



USP

# Big things come in small packages

Explore what USP has to offer  
within the wider NUS

The National University of Singapore (NUS) is a big place with boundless opportunities and lots of room for exploration. It is truly a wondrous place to be.

Imagine immersing yourself in a close-knit community within the wider NUS – joining an intimate group of open-minded individuals who share a passion to do amazing things, who celebrate diversity of ideas, and who are always curious about learning and exploring interconnections. These individuals encourage one another to present different opinions and perspectives on just about anything, inside and outside the classroom. The University Scholars Programme (USP) is that community.

At USP, we welcome about 200 undergraduates each year, from seven different faculties in NUS. We provide them with an integrated academic and residential college environment within the NUS University Town. Being small means that every voice is heard, every interaction is meaningful, learning is active and rigorous, and pursuit of ideas is endless. Our students initiate and do numerous things locally and overseas from their first year to their fourth year. They are excited about the interweaving of ideas, and in this excitement, they are strongly supported by professors, staff and alumni.

We are small, but our aim is big:  
**Shaping independent, adaptable thinkers and doers who will make an impact in the world.**



Joining USP means joining a community that is curious, critical, courageous and engaged.

Find out about our innovative curriculum, diverse global opportunities, and transformative learning environment in the following pages.

Go to [usp.sg](http://usp.sg) for more details and updates of exciting programmes and developments in our community.

We are adventurous in thought. We pursue a broad range of intellectual interests and are ready to make connections across different domains.

**Curious**

We are intellectually rigorous, deeply reflective and value a humility born of awareness of the limitations of our own knowledge.

**Critical**

We are willing to consider differing points of view, unafraid to face challenges and to act upon ideas.

**Courageous**

**Engaged**

We extend the frontiers of knowledge in energetic and creative ways, and are prepared to navigate and help shape a complex world in a responsible way.

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# USP Curriculum

We offer a broad-based curriculum that balances both breadth and depth to give students an interdisciplinary education. Interdisciplinary means more than simply taking modules in different areas of study; an interdisciplinary education fundamentally changes how we perceive, think about, and understand the world. By examining a subject with knowledge and methods from multiple disciplines, such an approach produces new possibilities for innovation and creation.

**Students admitted to USP are concurrently enrolled in 1 of 7 NUS faculties or schools:**

- Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
- Faculty of Engineering
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Science
- NUS Business School
- School of Computing
- School of Design and Environment

**The average student to faculty ratio in the USP classroom is 15:1**

Learning in USP takes place in small classes that rely on strong interpersonal interaction and vigorous discussions.

In this environment, all students are encouraged to share their perspectives and thoughts, and to learn through questioning their own assumptions and exposing themselves to new and competing ideas.

**My major and USP: 70% + 30%**

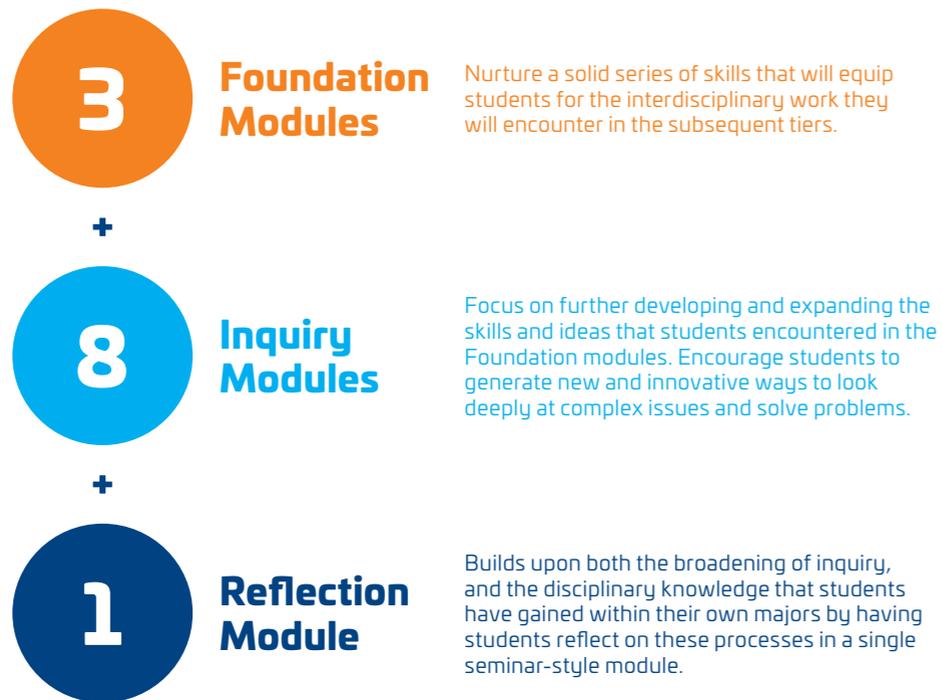
USP students earn 70% of their academic credits in their home faculty, and 30% in USP. The total workload is the same as that of other NUS undergraduates.



