
13 July 2015

To: All Science students matriculating in July 2015

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. We have many interesting activities and people in the Faculty awaiting you to engage with. For a start, we are providing you with important dates of key events and other useful and relevant information below for your attention.

DEAN'S WELCOME TEA 2015 & COURSE BRIEFING

We have organized a series of briefings on **21 July 2015** for you. The briefings will cover the following areas:

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

All freshmen are strongly encouraged to attend this tea session.

REGISTRATION EXERCISE for Academic Year (AY) 2015/16

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. For your recap, 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:*
<https://share.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, please refer to the Registration Guide above for other instructions.

Registration (Part Two)

You need to read up the Registration Guide for detailed instructions on this process. Briefly, the Part Two registration process will differ among 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 mySIS immediately upon receiving your card so that you can access the Centralized Online Registration System (CORS) when it opens from 23 Jul 2015 to declare your major(s)/minor(s).
- *Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents below 18 years of age, above 18 years old without Singapore address, and International Students*
Please attend the Registration in person at Registration Centre, University Town Auditorium 1 on **28 Jul 2015, 10:15am to 11:45am**, to collect your student card and other documents (where applicable). You can then access the CORS system to declare your intended major(s)/minor(s) from 29 Jul 2015.

Note: Freshmen will conduct actual modules bidding in CORS from 30 Jul 2015.

If you encounter difficulty in completing the above-mentioned registration processes, please write to the RO at 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 operation hours and contact details.

NUS BULLETIN 2015/16

The bulletins contain details of modules offered in NUS. Visit the online version at:

<http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/nusbuletin>.

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

The Science Website also provides information on graduation requirements and frequently asked questions etc.

CENTRALISED ONLINE REGISTRATION SYSTEM (CORS)

The schedule for online registration of modules via CORS for Semester 1, AY2015/16 is as follows:

Module registration period	23 July 15 (Thu) – 12 August 15 (Wed)
Lectures begin	11 August 15 (Tue)
Tutorial registration for selected Physics Level 1000 Modules	11 August 15 (Tue) – 14 August 15 (Fri)
Tutorial registration for all other modules	14 August 15 (Fri) – 21 August 15 (Fri)
Tutorials begin	24 August 15 (Mon)
Drop with 'W' & no refund of points	24 August 15 (Mon), 0000hrs – 27 September 15 (Sun), 2359hrs
Drop with 'F' & full refund of points	28 September 15 (Mon), 0000hrs onwards

Do note that you cannot exercise the S/U option on modules dropped with 'F'. You may refer to the FAQs at http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/edu/UG/graduation.html#su_quicklinks for more information.

CORS Guide

Please refer to the CORS website at <http://www.cors.nus.edu.sg/index.html> for detailed schedules and activities of each bidding round. You can also refer to the CORS briefing video, which is produced to guide freshmen on how to use the CORS system. The URL is as follows.

[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 declaration of Major/s and Minor/s 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 (Major and Minor setting) each semester during the first login to CORS. However, there shall be no amendment allowed beyond the 5th semester of study. Please refer to the following link for more information.

<http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/edu/UG/graduation.html>

Workload per semester

All Single Degree students can select and bid up to a maximum of **23** modular credits only while Double Degree students and students involve in Special Programmes will be allowed to select and bid up to a maximum of **27** modular credits. Proposal for *selected* Single Degree students from Residential Colleges to assume workload higher than 23 modular credits is pending approval. Updates will be disseminated via NUS Email when it is available.

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 later.

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) during the module registration period at S16 Level 2.

The contact information and operating hours of Science CBLC for this exercise are as follows:

Hotline - 6516 8701

Email – 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 (Centralized Online 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.

TIMETABLE

The class and examination timetables for Semester 1, AY2015/16 can be found at the following URL:

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

The onus is on the students to map out their study plan and avoid registering for modules with clashes in class or examination timetable. To find out time-table clashes among modules, freshmen could use the Timetable Builder for this purpose. The Timetable Builder is available at this URL:

<https://webrb.nus.edu.sg/ctt/builder.aspx>

OVERLAPPING MODULES

There are modules that 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.

