

Information Session on Graduate Studies in Economics at NUS

by Sorawoot Srisuma



NUS
National University
of Singapore

National University of Singapore

About Me

- สราวุฒิ ศรีสุมา (ต๋ง)
- Studied UG, MRes, PhD at LSE
- Been with NUS since 2020
- Currently, Director of Graduate Studies (DGS for research programs)
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| **The Country**
The University
The Department
The Programmes
The Funding (!)
Q&A



The Country

- ▶ Our ASEAN neighbour
 - ▶ < 2.5 hours by plane from Bangkok.
 - ▶ Steady climate all year round: usually 25 ~ 31°C with some rain.
 - ▶ Around $\frac{3}{4}$ residents are of Chinese ancestry; more than a third are foreigners.



The Country

▶ It is a very nice place to live, work and play

▶ **1st** in Asia for quality of living
(Mercer, "Singapore tops Mercer's 21st Quality of Living Ranking for Asia", 13 March 2019)

▶ **1st** in Asia for expats to live in
(HSBC, Expat Explorer 2021)

▶ **3rd** safest city in the world (The economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), Safe Cities Index 2021)

>40%

Land area covered in green spaces

Source: Ministry of National Development, "Written answer by MND on green cover", 12 September 2022

>100,000

Trees planted in Singapore yearly, under the OneMillionTrees movement

Source: The Straits Times, Singapore hits almost 40% of target to plant one million more trees by 2030, 20 August 2022

10min

Walking time to a park for any household by 2030

Source: SG Green Plan, Our Targets. Accessed 10 February 2023.



>370km

Total length of interlinked park connectors

Source: National parks (NP), Annual Report 2021-22

550ha

Total size of nature parks by 2030

Source: MND, "Speech by 2M Desmond Lee at the Committee of Supply Debate 2020", 4 March 2020

1,300km

Projected length of cycling path network by 2030

Source: Land Transport Authority (LTA), Cycling. Accessed 10 February 2023.

The University

- ▶ A leading global university
 - ▶ 1st in Asia | 8th in the world (QS World University Rankings 2024)
 - ▶ 2nd in Asia (US News and World Report 2023)
 - ▶ 3rd in Asia | 19th in the world (Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2023)





The University

- ▶ 16 Colleges, Faculties & Schools, including Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
- ▶ 4,000+ courses each semester
- ▶ 48,532 students (16,197 graduate students) newly enrolled from 100 countries
- ▶ More than 5000 faculty members





| The Department

- ▶ One of Asia's largest and top-ranking economics departments
 - ▶ 1st in Asia (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2023: Economics & Econometrics)
 - ▶ 1st in Asia | 12th in the world (US News and World Report 2023: Best universities for Business & Economics)
 - ▶ 2nd in Asia | 11th in the world (Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2023 by subject: business and economics)

| The Department

- ▶ More than 60 regular faculty members
- ▶ International community with faculty members coming from all over the world
- ▶ All major fields of economics are taught and can supervise students for research
- ▶ Produced many distinguished alumni



| The Programme (Taught)

▶ Programme Structure

Two tracks:

- ▶ **Applied Economics(AE): Career-Oriented**
- ▶ **Quantitative Economics(QE): Academic-Focused**

▶ Graduation Requirements

- ▶ Complete 3 compulsory courses and 7 elective courses
- ▶ Obtain a minimum GPA of 3.00 (B-) out of 5.00
- ▶ Where applicable, complete Graduate English Course (free of charge)

Courses Offered - An example from previous year

Code	Title	Semester I Lecturers	Semester II Lecturers
ECA5101	Microeconomics	ZHANG Yang	NOT OFFERED
ECA5102	Macroeconomics	HUANG Kui Angela	NOT OFFERED
ECA5103	Quantitative and Computing Methods	LIU Haoming	NOT OFFERED
ECA5304	Machine Learning and Economic Forecasting	NOT OFFERED	Denis TKACHENKO
ECA5305	R Programming for Economists	VU Thanh Hai	NOT OFFERED
ECA5307	Python Programming for Economists	HUANG Ta-Cheng	NOT OFFERED
ECA5308	Machine Learning for Applied Economics	NOT OFFERED	Denis TKACHENKO CHEN Nan
ECA5325	Project & Policy Evaluation	NOT OFFERED	VU Thanh Hai
ECA5333	Financial Markets & Portfolio Management	LEE Hon Sing	LEE Hon Sing (2 groups)
ECA5334	Corporate Finance	TAN Seow Kuan RUTH	TAN Seow Kuan RUTH (2 groups)
ECA5335	Derivative Securities	LEE Hon Sing	NOT OFFERED
ECA5342	Advanced International Trade	NOT OFFERED	ZHANG Chi
ECA5343	Advanced International Finance	NOT OFFERED	MUN Lai Yoke
ECA5351	Public Finance	NOT OFFERED	ONG Ee Cheng
ECA5371	Economic Growth and Development	Teofilo DAQUILA	NOT OFFERED
ECA5372	Big Data Analytics and Technologies	NOT OFFERED	YEO Wee Kiang
ECA5373	The Singapore Economy	NOT OFFERED	CHIA Ngee Choon
ECA5375	Economic Growth in East Asia	NOT OFFERED	SHIN Jang-Sup
ECA5376	Auctions and Market Design	NOT OFFERED	Indrani CHAKRABORTY
ECA5381	Urban Economics	LIAO Wen-Chi	NOT OFFERED
ECA5396	Economics of Business and Law of Intellectual Assets	NOT OFFERED	CHENG Yu-Chao Jack
ECA5884	Applied Behavioral Economics	NOT OFFERED	ZHANG Jianlin

