

## My Exchange Semester in Singapore – Studying at NTU

My name is Samuel, and I am studying Mechatronics & Automation at the Eastern Switzerland University of Applied Sciences (OST). I spent my exchange semester at Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in Singapore from 6 August to 12 December 2025. At NTU I was affiliated with the School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and wrote a project thesis in underwater robotics. I worked on a data-based simulation of a digital twin of an institute-developed underwater robot, collaborating with doctoral students and using university labs for experiments. In parallel, I took an online course where we analysed real mechanical failures and discussed solutions in small project groups.



Figure 1: Downtown Singapore



Figure 2: The Hive at NTU

Compared to my projects at OST, which are typically hands-on and closely linked to industry, the NTU project was more research-driven and focused on fundamental questions in underwater robotics. The structure of the online class, however, was quite similar to Switzerland.

Culturally, Singapore's diversity, strict but transparent rules, low crime rate and meritocratic focus shaped my everyday life on and off campus.

The semester abroad broadened my horizons academically and personally. I gained insight into a top Asian university, experienced life in a dense global city and travelled to several neighbouring countries. I would strongly recommend an exchange at NTU to students who seek an entry point into Asia while retaining familiar standards

of infrastructure and safety. I am very grateful to OST, NTU and the supporting foundation FTAL for making this enriching experience possible.