Students are expected to exercise personal responsibility to check whether their modules overlap with one another. When in doubt, students should consult the module coordinator or an academic advisor. For updated information on overlapping (and precluded) modules, please refer to the online version of the NUS Bulletin 2015/16 at <http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/nusbuletin> and the list of overlapping modules on Faculty of Science website via the link below:

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

If, for some reasons, you have been given approval to read an overlapping or precluded module, please note that the modular credits of the overlapping or precluded module will not count towards your graduation requirements.

QUALIFYING ENGLISH TEST (QET)

You will be notified by the Centre for English Language Communications (CELC) directly of your QET results. Students who do not pass the QET will be required to take either ES1000 (Basic English Course) and/or ES1102 (English for Academic Purpose). Students who are required to read both ES1000 and ES1102 may read ES1000 in Semester 1, AY2015/16 and ES1102 in Semester 2, AY2015/16. For students who are required to read only ES1102, you may read it during Semester 1 or Semester 2 of AY2015/16.

Please refer to the CELC website for more information on QET at:

<http://www.nus.edu.sg/celc/programmes/qet.php>.

COMPULSORY COMMUNICATION MODULE

Science students matriculated from AY2015/16 onwards (except Pharmacy students, Environmental Studies students, USP students and students from any Residential Colleges) are required to read **SP1541 Exploring Science Communication through Popular Science**. This module is compulsory and forms part of the graduation requirement. Students are strongly advised to complete the module within the first year. Students who are required to read ES1000 and/or ES1102 should try to read this module in Semester 2 of AY2015/16 or latest by Semester 1 of AY2016/17. For more details on this module, please refer to

<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 must read General Education modules to fulfil their University Level Requirement (ULR). The General Education Curriculum will be revamped from AY2015/16 Semester 1 onwards. Further updates will be disseminated to you via your NUS email in due course. You may also like to refer to the following site for more information: <http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/gem>.

S/U OPTION POLICY AFFECTING COHORT MATRICULATING AFTER AY2014/15

The Grade Free Semester 1, launched in AY2014/15 Semester 1, serves to facilitate a transformation in students' mind set towards grades and learning in the university setting. Under the new S/U Policy, students receiving letter grades for the modules mentioned in Point B below can opt to keep their grades or convert them to Satisfactory 'S' or Unsatisfactory 'U' grade.

A. Grade Free Semester 1 is applicable to the following groups of students:

- Students matriculated in AY2014/15 and after

- Students who accessed NUS modules prior to their first regular semester as undergraduate student in AY2014/15 Semester 1 – Polytechnic exemptions, advance placement tests for NUS modules, former H3, NUSHS, RNS men (iBLOC and Special Term)
- Students who accessed non-NUS H3 modules prior to their first regular semester
- Clean slate transfer/readmitted students (with no grade/credit transfer of any NUS module) in AY2014/15 and after
- Partner University (JDP, CDP, DDP) students whose first semester of study at NUS is AY2014/15 and after

B. The abovementioned entitlement may be applied on the following modules:

- All Level 1000 modules (excluding non-credit-bearing English language proficiency modules)
 - Level 2000 modules with no other NUS modules as pre-requisites
 - Centre for Language Studies (CLS) language modules at all levels
 - Centre for English Language Communication's (CELC) Level 2000 communication modules (CS2101, ES2002, ES2007D, ES2007S, ES2331, CS2301/IS2101)
 - GEK2508, GEM2509
 - Yale-NUS language modules (YLS2201, YLS2202, YLS3XXX, YLS4XXX)
 - CELC/UTown College Programme's (UTCP) Ideas & Exposition 2 (IEM2201-coded)
 - For accelerating students*: Level 2000 modules with NUS modules as pre-requisites (only if they are read in the first semester)
- *Accelerating Students are defined as those who have already met the pre-requisite to enrol in these Level 2000 modules in the first semester.

