2) Freshman Seminar**

This module presents opportunities for freshmen to explore Science and to work closely with members of the Faculty or prominent visiting professors on topics of current interest in contemporary research and in small class settings. Students will acquire independent learning as well as oral and written communication skills. Please access the following link for more information on this module: [https://myportal.nus.edu.sg/studentportal/sci/ug/Academics\\_FreshmanSeminars.html](https://myportal.nus.edu.sg/studentportal/sci/ug/Academics_FreshmanSeminars.html)

**IMPORTANT REMINDER**

Important information will be transmitted to students through the Faculty of Science Website  
<http://www.science.nus.edu.sg/> or via electronic mail.

***Please note that it is your responsibility to check these channels regularly for latest updates.***

You are also reminded to clear your NUS Email Account regularly so that important emails can be delivered to you.

We wish you a pleasant stay in the Faculty of Science and we look forward to seeing you at the Dean's Welcome Tea and Science Freshman Orientation Briefing on 26 July 2016.

Yours sincerely,

A/Prof Chua Tin Chiu  
Associate Dean  
Science Dean's Office

Cc Dean, Vice Deans, Associate Deans & Assistant Deans, Faculty of Science  
Registrar  
Dean, Office of Student Affairs  
Director, Centre for English Language Communications  
Director of Programme, Quantitative Finance  
Director of Programme, Special Programme in Science  
Director of Programme, Food Science & Technology  
Coordinators, Life Sciences Undergraduate Programme Committee  
Coordinators, Computational Biology Undergraduate Programme Committee  
Heads of Departments of Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Mathematics, Statistics & Applied Probability,  
Pharmacy, Physics, Faculty of Science  
Heads of Departments of Anatomy, Biochemistry, Microbiology, Pathology, Pharmacology, Physiology,  
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Presidents, Science Club & Science CBLC