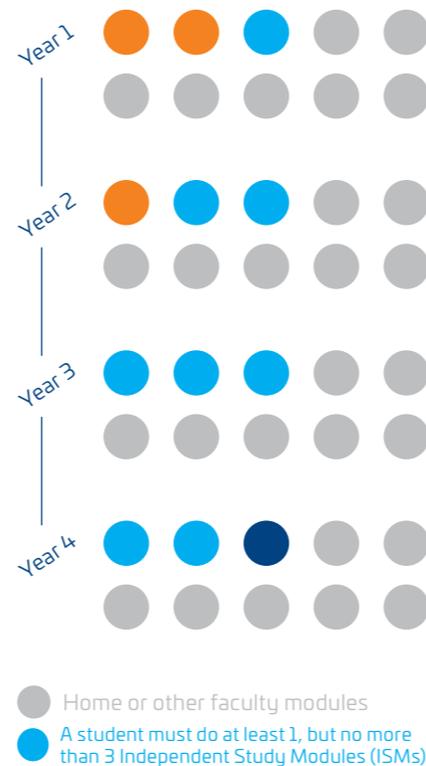
**ULS2202  
Evolution**  
Dr Hwang Wei Song's class-in-action

# USP Modules

A USP student reads 12 USP modules in four years, and these modules are taken in three structured tiers, namely Foundation Tier, Inquiry Tier, and Reflection Tier. Each USP module is carefully designed to be truly interdisciplinary. Classes in USP are small and intimate, and our students get to choose from a wide range of modules.



A typical study plan of a USP student



## Foundation Tier

### Writing and Critical Thinking

Apocalyptic Cultures  
 Clothing Identities  
 Colonialism and Cosmopolitanism  
 Conditions of Happiness  
 Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery

Multidisciplinary Perspectives on "Mind"  
 Narrative in Everyday Life  
 Religion in Public Life  
 Technologies of Home  
 Vice, the State & Society

### Quantitative Reasoning Foundation

In Search of Soulmate  
 Pursuit of Happiness  
 Quantifying Environmental Quality  
 Quantifying Nuclear Risks  
 Quantifying Our Eco-Footprint

## University Scholars Seminar

### Inquiry Tier

#### Humanities and Social Sciences

Culture and Technology  
 Effective Decision Making  
 Ethics and the Environment  
 From Lab to Stage: Writing the Science Play  
 Gender and Ecology in Asia  
 Language, Cognition and Culture  
 Multiculturalism in Singapore and Its Contested Meanings  
 Nationalism and the Arts  
 Representing War  
 Singapore: The Making of a Nation  
 Singaporean Nostalgia  
 Situating Singapore in the Wider World  
 The Heterogeneous Indians of Contemporary Singapore  
 The Problematic Concept of "Gender"  
 Transitional Justice and War Crime Trials: Case Studies from Singapore and Asia  
 Utopia: Ideal Places from Plato to The Smart City  
 Virtue and Leadership

#### Sciences and Technologies

Biodiversity and Natural History in Singapore  
 Computational Thinking and Modelling  
 Creating Wolverine in Real Life  
 Developing Meaningful Indicators  
 Evolution  
 Hormesis and Life  
 Mathematics and Reality  
 Molecular Courtship  
 Nanoscale Science and Technology  
 Nature's Threads  
 Quantum Computation  
 The Biology and Phenomenology of Pain  
 The Doors of Perception: Biology, Technology & Culture  
 The Nature of Natural Law  
 Thinking 4.0  
 Understanding Environmental Pollution in Singapore

## Reflection Tier

Critical Reflection

# Foundation Tier

The first tier consists of three Foundation modules that emphasise critical thinking, close reading and engagement with texts, quantitative reasoning, and a contextual understanding of the major ideas and questions in the Arts and the Sciences. The goal of Foundation modules is to encourage students to challenge assumptions and ask critical questions across disciplines.

The three Foundation modules are conceptualised by dedicated USP professors, as follows:

## Writing and Critical Thinking

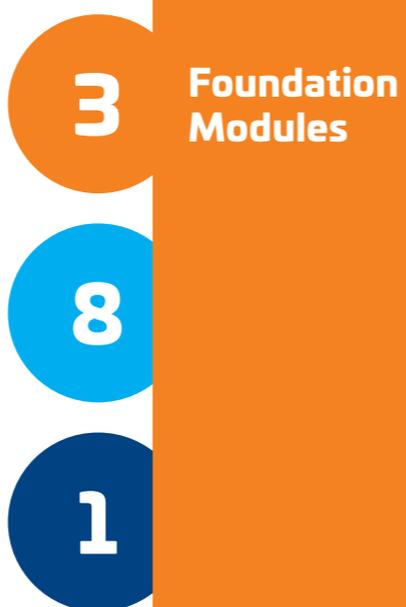
This helps students to read and think critically, to engage with texts rather than simply repeating them, and to write persuasively. Each module is organised around a series of fascinating questions that students will investigate from a variety of disciplinary perspectives.

## Quantitative Reasoning Foundation

Students gain an appreciation that, for many questions or issues, a quantitative analysis can provide the insight and clarity that complement and go beyond what might be gained through a qualitative approach.

## University Scholars Seminar

Spanning two semesters, students are treated to a four-fold stroll through big ideas on human inquiry and the nature of the world. The aim is to develop students' ability to recognise potential problems and needs more readily and with greater accuracy than others.