Code	Title	Special-Term Part 1 (08 May to 17 Jun 2023)	Special-Term Part 2 (19 Jun to 29 July 2023)
EC5387/ EC5387R	Issues in Maritime and Shipping Economics	NOT OFFERED	Photis PANAYIDES
ECA5313	Topics in Econometrics	Liu Haoming	NOT OFFERED
ECA5335	Derivative Securities	NOT OFFERED	LEE Hon Sing
ECA5881	Topics in Economic Policy	Zeng Jinli	NOT OFFERED

An expanded selection of PhD level courses and cross-faculty courses are available.

<https://fass.nus.edu.sg/ecs/course-offered-graduate-ay2022-2023/>

Programme Duration

Academic Load	Max Duration	Min Workload (per semester)	Max Workload (per semester)
Full-time	3 years	3 courses	5 courses
Part-time	4 years	1 course	3 courses

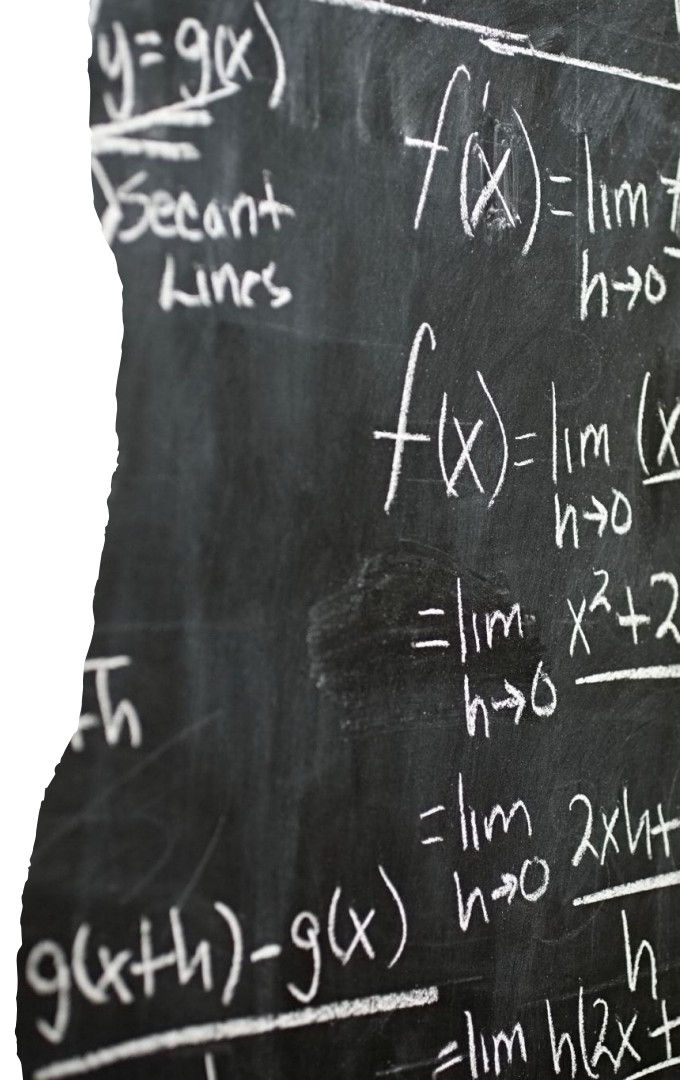
*Approximately half of full-time students graduate within 1 year, with the majority completing the programme in 1.5 years.

<https://fass.nus.edu.sg/ecs/me-programme-information/>

Admission Requirements

- ▶ A Bachelor's degree with at least an average grade of B or equivalent in Economics or may involve an interview for scholarship.
- ▶ Applicants from related fields include finance, accounting, mathematics, statistics, physics, engineering, or operations research, are also welcomed.