C. S/U Option is not applicable for the following situations/modules:

- Modules dropped with 'W' or 'F' grade (during the module dropping period)
- Modules assigned 'IC' grade
- Modules in which student had committed plagiarism
- Modules in which the Board of Discipline had prescribed a revised grade
- University Scholars Programme's (USP) Writing and Critical Thinking modules (UWC2101%) and Quantitative Reasoning modules (UQF2101%)
- Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music (YSTCM) major study module (MUA1161, MUA1162, MUA1190, MUA1191)

D. Key Points to Note:

1. Classification of the S/U Option:

Students may exercise the S/U Option for up to 32 MCs of which:

- 20 MCs can be exercised during the first semester;
- 12 MCs at any time during the candidature.

Both the 'S' and 'U' grade count towards the 32 MCs worth of S/U Option entitlement.

2. Exceptions to S/U Option Entitlement:

Freshman Seminar (4 MCs) and Applied Science students' Professional Placement Programme module (8 MCs) which are read on an Completed Satisfactory/Completed Unsatisfactory (CS/CU) basis, and all modules read on exchange programmes on an Overseas Satisfactory/Overseas Unsatisfactory (OVS/OVU) basis will not impinge on the 32 MCs worth of S/U Option.

3. About S/U Grading

- For modules read on an S/U basis, the modular credit is obtained only if a student attains a Satisfactory 'S' grade on the module.
- A Satisfactory 'S' grade is an equivalent of a 'C' grade [or grade point of 2.0] 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 (i.e. A - D) after they have declared.

E. Carry Over Policy for Faculty of Science Students

If a Faculty of Science student does not belong to at least one of the below mentioned categories, he/she will follow the 'S/U Policy' described above.

Any Faculty of Science student who falls under any of the below categories of students would be able to carry over the stated number of unused S/U Option from semester 1 to be used in semester 2 ONLY.

1. (L) Life Science Major pre-allocated to read, in semester 2 either:
 - i. LSM1103 and LSM1104; or
 - ii. LSM1101 and LSM1102; or
 - iii. Any other combinations of the 4 Level 1000 essential modules subject to approval.
2. (C) Chemistry Major pre-allocated to read CM1191 in semester 2.
3. (B) Bachelor of Environmental Studies pre-allocated to read, in semester 2 either:
 - i. EC1301; or
 - ii. LSM1103; or
 - iii. EC1301 and LSM1103.
4. (SPS) Students in the Special Programme in Science pre-allocated to read, starting in semester 1:
 - i. SP2171.
5. (UTCP) Students in the University Town College Programme (i.e., living in Tembusu, CAPT or RC4) pre-allocated to read:
 - i. Junior Seminar module in semester 1 and an Ideas & Exposition module (I&E1) in semester 2.
6. (USP) Students in the University Scholars Programme pre-allocated to read:
 - i. Either a Writing and Critical Thinking (WCT) module or Quantitative Reasoning Foundation (QRF) module in semester 1.
7. (RVRC) Students who are residents of the Ridge View Residential College pre-allocated to read, starting in semester 1:
 - i. ES1601 and GEM1917.
8. For students matriculated in AY2015/16, Semester 1 and after, who are pre-allocated to read GER1000 in Semester 2.

Students are allowed to carry over a maximum of 8 MCs from the Semester 1 20 MCs S/U Option entitlement to Semester 2.

For details on the number of MCs from the unused S/U Option that can be carried over and the module(s) that the carried over MCs can be exercised on please refer to the following table: [Carry Over Policy AY14/15](#)

Please note:

- Switching of specializations within a particular major is acceptable and the entitlement from Carry Over Policy shall not be affected. Similarly, BES students switching from Environmental Biology to Environmental Geography (or vice versa) continues to be entitled to the carry over MCs for S/U Option declaration.
- Life Science Majors who are required to read the bridging module LSM1301 in their first semester would read LSM1101, LSM1102, LSM1103 and LSM1104 in their second semester (or after) and hence will not be entitled to the Carry Over Policy.
- The number of carry over MCs of unused S/U Options (arising from major, excluding other citizenships i.e., USP/RVRC/SPS/UTPC) is determined by the number of Level 1000 LSM modules to be pre-allocated in semester 2.