An example of a Foundation module



## What do popular expressions of the apocalypse tell us about who we are, what we fear, and how we choose to consume culture?

Apocalyptic themes dominate contemporary expressions of popular culture, revealing highly imaginative and frightful ways that the end of the world might come about as well as the many scenarios of the life beyond. But our fascination with these themes tell us that they are influential not because they are works of fiction but they have something important to say about our political and social realities. How then do apocalyptic cultures mirror changing historical anxieties over the different agents of destruction and the people who have access to them? What do they reveal about consumers especially in a transnational context? For example, how does apocalyptic cinema from the US become transplanted in a place like Singapore?

Through looking at the themes and objectives of apocalyptic cultures, the teaching professor for this module aims to achieve the larger purpose of fostering intellectual consciousness among students so that they can ask important and significant questions, construct responses to those questions, and ultimately express them in the written form.

# Inquiry Tier

The second tier consists of eight Inquiry modules in either the Humanities and Social Sciences domain or the Sciences and Technologies domain. Students will read modules distributed evenly between the two domains, for a broad intellectual and disciplinary base. The overall goal of the second tier is to deepen students' understanding of intellectual connections outside of their disciplinary specialisations by way of multidisciplinary inquiry. To create an environment of educational intimacy and collaborative discovery, Inquiry modules take place in small seminars to facilitate meaningful dialogue.

**The Humanities and Social Sciences** domain covers Literary Studies, Visual and Performing Arts, Philosophical Inquiries, Human Behaviour, Society, Economy and Polity, and Civilisational Studies.

**The Sciences and Technologies** domain covers Life Sciences, Nature's Laws, Quantitative Reasoning, Biological and Medical Technologies, Physical and Chemical Technologies, and Information Technologies.

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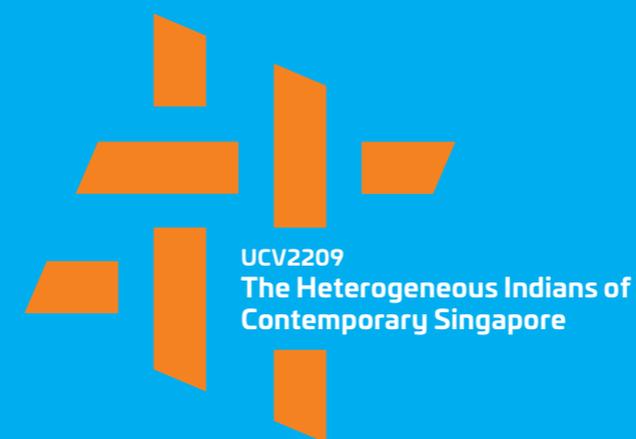
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## Inquiry Modules

### Examples of Inquiry modules

*In the Humanities and Social Sciences domain*



UCV2209  
The Heterogeneous Indians of Contemporary Singapore

#### What makes an Indian, and just how heterogeneous is the Indian community in Singapore?

This module provides for a multifaceted understanding of the heterogeneous Indian community in contemporary Singapore. The reality and elasticity of an Indian cultural mosaic, which is influenced and exemplified by colonial and post-colonial history, migratory patterns, geographical proximity to India, Singapore-India foreign relations, centrality of religion, localised food culture, diverse traditions and rituals, differing languages, variety of occupations, and myriad of organisations and networks, among others, underpins and personifies the essence of multicultural identity in Singapore. The teaching professor will combine theory and empirics in studying and discussing these various issues. Field trips, sampling of food alongside the observance of rituals, and dialogues with policymakers and stakeholders are the principal highlights of this module.

*In the Sciences and Technologies domain*



UBM2201  
Hormesis and Life

#### “What doesn’t kill you makes you stronger”, is a popularised saying that instills optimism and courage. But is there any scientific basis that undergird this principle? And if so, how far can we push this idea?

“Hormesis” is the scientific term that captures the essence of these rhetorics. This module characterises hormesis and addresses the biological mechanisms behind it using classical examples of stresses that are capable of invoking both a good and a bad response. For example, why does mechanical stress break a bone and strengthen another? Why does a bug infect one individual but immunise another? Based on this exposition of the concept, the teaching professor hopes to generate a platform for an intellectual discourse and deep dialogue on the potential analogies across domains even as far-flung as sociology and psychology. Ultimately, he aims to create a new perspective to stress, and to challenge students to consider the merits of managing stress rather than avoiding it.

# Reflection Tier

This third tier consists of a single module, the Senior Seminar. It is designed to bring students together towards the end of their degree to reflect on the conditions of their own disciplinary knowledge and the assumptions developed in disciplinary training, and to cultivate a broader interdisciplinary framework to approach discourse and ideas with.