<https://fass.nus.edu.sg/ecs/me-application-information/>



English Language Proficiency Requirement

- ▶ Applicants whose native tongue and medium of university instruction is not English should submit TOEFL or IELTS scores.
- ▶ Minimum score required
 - ▶ TOEFL (iBT): 85 (with minimum of 22 for the writing section); or
 - ▶ TOEFL(CBT): 237; or
 - ▶ IELTS or *IELTS Indicator: 6.0

<https://fass.nus.edu.sg/ecs/me-application-information/>



Application Information

- ▶ Online application system (GDA3): <https://gradapp.nus.edu.sg/portal/search>
- ▶ Application period: 1 July 2024 to 15 January 2025
- ▶ Application fee: S\$100 (inclusive of GST)

- ▶ Outcome of application will be made known **by late May**.
- ▶ Early admission: Evaluation is starting this month and will be on a rolling basis. Offer letters will be sent from the end of November 2024 onwards.

*The University has NOT engaged any external agencies to undertake graduate student recruitment on its behalf. Candidates are advised to apply directly to the University and not through any agents.

<https://fass.nus.edu.sg/ecs/me-application-information/>

Application Documents

- ▶ The latest transcripts of academic records
- ▶ Degree scroll/certificate and/or student status letter
- ▶ Recommendations from two academic referees (submitted by the referees)
- ▶ TOEFL/IELTS score report (if applicable)
- ▶ Financial support documents (if applicable)
- ▶ Official identification document (passport)

- ▶ Checklist: <https://fass.nus.edu.sg/ecs/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2022/11/NUS-MASTER-OF-ECONOMICS-APPLICATION-DOCUMENT-CHECKLIST.pdf>

<https://fass.nus.edu.sg/ecs/me-application-information/>



Tuition Fee

- ▶ The tuition fee for the AY2025-2026 intake is S\$56,650 (inclusive of GST) for the entire programme.
- ▶ Other University stipulated fees payable.
- ▶ Academic scholarships are available for outstanding students.

Scholarships and Prizes

▶ ME Scholarships

- ▶ 3 to Singapore citizens or permanent residents, 3 to applicants from ASEAN countries (excl. Singapore) and 3 to other applicants;
 - ▶ A full tuition fee waiver AND a stipend of S\$6,000 per semester for two semesters.
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- ▶ For Thai students ONLY in this admission round
 - ▶ 2 scholarships available, which can be split.
 - ▶ Each full scholarship gives full tuition fee waiver AND a stipend of S\$6,000 per semester for two semesters.

<https://fass.nus.edu.sg/ecs/me-prizes-and-winners-listing/>

Scholarships and Prizes

▶ Best Performance Awards

Course	Amount	Awardee(s) in each course
ECA5101, ECA5102 and ECA5103	\$5000/student/course	Top 3 students
EC5101, EC5102 and EC5103	\$5000/student/course	Top ME student, who receives at least an A and is among the top five students in the course
Other ECA courses	\$2000/student/course	Top 2 students

<https://fass.nus.edu.sg/ecs/me-prizes-and-winners-listing/>

A top-down view of a dark grey desk. In the top left, a white smartphone lies vertically. To its right is a silver pencil. Further right is an open white notebook with a pair of black-rimmed glasses resting on its pages. Below the notebook is a white keyboard. In the bottom right corner, a white cup of black coffee sits on a matching saucer.

Placement

- ▶ Our graduates go on to further studies or have found employment in:
 - ▶ Banking and Finance
 - ▶ Public Sector / Civil Service
 - ▶ Business Development Analysts / Consultants
 - ▶ Teaching / Academia (inc. further studies)

| The Programme (Research)

▶ Programmes

- ▶ **Masters of Social Sciences (MSS):** on avg 2 years
- ▶ **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD):** on avg 5 years

▶ Other Information

- ▶ **All PhD students are fully funded for 5 years**
(full tuition waiver and monthly stipends of S\$2,700-3,200)
- ▶ Direct entry to MSS or PhD programme from undergraduate studies is possible
- ▶ We also invite selected ME and MSS students with outstanding academic performance for interviews to the PhD programme and may give conditional offers

| Q&A

- ▶ Some of my thoughts on
 - ▶ Life in Singapore
 - ▶ What does graduate study give you?
 - ▶ Singapore vs other countries (say, UK)
- ▶ Other information on the web
 - ▶ <https://fass.nus.edu.sg/ecs/>
 - ▶ <https://fass.nus.edu.sg/ecs/general-information/>
 - ▶ <https://fass.nus.edu.sg/ecs/master-of-economics/>
 - ▶ <https://fass.nus.edu.sg/ecs/master-of-social-sciences-research/>
 - ▶ <https://fass.nus.edu.sg/ecs/doctor-of-philosophy-economics/>

Thank You!

