

FAQS ON GENERAL ACADEMIC MATTERS - For 2014/15 COHORT AND EARLIER ONLY

1) How can I differentiate the various University Level Requirements modules?

The below information is applicable to 2014/15 cohort and earlier only.

A) GEMs (General Education Modules)

There are 2 subject groups within which GEMs are placed, namely

- (i) Subject Group A: Science and Technology
- (ii) Subject Group B: Humanities and Social Sciences.

Students from the School of Design and Environment will read 4 MCs of GEMs from Subject Group A and the other 4 MCs of GEMs from Subject Group B.

Students can tell the whether a GEM is from Group A or B by just looking at the module code. Group A GEMs have '5' as the second digit, while Group B modules have a '0'. So a GEM with a code of GEK1509 is from Group A, while GEK1009 is from Group B.

If a GEM has '9' as its 2nd digit, then it is one that is cross-listed as both Group A and Group B. For such modules, students can choose to consider it as either a Group A or Group B GEM.

You are free to choose to take any GEM modules even if they are offered within your home Faculty as long as they are:

- not cross-listed with any module from your major / minor areas (see Point 3 under FAQs for BA(Arch) Curriculum)
- has no preclusions and
- has no pre-requisites, or if they do and you meet them

For more information on GEM, please refer to <http://www.nus.edu.sg/gem/>

B) Singapore Studies (SS) Modules

Please refer to <http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/edu/UG/curriculum.html#SSD> for list of SS modules offered.

C) Breadths

"Breadth" is a requirement that provides students the freedom to read modules outside of their chosen area of specialization/major. As such, these are modules taken outside the student's Faculty. Hence Architecture students cannot count modules offered within the School of Design and Environment towards their breadth requirement.

2) What modules would count as Unrestricted Electives (UEs)

UEs are modules which the students can take within or outside their faculty/ school.

3) Can I declare SU for GEMs, SS, Breadths and UEs?

For students admitted prior to AY2014/15:

Yes, students are allowed to declare SU for GEM, SS, and Breadths. Students may also declare SU for UEs which are not used to fulfil their major/programme/ minor requirements.

With effect from Semester 2, AY2013/2014, all modules within the Major and Second Major are to be read on a graded basis, even if these are read in excess of the Major/Second Major requirements. Students would not be allowed to exercise the S/U option for all these modules. In addition, students who are admitted into Second Majors with effect from Semester 2, AY2013/2014 will have those modules within the Second Major which were previously declared as S/U auto-revoked to the original grades, regardless of when those modules were completed

For students admitted IN AY2014/15:

please refer to point 5 below on **“Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) option”**

4) Can I convert modules from one module type to another?

The below information is applicable to 2014/15 cohort and earlier only.

The following conversions are allowed:

- GEM (outside faculty) to BREADTH
- GEM to UE
- BREADTH to UE
- UE to BREADTH (condition: UE must be outside faculty)
- SS (outside faculty) to BREADTH / UE
- SS (within faculty) to UE

The following are not allowed:

- UE (within faculty) to BREADTH
- SS / BREADTH / UE to GEM*
- GEM / BREADTH / UE to SS*

*Exception:

Although modules may be cross-listed (e.g. GEK2003/SS2209PS), students bid under one module code only. Conversion to the cross-listed code will not normally be considered. If conversion is the only way for students to meet graduation requirements, such a conversion can only be considered after File for Graduation (FFG) and not earlier. If conversion is approved, a conversion fee of 30 bidding points will be levied from the relevant account.

5) Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) option

For students admitted prior to AY2014/15:

For modules graded on an S/U basis, students will receive credit towards the degree only if they attain a 'Satisfactory' (S) grade. A 'S' grade is assigned if a student receives a 'C' grade or above for the module. Conversely, students will receive a 'U' if the grade obtained is lower than a 'C' grade. The S/U option, once exercised, will be irrevocable for the module.

The S/U declaration exercise will be conducted upon the release of examination results and will end by the stipulated deadline, which will be announced each semester. Students will exercise their S/U option during this period for any module that permits the S/U option. Thereafter, the student's decision will be considered final.

Up to 12 MCs may be taken on an S/U basis during a student's candidature, subject to the maximum number of MCs that may be excluded from the computation of CAP.

The S/U option is not applicable to modules taken to meet Faculty, Major or University Scholars Programme (USP) requirements, unless specifically stated otherwise by the Faculty. Credits earned from modules taken on an S/U basis may also not be used to count towards the residency requirement

For more details on SU and limit on the Modular Credits (MCs) that can be excluded from CAP computation, please visit the S/U option home page in the Student Portal by clicking [here](#).

For students admitted IN AY2014/15:

The Grade-free First Semester scheme, in the form of Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory (S/U) option, aims to provide a supportive and enabling environment for NUS undergraduates to make a successful transition into the academic and social culture of university life. It serves to facilitate a transformation in students' mindsets towards grades and learning in the university setting, as well as enable students to leverage opportunities for a holistic education. The Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) option is also intended to encourage students to pursue their intellectual interests, without undue concern that exploring a new subject area may adversely affect their CAP.

Under the S/U mechanism, letter grades are assigned to modules. Students may choose to retain the letter grade and have it factored into the computation of their Cumulative Average Point (CAP), or choose to exercise the S/U option on a module, in which case the letter grade will not be shown on the transcript nor computed towards the CAP.

A 'S' grade is assigned if a student receives a 'C' grade or above for the module. Conversely, students will receive a 'U' if the grade obtained is lower than a 'C' grade. Students will receive credits towards the degree only if they attain a 'Satisfactory' (S) grade.

Up to 32 MCs may be taken on an S/U basis, which may be exercised as follows:

during the student's first semester, for up to 20 MCs; and
any time during a student's candidature, for up to 12 MCs.

Once an 'S' or 'U' grade is assigned to a module, it will count towards the 32-MC limit that can be taken on an S/U basis.

For more details on SU and limit on the Modular Credits (MCs) that can be excluded from CAP computation, please visit the S/U option home page in the Student Portal < <https://myportal.nus.edu.sg/studentportal/academics/ug/su-homepage.html> >

6) Undergraduate Continuation and Graduation Requirements

Please refer to <http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/edu/UG/graduation.html> for important information on the following:

- CAP for Continuation and Graduation
- Degree Classification
- Residency Requirement and Maximum Candidature
- Minimum MC Requirements for Programme/Major and Minor
- Advanced Placement Credits and Exemptions

7) Minimum Workload

In addition, with effect from AY2015/16, all new and returning students* are required to read at least 18 MCs every semester throughout their candidature, except during the following semesters when they are allowed to read fewer MCs:

- the final semester before completion of all graduation requirements for the degree; and
- the semester in which the students are undergoing industrial attachment or doing their final year projects.

Please refer to <https://share.nus.edu.sg/registrar/student/info/FAQ-Minimum-Workload.pdf> for more details.