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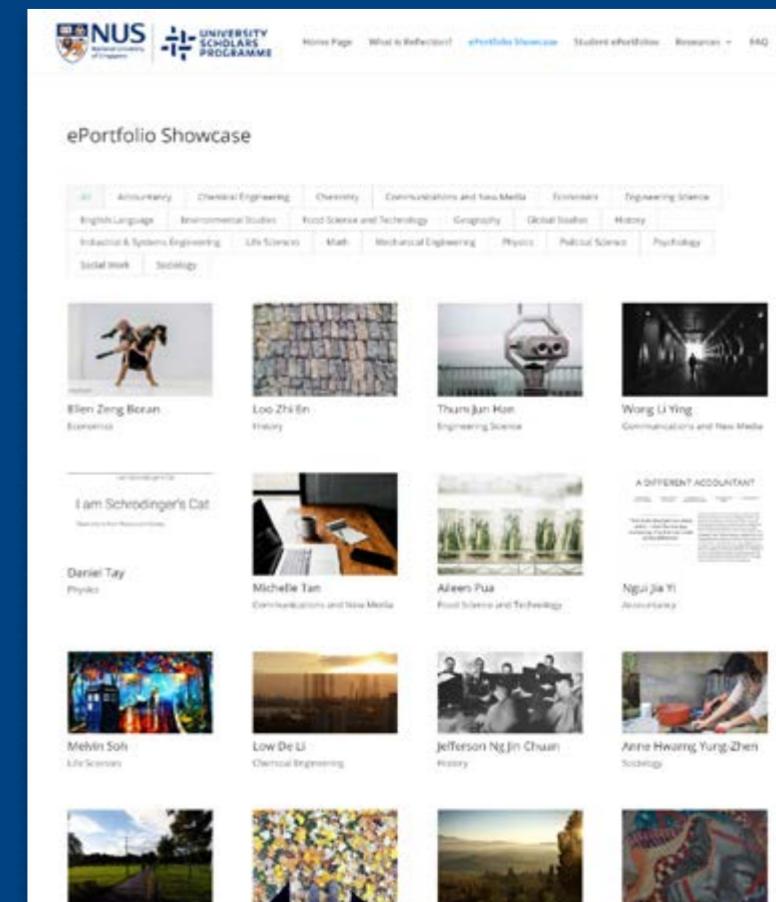
## Reflection Module



USR4002A  
Critical Reflection

This module prepares students for intellectual life beyond the university by asking them to reflect on how their undergraduate education can be brought to bear on the complex political, social, economic, and existential problems of the “wider world” they will be confronting and participating in upon graduation. As a capstone of the USP education, this module builds on the entirety of USP’s curricular and co-curriculum experiences by getting students to consciously make connections among these experiences.

Whether these connections are across disciplines, learning activities, or academic and broader social concerns, the aim is for students to draw new and deeper insights into what they have learnt at university and how they can continue to do so beyond the training ground of the university.



Collection of the most recent ePortfolios done by USP students for this module.



# International Programmes

USP International Programmes are designed to give students the opportunity to explore interdisciplinary modes of thinking and understanding beyond the conventional classroom setting in Singapore, and relate and translate their learning to the wider world. From their first year in USP, students are encouraged to become active participants in the experience, whether by proposing and organising international programmes, or by demonstrating leadership skills and resourcefulness throughout.

In doing so, we hope to foster an environment wherein students, with support from professors and administrative staff, initiate and take ownership of endeavours for their personal and professional development.

● USP Student Exchange Programmes (SEP)

● Joint Degree Programmes,  
Double Degree Programmes

● Short-Term Programmes:  
Study Programmes,  
Conferences,  
Module Study Trips



Over **40** different international programmes in over **20** countries



More than **85%** of USP students go on various international programmes



Only/**first** in NUS to partner with:

- Lady Shri Ram College and Hindu College, India
- University of Tehran, Iran

## USP Student Exchange Programmes (SEP)

### Europe

- Free University of Berlin, *Berlin*
- Jagiellonian University, *Krakow*
- Sciences Po, *France*  
Le Havre Campus
- University of Amsterdam, *Amsterdam*  
Amsterdam University College
- University of Birmingham, *Birmingham*  
Liberal Arts and Natural Sciences
- Utrecht University, *Utrecht*  
University College Utrecht

### Asia and Middle East

- Bilkent University, *Ankara*
- Chinese University of Hong Kong, *Hong Kong*  
Morningside College
- Peking University, *Beijing*  
Yuanpei College
- University of Delhi, *Delhi*  
Hindu College and Lady Shri Ram College for Women

### Americas

- Arizona State University, *Arizona*  
Barrett, the Honors College
- Carleton College, *Minnesota*
- Pennsylvania State University, *Pennsylvania*  
Schreyer Honors College
- University of Arizona, *Arizona*  
Honors College
- University of Connecticut, *Connecticut*  
Honors Program
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, *North Carolina*  
Honors Carolina
- University of Oregon, *Oregon*  
Clark Honors College

## Joint Degree Programmes, Double Degree Programmes

### Joint Degree Programmes

- NUS-Australian National University, *Australia*

### Double Degree Programmes

- \*NUS-Sciences Po, *France*
- NUS-Waseda University, *Japan*

## Short-Term Programmes

### Study Programmes

- Buddhism-in-Asia, *various countries*
- Builders Connect, *Philippines*
- Civilisation of Iran, *Iran*
- Comparative Cultural Rhetoric Academy, *France*
- Forgotten Communities, *Malaysia*
- Inter-Civilisational Dialogue, *Turkey*
- Internship Exchange with SP Jain Institute of Management & Research, *India*
- Southeast Asia at the Crossroads | Questions of Environment, Development & Culture, *Thailand*
- Strategic Leadership, Innovation and Society in China, *China*
- Study Trip for Engagement and Enrichment (STEER), *various countries*
- U21 Social Entrepreneur Corps, *Ecuador*

