

# I'M GOING TO STUDY LAW

## Portrait of a law school undergrad

*NUS Law School*



*NUS law students at the picnic grounds of the NUS Bukit Timah campus' quadrangle. Behind them is the Federal Building – housing the Faculty of Law's academic and administrative staff.*

Going to law school is not just about learning how to be a lawyer; it's also a place where friendships are forged, debating skills honed, and opportunities abound.

While some years in your life pass you by and become vague memories, others can be anything but forgettable. The past three and a half years in NUS Law School have been some of the best years of my life, complete with special experiences both enriching and memorable.

The first-year Legal Analysis Writing and Research ('LAWR') course was enjoyable, challenging and enlightening all at

once. In LAWR, freshmen got their feet wet in the sea of legal research, trawling through library shelves and online resources to put together the strongest case for the client. Students had to make oral presentations of their arguments while fending off fierce questioning - firing-squad style. After all the research and build-up of faith in our cases, we had to switch sides! LAWR culminated in a final oral moot and I had the privilege of doing it in an actual courtroom.

LAWR was the one course that gave us freshmen a taste of things to come and whetted our appetites for the rest of the courses on the menu of our legal education.

In my second year, Public Law opened my mind to Singapore's political process and the way our government operates. Public Law was especially exciting for me because of the 2006 General Elections which I was able to appreciate at a much more sophisticated level. For the first time in my life, I was passionate and idealistic about national affairs. I was able to see things from a different perspective and began to question issues that I had never contemplated before.

NUS Law School has a wealth of student activities ranging from debating, mooting, advocacy and paper writing competitions to movie and theatre outings, artistic performances, concerts, sports and games. These activities are mostly organised by law students in the Law Club Management Committee and its various Sub-Clubs. Some of these activities such as Freshmen Orientation, Law Ball, Christmas Charity and the LawIV Musical are steeped in Law School tradition. There is also a constant stream of fresh initiatives such as the Faculty of Law Soccer League, the NUS Pro Bono Group and the Law Fraternity Concert.

Each year, many law students participate in prestigious international mooting competitions and have consistently

Being able to interact with students from all over the world was something I greatly enjoyed and benefited from while on exchange. On one occasion, a Swedish friend was astounded to learn that we have awards and prizes in NUS Law School for the top students because her university only had the Best Friend award!

Spending a year in Denmark also presented me with the fantastic opportunity to travel widely across Europe. From the icy wilderness of the Arctic Circle in Sweden to the chaos of Marrakech, Morocco; from identical train stations in Russia to grand boulevards in Paris; from paella in Barcelona to mussels in Brussels.

In the third and fourth years, students have the freedom to choose from approximately sixty different courses taught by world-renowned professors. My classmates in these elective courses hail from all over the world and have come here on student exchange or to pursue a Masters or Ph.D. in Law. NUS Law School's dynamic mix of students and professors is testament to its tagline – Asia's Global Law School.

More than anything else, NUS Law School means so much to me because of the relationships that I have forged and nurtured during my time here. Having a relatively small annual cohort, the Law School is much like a big family to

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*- Samuel Lim*



done well. In my second year, I participated in the NUS Advocacy Cup and subsequently was able to represent NUS Law School at the Australian Law Students' Association Witness Examination Competition at which I had a brilliant experience sparring with some of the best Australian law students.

Approximately 33% of third-year law students go overseas on the Student Exchange Programme and most are able to spend a full academic year overseas as compared to the usual single semester places offered to undergraduates in other faculties and universities. I was very fortunate to have spent a full year in Copenhagen, Denmark.

which every member feels a strong sense of belonging and loyalty. The camaraderie amongst law students, staff and alumni makes NUS Law School much more than just a place of learning.

I cannot ask for a better university education than what I am receiving. NUS Law School is where I have learnt to be a competent lawyer, become a better person and made life-long friendships. Just like Bryan Adams' "Summer of '69", I will forever cherish my time in NUS Law School for these are the best days of my life.

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