FAQS ON GENERAL ACADEMIC MATTERS

– 2015/16 COHORT ONWARDS

1) What are the General Education Requirements for BA (Architecture) students?

Students will be required to read one General Education Module (GEM) from each of the five pillars (total: 20 Modular Credits/MCs) to satisfy the University Level Requirements for General Education. The five pillars are:

1. Human Cultures
2. Asking Questions[#]
3. Quantitative Reasoning
4. Singapore Studies
5. Thinking and Expression

BA(Architecture) students will read GER1000 Quantitative Reasoning in their first semester of study in fulfilment of the Quantitative Reasoning pillar requirement.

In view of the curriculum constraints, BA (Architecture) students are granted the flexibility to complete the five GEMS beyond the first two years of study.

Please refer to GEM website http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/general-education/what-is-general-education.html for more detailed information.

[#]*Implementation of the "Asking Questions" Pillar*

As the "Asking Questions" pillar is not ready to be launched in AY2015/16, students admitted in that academic year (except those from the Ridge View Residential College (RVRC)) will be required to read one module each from the four pillars plus an additional module from either the Human Cultures, Singapore Studies or Thinking and Expression pillar to fulfil the GE requirements.

Students admitted in AY2015/16 and who are residents of RVRC are allowed to read *GEM1917 Understanding and Critiquing Sustainability* as fulfilment of the "Asking Questions" pillar.

The "Asking Questions" pillar will be launched with effect from Semester 2, AY2016/17. Students admitted in AY2016/17 and beyond (except those from RVRC) will be required to read a module from the "Asking Questions" pillar to fulfil the GE requirements. The module that RVRC residents (admitted from AY2016/17 onwards) will read in fulfilment of the "Asking Questions" pillar is under review and will be made known in due course.

2) Are students who are enrolled in the University Scholars Programme (USP) or University Town College Programme (UTCP) required to read the General Education Modules?

Students admitted in AY2015/16 and who are enrolled in the University Scholars Programme (USP) or University Town College Programme (UTCP) are not required to read the General Education Modules from the above five pillars as they will fulfil their University Level Requirements as part of their USP or UTCP respectively.

However, from the AY2016/17 student cohort onwards, students who are enrolled in the USP or UTCP are required to read a module (GER1000 Quantitative Reasoning) from the Quantitative

Reasoning pillar in partial fulfilment of the University Level Requirements for General Education. Architecture students will take GER1000 in their second semester of study.

3) Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) option

The Grade-free 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.

At the end of a semester, letter grades for modules will be released to students. Under the S/U mechanism, 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.

An ‘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.

<u>For students admitted from AY2014/2015 and AY2015/2016</u>:

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>

<u>For students admitted from AY2016/2017 onwards:</u>

In general, students may exercise the S/U option for up to 32 MCs in the first two regular semesters; if this is not fully utilised, the S/U option may still be exercised in subsequent semesters, for up to 12 MCs.

Variations on the limit of S/U options that can be exercised may apply for specific groups of students, such as the following:

i. Students without prior university experience but are granted 20 or more Advanced Placement Credits (APCs) at the point of admission to NUS may exercise the S/U option for up to 20 MCs in the first two regular semesters; if this is not fully utilised, the S/U option may still be exercised in subsequent semesters, for up to 12 MCs.

ii. Students with some prior university experience (which are being recognised towards the NUS degree) may exercise the S/U option for up to 12 MCs anytime during their candidature, including the first two regular semesters.
iii. Students with a prior university degree are not eligible for the grade-free scheme.

The S/U option will apply to all Level 1000 modules (with or without pre-requisites) and Level 2000 modules without other NUS modules as pre-requisites, unless otherwise stipulated by the Faculties/Departments.

In addition, students may only read up to a maximum of 23 MCs during the first semester and 27 MCs for students on specific special programmes like double degree programmes, concurrent degree programmes, University Scholars Programme, Faculty of Engineering's Global Engineering and Design-Centric Programmes, and Faculty of Science's Special Programme in Science.

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.

For more details on S/U, please visit the S/U option home page in the Student Portal < https://myportal.nus.edu.sg/studentportal/academics/ug/su-homepage.html>

4) 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

5) 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.