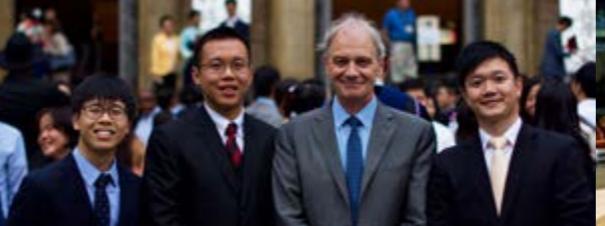
### Conferences

- Asian Undergraduate Summit, *various countries*
- AUN and ASEAN+3 Education Forum & Young Speakers' Contest, *various countries*
- 'Desert Nights, Rising Stars' Writers Conference, *USA*
- Global Next Leaders Forum, *Japan*
- Pan-Asian Student Forum, *various countries (Seoul, Beijing, Hong Kong, Tokyo)*
- Princeton Diplomatic Invitational, *USA*
- Tufts University EPIIC International Symposium, *USA*

### Module Study Trips

- Participatory Social Development in Southeast Asia, *Thailand*
- State-Minority Relations in Southeast Asia, *Laos and Thailand*
- Intercultural Exchanges through Theatre, *Indonesia*

\*Please refer to [usp.nus.edu.sg/nus-sciencespo](http://usp.nus.edu.sg/nus-sciencespo) for details of the application procedures and various deadlines.



### 1 Asian Undergraduate Summit

"USP's student-centric culture has empowered me to head projects like the Asian Undergraduate Summit. Being the Chairperson of this regional venture has imparted invaluable skills such as effective communication, team coordination and stakeholder management just to name a few. The lessons learnt from this project go well beyond my classroom, equipping me for life after university."

Raag Sudha Sanjay  
Political Science + USP

The Asian Undergraduate Summit is a student-led, student-run international conference. The Summit aims to bring together undergraduates of diverse disciplines from Asia, and provide them with the opportunity to engage in meaningful academic, cultural and social exchange.

### 2 Civilisation of Iran

"The most impactful part of the trip was being able to engage and interact with our counterparts from the University of Tehran. The engaging discussions on Multiculturalism in both Iran and Singapore made for a rewarding experience."

Muhammad Syamil B Maulod  
Mechanical Engineering + USP

This is a study programme to Iran, led by a professor. It aims to acquaint students with various aspects of Iranian civilisation, with particular emphasis on the relationship between Iran and the West in the areas of philosophy, literature, and the social sciences. Students have the opportunity to interact with Iranian professors and students at the University of Tehran.

### 3 Forgotten Communities

"It's a challenge to interact with the local people given the language barrier. I had to get out of my comfort zone and be very open to new ideas and beliefs, feelings, and emotions. It's amazing how quickly we bonded with everyone, including the UTAR students and staff."

S Sivapriya  
History + USP

This is a student-planned field trip to study "New Villages" in Malaysia. Students engage in ethnographic research and contribute to mapping the community assets of these rural "New Villages". Students get to do fieldwork with lecturers and students from Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), guided by USP professors.

### 4 Builders Connect

"Learning first hand from the management team as well as the individuals who benefited from these NGOs made learning more interactive and applicable to daily life."

Tan Jing Yi  
Mechanical Engineering + USP

This is a development-work learning programme to the Philippines. Initiated by USP students, it aims to achieve learning and service through development work research and fieldwork. Students partner with, and study the works of International Charity Organisations (ICOs) or Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). Driven by their passion, students gain multidisciplinary insights into the complex challenges of poverty alleviation, talent synergy, social entrepreneurship, global hunger, child education, and environmental sustainability. Some have progressed to interning or working at the ICOs and NGOs.

### 5 Student Exchange Programmes

"The plethora of student clubs and societies in Arizona State University allowed me to find something that interests me. I applied the journalism skills I learned in NUS to an online newspaper, *Her Campus ASU*. My greatest dreams came true during my time in America, and I also found a career direction for myself during my time there."

Samara Gan  
Communications and New Media + USP

USP students are strongly encouraged to participate in Student Exchange Programmes (SEPs) as it enriches them with learning experiences in a different educational, social and cultural environment. Students explore different perspectives and alternative approaches to learn the subjects they study, experience new cultures and different ways of living, meet friends from around the world, and travel to different places. By stepping out of Singapore, they can enhance their intellectual, leadership, and personal potential in exciting and unpredictable ways.

### 6 Joint Degree Programmes with the ANU

"People at the ANU are really easy to work with and you can call your professors by their first name. Everyone's on the same level. It's how willing one is to ask questions and propose ideas."

Matthias Wong Meng Yan  
History + USP

USP offers joint degree programmes (JDPs) with the Australian National University (ANU) – one for USP students in the Faculty of Science, and the other for those in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. USP students spend three semesters at the ANU. They explore research areas early in their undergraduate life. The research culture at the ANU is complemented by USP's curriculum which encourages exploration outside one's major into interdisciplinary dimensions. Structured as a two-way exchange, USP hosts ANU students when they are in NUS.

