Two local NUS students speak to KELVIN SAM about what it's like to experience an exchange programme - not overseas — but with another Singapore university

Expecting a local exchange to require less adaptation, Angela was surprised to discover that there was plenty to get accustomed to.

For starters, Angela found herself studying a varied selection of subjects ranging from a life sciences course to a course about poverty.

"It was pretty surreal sometimes because I traveled. a varied selection of subjects ranging from a life sciences course to a course about poverty."

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within this environment, undergraduates attending seminars often have to speak up. According to Chuin Song, such an interactive style of education works only with certain courses.

"When an emphasis is placed on class participation, you may get students speaking up for the sake of getting marks. This may result in a lot of white noise which you have to filter out. With a lecture-style lesson, theoretical concepts can be transmitted very quickly sometimes," said Chuin Song.

A different world

When asked about her favourite local exchange experience, Angela chose her weekly life sciences lessons because the instructor of the course, Patrick Loh, was especially inspirational.

"Apart from providing his experience in the life sciences industry, Dr Loh would actually provide simple, practical and optimistic advice about life in general.

"He would even remind us to have healthy habits such as sleeping early and waking up early to complete our projects," said Angela, grinning.

While life lessons were the highlight of Angela's experience, Chuin Song enjoyed her nationalism classes because of her well-informed peers and the small size of her class.

As the interview wound to an end, Angela aptly concluded with a closing remark: "I think Chuin Song and I really appreciated the chance to experience courses in an extremely different environment and the opportunity to meet new friends."