Scenario 1:

For instance Department of Biological Sciences currently offers Advance Placement Tests (APTs) for LSM1101 and LSM1102, therefore if a student passes LSM1101 as an APT, he/she will be pre-allocated to read LSM1102 and LSM1103 in semester 1, accordingly he/she will be allowed to carry over 4 MCs of unused S/U options to semester 2, to be used only on LSM1104 read in semester 2.

Scenario 2:

Another example would be if the student passes both LSM1101 and LSM1102 as APTs, read LSM1103 and LSM1104 in semester 1, then he/she will not be able to carry over any unused S/U options arising from his/her major.

- Double Degree Programme (DDP) students will only enjoy one grade free semester. In addition, for DDP involving Law Faculty, the policy applicable will follow the home faculty of the ‘first degree’.
- Special consideration cases submitted close to or during examination period may not result in concession or ‘replacement’ S/U Options (this would be subjected to consideration).
- Students who are entitled to carry over 8 MCs in semester 2 will have them forfeited if the same module is dropped with ‘F’ grade in semester 1. However do note that dropping modules with no grade or ‘W’ grade will not cause the carry over MCs to be forfeited.

ACADEMIC WARNING, PROBATION & DISMISSAL

With the launch of Grade Free Semester 1, students will not be subjected to academic penalty such as being given academic warning, be put on probation or be dismissed based on the Semester 1 result. However, it is important for all new students to be aware of the following rules, which will be applicable from Semester 2 onwards.

Please note that if a student’s CAP falls in the range $1.50 \leq \text{CAP} < 2.00$ for any semester, the University will issue the student with a warning. If the CAP falls below 2.00 again in the following semester, the student will be placed on probation. If the CAP is below 1.50 for any semester, the student will be placed on probation immediately.

Students will not be able to continue the undergraduate studies and their request for readmission to the University will not be considered if they have obtained:

- CAP below 1.50 in two consecutive semesters; or
- CAP below 2.00 in three consecutive semesters.

The Table below summarizes the abovementioned rules on Academic Warning, Probation and Dismissal.

Academic Status	CAP
Academic Warning	$1.50 \leq \text{CAP} < 2.00$ for the first time
Probation	CAP < 1.50 for the first time OR CAP < 2.00 in subsequent semester for students with $1.50 \leq \text{CAP} < 2.00$ in the previous semester OR $1.50 \leq \text{CAP} < 2.00$ in subsequent semester for students with CAP < 1.50 in the previous semester
Dismissal	CAP < 1.50 for 2 consecutive semesters CAP < 2.00 for 3 consecutive semesters

Upon dismissal, the student will be issued a letter of dismissal by the Registrar’s Office. 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.

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 (FOR STUDENTS MATRICULATED IN AY2014/15 AND AFTER)

The University has implemented a new tuition fee rebate policy which will apply to students admitted to an undergraduate degree programme in NUS with effect from AY2014/15.

Students who complete their undergraduate degree programmes within the normal candidature period (as defined in the table below), and have taken NUS modules prior to their undergraduate candidature, and/or Special Term modules during their undergraduate candidature, are likely to have paid tuition fees in excess of the fees commensurate with the normal candidature period. Under the new fee rebate policy, such students will be eligible for a rebate on the excess tuition fees paid.

S/N	Degree Type	Normal Candidature Period
1	Single Degree/Joint Degree Programme (120 MC)	6 consecutive semesters
2	Single Degree/ Joint Degree Programme (160 MC)	8 consecutive semesters
3	Concurrent Degree Programme (CDP) / Double Degree Programme (DDP)	9 consecutive semesters

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. Currently, FoS offers five second majors: Chemistry, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Physics and Statistics. 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.

<http://www.science.nus.edu.sg/undergraduate-studies/ugenh/fsm>.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Important information will be transmitted to students through the Faculty of Science webpage (<http://www.science.nus.edu.sg/>) or via electronic mail (NUS Webmail). 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 will be delivered promptly 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 21 July 2015.

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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