# College and Community

Cinnamon College (USP) is no ordinary campus residence. It is where USP students forge exciting possibilities and create precious memories.

Our college is located in NUS University Town. Within this unique space, students develop a sense of belonging through living and learning together, making full use of the facilities and resources. They take classes at the learn lobes adjacent to the college block; they share meals with peers, professors and alumni; they participate in sports and hold events in the hall; and they have numerous thoughtful discussions, both formal and informal, in the Master's Commons, floor lounges, suites and our common lounge – fondly known as Chatterbox.



**Two years of residential living** in their first year and a second year of choice (with the option to extend beyond), giving them the freedom and flexibility to build unique experiences.



**21 floors with 600 rooms** consisting of freshmen, seniors, professors and international students.



**Our dining hall serves 2 meals a day (breakfast and dinner; 6 days in a week)** where students and professors catch up, share meals and have thoughtful discussions.



“When I think USP, I think Home. It’s hard to pinpoint what makes me gravitate towards USP, but perhaps it is the warmth of the community that lies at the heart of USP. That treasure trove of warm memories that we share in Cinnamon College, the late night study sessions, the mind-blowing Avalon games, the heart to heart talks through the night, the impassioned intellectual discussions and that occasional surprise gift at our door. If NUS is the body of my University life, USP is my heart and soul.”

Jeremy Jee (Computer Science + USP)



### Our community is close-knit, socially engaged, highly intellectual and a lot of fun!

We are a community of students, professors, staff and alumni of diverse backgrounds, disciplines and interests. Our students also belong to and are represented by the University Scholars Club (USC). Besides representing the student community in academic and social welfare matters, USC actively seeks to empower students to lead impactful projects and stimulate critical discussions in the community.

Both residential and non-residential students initiate and participate in an extensive range of intellectual, community engagement, and social programmes and projects.



#### Love, USP

Love, USP is an interest group started in 2016 to create a peer-supported safe space where students can feel comfortable discussing mental health issues within the community, and to learn from one another on ways to better cope with these issues.



#### USPolymath

USPolymath is a student interest group that invites speakers to share compelling ideas with the wider USP community using the Pecha Kucha format – 20 slides for 20 seconds each. Previous sessions have spanned a wide range of topics that reflect the diverse disciplines and interests in USP, from the principles of gravity to the defense of feminism in Singapore.



#### The Sessions

The Sessions ignites student-led discussions within and beyond the USP community by serving as a platform to host interesting guests who enrich conversations on various topics. Students select topics and guests based on community suggestions and plan for a range of discussion formats beyond conventional dialogues.



#### Connect Tuition

A pro-bono mentoring and tuition programme initiated in 2014, Connect Tuition pairs more than 40 USP students with underprivileged children aged 8 to 16 years living in the Casa Clementi and Dover housing estates. With a mission to foster community ties, support positive youth development and provide conducive learning environments for the mentees, more than 200 children have benefitted.



#### USP Productions

Active since 2006, USP Productions is a platform for students to showcase their theatrical talents and skills in annual productions. Committed to the development and production of quality student-driven theatre, USP Productions explores issues deeply relevant to Singaporean society at large.



#### We Will Dance

We Will Dance is Singapore's first 10-hour charity dance marathon that was organised in 2013 by USP alumni. To date, USP students have attracted over 1,000 participants and raised over \$50,000 for charitable institutions focused on education. We Will Dance brings together its beneficiaries to groove with its participants to the beats of K-pop, zumba and hip hop.

**Adjusting to a new environment in university can be daunting. Different parts of the USP community come together to support each other through this transition and across the undergraduate experience.**

From formal advising avenues to ground-up initiatives, help is always available in USP – empowering everyone to have the best experience they can.

### Academic Support

Senior USP students act as Peer Mentors, providing personalised academic guidance to freshmen.

At the Writing and Quantitative Reasoning Centres, experienced senior students assist their peers with their assignments.

### Social and Psychological Support

USP students belong to one of six Houses, which act as welfare and support networks connecting them across batches.

First-line Counselling Care and Support is available to all USP students.

Student Interest Groups

- Love, USP advocates for mental health awareness within the USP community.
- Gender Collective is an inclusive and safe space to discuss issues relating to privilege and marginalised groups.

### Residential Support

Designated Freshmen Floors help freshmen build support networks with peers going through similar experiences.

Each neighbourhood of 3 floors is cared for by 1 Residential Professor and 3 student Residential Assistants.

### Financial Support

Bursaries and Grants

- Residential College (RC) bursaries and USP Grants help financially challenged students defray the cost of staying in our college.

Scholarships

- Residential College (RC) Scholarships are available for outstanding students.



# Alumni

We value our alumni tremendously. They do wonderful things in varied fields and sectors, and continue to do things with USP. They return to mentor students, help interview applicants to USP, share their experiences of life after university, and collaborate with students on special projects.

They tell us that they do so because of their USP experience.

Read the USP experience of seven alumni here, and learn more about other alumni at [usp.sg](http://usp.sg).

