

SPECIAL PROGRAMME IN SCIENCE (SPS) FAQs

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1. I understand that there is a programme called the University Scholars Programme (USP). How does the Special Programme in Science (SPS) differ from USP?

The most obvious difference is that SPS has a strong focus on science (i.e. integrating Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics) while USP's focus is broader (Science, Arts & Humanities and Engineering). Further, USP is a university-level programme while SPS is a smaller programme at the faculty-level.

2. As a student enrolled in SPS, will I have to read extra modules, over and above those necessary for graduation?

The minimum number of modular credits that an SPS student needs read is no different from a non-SPS student. However, an SPS student's basket of modules must include the specially designed SPS modules (Atoms to Molecules, The Cell, The Earth, The Universe, Discovering Science, Integrated Science Project).

3. What are the special modules that students in the Programme read?

Students read four specially designed interdisciplinary, thematic modules (Atoms to Molecules, The Cell, The Earth, The Universe) and two research-based modules (Discovering Science, Integrated Science Project). Each of these modules integrates Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. These will be taught/facilitated by enthusiastic academics and students in small groups using novel pedagogy. There will be ample opportunities for active peer-learning.

4. What do you mean by peer learning?

Students in the Programme share and gain knowledge from each other through discussions and interactions. Peer learning is an integral part of SPS. We believe that students learn best through interaction and discussion with one another.

5. What benefits will I enjoy as student in the Programme?

The most valuable benefit of being part of the Programme is the support you get from the SPS community. Additionally, SPS offers novel pedagogical practices, fast track to training in research and opportunities to improve interpersonal and leadership skills. SPS students also have dedicated facilities (laboratories, equipment, seminar rooms, student spaces). They also have priority in participating in the Study Abroad Programme, Nanotechnology Study Tour to Japan.

6. When and how do I enrol in this Programme?

Students can join SPS in the first semester of their first year. All students admitted to the Science Faculty are eligible and will be invited to attend an introductory tea at the start of the semester. Admission will be through an interview process. The primary qualification we look for is your passion for science and learning new things.

Please visit <http://sps.nus.edu.sg> for details on the application process.