Program: National University of Singapore Exchange, Spring

Kaylee’s Majors: Chemical Engineering; Chemistry

Academic Life: The classroom experience was relatively similar to UW-Madison. I had a combination of large-sized, medium-sized (50-80 students), and small classes (10-15). The content was similar to what might have been taught at UW, but the way in which students learn was much different. There are less problem sets, so nearly every detail is memorized by the students in their study time. Nearly three weeks are designated to studying for finals, so plenty of time is allocated to learn the material completely. Most classes were mainly Singaporeans, with a few international students mixed in. I became friends with many of the local and international students.

Housing: I lived in UTown Residence, primarily the home of exchange and graduate students. I lived with two Swedish exchange students and one American in a spacious apartment-style dormitory.

A Changed View: I am much more open-minded and independent. The U.S. (and the Midwest) can be a bit of a bubble. Studying abroad has inspired me to not only travel the world, but also to explore different parts of the U.S., and to seek out opportunities I may not have sought out before.

Advice for Someone Considering NUS: NUS is challenging and you will put a lot of time into your studies, but you will also learn a lot, meet a lot of students, and potentially open your eyes to new issues and concerns. NUS is a top-rated international institution and all of my professors were really great. I think NUS draws unique personalities seeking adventure, change, and a true experience away from home. If this is what you seek, NUS/Singapore is a safe, ideal springboard for these things.