## Dr Li Jingmei

Life Sciences + USP, Class of 2006

Senior Research Scientist at the Genome Institute of Singapore, A\*STAR

I enrolled in NUS with the intention of learning what it takes to earn my keep in Science (bread and butter), but got so much more in the process. USP offered “teasers” from other faculties and disciplines which included modules on writing, business, civilisation, engineering, chemistry and physics. I will always remember how we deconstructed consumerism and constructed gadgets in the classes. As a science student, I had the chance to build a Tesla coil (unsuccessfully and shorted the circuit to the engineering lab!). USP allowed for interaction with students from other faculties – it increased my exposure to ideas as people have different ways of solving the same problem. These experiences shaped my love for learning.

I learnt through USP the many skills that complement research; this helps a lot in my current work on breast cancer. Suffice it to say, I would be a different person if not for my time at NUS and USP.

Dr Li was honoured with the Junior Chamber International (JCI) Singapore’s Ten Outstanding Young Persons of the World Award 2019 in the category of scientific and technological development. In 2017, she was conferred the Young Scientist Award at the President’s Science and Technology Awards (PSTA) organised by the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR) for her research on mammographic density and its impact on women’s health. She is also a National Research Foundation (NRF) Fellow, Class of 2017 and Adjunct Assistant Professor at NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine.

Photo: The AlumNUS magazine



## Tong Miin

Law + USP, Class of 2016

Legal Associate, Lee & Lee

I am from the pioneer batch of Law + USP students. My USP experience has greatly enhanced how I work and function as a lawyer. Learning how to engage in conversation and listen purposefully through years of discussions in various forums in USP (online, in classrooms, in lifts or the college dining hall) has shaped how I interact with my colleagues and my clients. Part of being a lawyer is being able to advise on how best to proceed taking in mind clients’ interests; understanding these interests and getting clients to understand the way forward has been challenging but manageable thanks to my USP experience.

What’s also important to me is the rich support system and community at USP. I met some of my closest friends in USP, and the constant emotional support and intellectual refining have continued beyond our undergraduate days.

Apart from reading Law and being a part of USP, I was also active with the NUS Jazz Band and sang at gigs as a freelancer. Time management is really important. You can make the most of limited time by knowing what is important to you and what to spend it on.



## Mohamed Fairoz Bin Ahmad

Sociology + USP, Class of 2006

Founder and Executive Director, Chapter W

My experience in USP is akin to taking intellectual dips in various pools of knowledge – from the logic underlying mathematics to the history of Islam across societies somehow helped my mind instinctively see issues or problems in different angles, and be comfortable to read across disciplines in order to solve problems. For example, in Chapter W, the problem that we are trying to solve is not just the problem that villages have no light. This issue is tied intricately with the issue of rural supply chain, engineering quality of products, the gender dimension in poverty, the role of economic incentives in our programmes, and the formal and informal structures of power in rural societies.

Fairoz was honoured with the prestigious NUS Outstanding Young Alumni Award 2017 for his outstanding achievements and leadership in community service. He founded Chapter W, a non-profit social enterprise that provides innovative, suitable and sustainable solutions to help and empower the poor in Indonesia. He graduated with a Master of Public Policy (Distinction) at Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford, on a Chevening-Oxford scholarship in 2019.





## Shaun Lin

**Business + USP, Class of 2004**  
Executive Director, Bank Julius Baer  
Co-founder and Director, Leading Moves Pte Ltd

My USP education gave me the cultural capital to grasp large amounts of information across various subjects quickly, as well as the ability to understand people and businesses easily. This has helped me perform a variety of jobs spanning across branch banking, corporate and institutional finance, risk management and business development, to eventually finding my niche in private wealth. Furthermore, studying subjects such as philosophy, engineering, life sciences and economics in USP has given me multiple lenses with which to view and solve problems. This, to me, is what USP is about.

Looking at my USP peers and their diverse career paths that they embark on after graduation, I realise that there is no such thing as a USP graduate caricature. My classmates work in a variety of industries, but perhaps most interestingly, many have jumped between different industries and experienced several different career paths. This stands testament to how USP has prepared us to be versatile. I am always inspired whenever I meet USP alumni and hear about the different things they have accomplished – it motivates me to be my best self at work and in life!



## Chin Su Yuen

**Computer Science + USP, Class of 2010**  
Co-founder and CEO, MomoCentral.com

USP classes opened my mind, enabling and constantly reminding me to observe and think about the world beyond the technical. I recall two USP classes which impacted me most. Associate Professor Don Favareau's "Ethnomethodology: Semiotics of Everyday Life" taught me how to interpret human conversation and its nuances. That helped in my negotiations and dealings at work, and even with my friends. The other class is Dr Yew Kong Leong's "Asianism and Singapore". It made me appreciate history, culture and the arts, and to be able to read between the lines when it came to interpreting historical artefacts, architecture, and stories. That contributed greatly to the user experience design work I do at MomoCentral.

At MomoCentral.com, we deal with over 450 tech talents worldwide, and serve more than 1000 client companies. My ability to understand other people's cultures matter because I can connect with and fully understand the different cultural nuances when I communicate and interact with others on a meaningful level beyond the technical skills and numbers. Overall, USP has been instrumental in shaping my mind to be open and curious.

MomoCentral.com is an on-demand tech talent platform of vetted, human-verified and interviewed developers and designers worldwide, with Deloitte, Standard Chartered Bank, and Gov Tech amongst their clientele. Su Yuen has been invited to speak at various tech talks in the United States. She was featured in an IMDA story on successful start-up entrepreneurs, and was invited to attend the MIT DeepTech Bootcamp in Boston in 2019.



## Varun Soni

**Engineering Science + USP, Class of 2016**  
Sales and Business Development, Twilio Inc.  
Founder, Antler

One of the best experiences I have had in USP is the inter-mixing of different disciplines. It was not uncommon to discuss something like bioethics over breakfast [at the college dining hall] with friends studying Economics, Linguistics, or Business. I even had a chance to discuss with a USP faculty member whose training is in a mix of history, arts and sociology, Associate Professor Ryan, on her take on my engineering design project. I saw my friend apply rhetorical techniques from the USP foundation tier module – Writing and Critical Thinking – to a marketing project, while I bounced off ideas on a nation-wide electric car network with someone taking classes on urban planning at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy.

I represented USP [International Programmes] at the Princeton Interactive Crisis Simulation Conference in Princeton University and sought to bring an engineer's perspective to international relations. My take on carbon emissions and STEM education became valuable to the cabinet I belonged to. It was honestly eye-opening how valuable each perspective could be, and how we could miss some of the most precious insights being pigeon-holed by our background. This inter-mingling of ideas and perspectives is truly unique to USP and was defining to my university education.



## Dr Imran Bin Tajudeen

**Architecture + USP, Class of 2002**  
Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture,  
National University of Singapore

The Writing and Critical Thinking (WCT) class at USP was the most impactful in my USP experience as it introduced me to the rigour of deep reading, to the analysis of the ideas behind texts, and to the need to attend to the conceptual premises and frames behind a work. USP has helped lay the firm foundations for my scholarship and gradual growth academically. It sharpened my thinking and ability to read and write more critically, early in my education.

I joined the NUS Department of Architecture in 2011 as an Assistant Professor and I am part of the History, Theory and Criticism cluster. Over the years, I developed my teaching module, "Southeast Asian Architecture", based on my experience with USP classes. I encourage students to adopt a more rigorous and critical approach to the things they observe or can learn from on their own. I'm glad to have received positive feedback for inspiring students in this direction.

Dr Imran was conferred the NUS Teaching Excellence Award in 2019 and the Most Promising New Civil Society Advocate in 2015 by the Singapore Advocacy Awards for raising awareness on issues such as Malay heritage and racialised representation in Singapore.

**USP is committed to supporting students at every stage of their career process, right from their very first year.**



# Career Services

Our USP Career Services is a satellite career unit that supports our students in their career needs. At every stage of their career preparation in USP, from when they first enter as freshmen to their graduation as they transit into working life, we are committed to support the students to become career-ready by offering a range of services. Big things come in small packages. This is how we do it:

## Career Planning

Recognising the importance of early career planning, we help students to discover their career inclination which is aligned with their life purpose, passion and competencies. This includes self-awareness of students' personality profile, discovery of career interest and alignment with their values which will provide a direction for their career planning.

## Career Exploration

To support students in their career exploration (be it the private sector, public sector, non-governmental or non-profit organisations, or be an entrepreneur), we collaborate with industry partners to offer internship opportunities. We also partner with USP alumni to guide students through a mentorship programme.

## Career Preparation

We equip students with the relevant competencies in their career preparation by providing a range of services such as career discovery workshop, resume writing workshop, interviewing skills workshop, case interview workshop and assessment centre.

## Postgraduate Education

For students who wish to pursue postgraduate studies, our professors provide advice to guide them in their decision-making. We also collaborate with other universities to conduct postgraduate education talks.



# Application

We welcome about 200 of the most curious and brightest minds to join us each year.

If you are a prospective student wishing to apply to us, please submit your USP application\* at the same time as your NUS application. Each application is processed separately.

USP application is done via the USP Online Application Form. Please go to [usp.sg/admissions](https://usp.sg/admissions) where you will be guided on how to complete and submit your application. We will consider you based on your academic potential, essay, personal statement and an interview.

Qualifications	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Singapore-Cambridge 'A' levels							Apply to NUS Apply to USP
Polytechnic Diplomas from Singapore						Apply to NUS Apply to USP	
International Qualifications			Apply to NUS**				Apply to USP
NUS High School Diploma				Apply to NUS Apply to USP			
International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma			Apply to NUS				Apply to USP

\*For applicants who missed USP application period after submitting the NUS application, please refer to the USP application period for the different qualifications.

\*\*Application period for the various international qualifications may differ. Please check for the exact timeline at [www.nus.edu.sg/oam](http://www.nus.edu.sg/oam).

You will receive full consideration when you apply to both NUS and USP by the respective closing dates (see Application Timeline above). Please check for exact closing dates at [usp.sg/admissions](https://usp.sg/admissions). If you are unable to meet the USP closing date applicable to you, please contact us to enquire on possibilities available.

**Contact Us:** Please email [uspadmissions@nus.edu.sg](mailto:uspadmissions@nus.edu.sg) or call (65) 6516 4425

**Shaping Independent, Adaptable Thinkers and Doers Who Will Make an Impact in the World**

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