



## Study Abroad Program Information Package

### Fall and Spring Semesters

#### Important Dates (subject to change):

- February 5  
*BU Law application deadline*
- Mid-March  
*Selections made*
- Mid-April  
*NUS application deadline for Asian Legal Studies Program*
- Late July (\*exact date TBD)  
*NUS fall registration*
- First week of August  
*NUS fall orientation*
- August 10 – December 4  
*NUS fall semester*
- Late November – December  
*NUS fall semester exam period*
- Early January – Early May  
*NUS spring semester dates*
- Late April – Early May  
*NUS spring semester exam period*

To receive 26 BU Law academic credits, participating students must take a minimum of 10 courses for 40 NUS credits as required by NUS's LL.M. Asian Legal Studies program. This coursework shall grant them 24 BU Law credits. They must also complete a 2-credit independent paper under the supervision of a BU Law faculty member.

Prior to their departures, all students must have completed BU Law's professional responsibility and practical skills requirements. Students must also have completed – or have a specific, approved plan to complete – the upper-class writing requirement.

In order to satisfy the NUS LL.M. degree requirements, participating students must earn at least 24 credits (at least six subjects) from a list of specialized Asian law courses as determined by NUS. This includes a compulsory overview course on Asian Legal Systems (Comparative Legal Asian Traditions).

The awarding of the NUS LL.M. in Asian Legal Studies degree is at the discretion of NUS based on the student's satisfactory completion of NUS's LL.M. degree requirements.

None of the grades for the NUS LL.M. program will count toward your BU Law GPA or towards academic honors and awards (such as the scholarly awards, graduation prizes or degree rankings, such as *cum laude*, *magna cum laude* and *summa cum*

We are pleased you are interested in Boston University School of Law's overseas exchange program with the National University of Singapore (NUS). This package gives a general description of the program as well as details about some of its more important aspects. Carefully review this information before deciding whether to apply.

## Some Preliminary – and Important – Points

At the outset, we would like to stress several aspects of the program which may be relevant to your decision to apply.

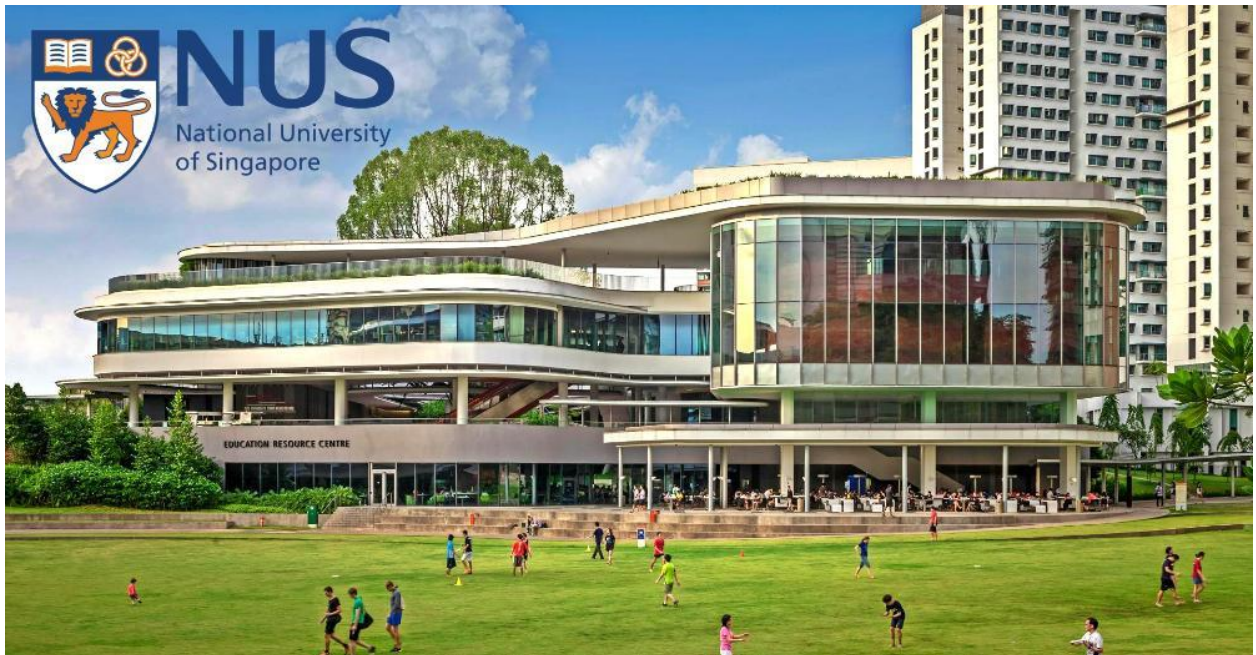
- **Timing:** This is a one-semester program that will be offered during the fall and spring semesters.
- **Credits:** The program is designed to grant participating students 12 semester credits toward their J.D. degree.
- **Academic Focus:** The program focuses on international and comparative law topics related to Asia and the Pacific Rim.
- **Eligible Students:** The program is open to second- and third-year students only who have spent at least one full-year at BU Law. First-year students cannot participate.
- **Language:** All courses at the National University of Singapore are taught in English.
- **Number of Participants:** Four students at most can participate.

## Why Study Law at the National University of Singapore?

- **The National University of Singapore**

NUS is one of the world's most prestigious universities. Founded in 1905, NUS is a multi-campus, comprehensive university of global standing. It is comprised of 14 schools, plus 13 national-level, 12 university-level and 80 faculty-based research institutes and centers. It also has five overseas colleges, including one in Silicon Valley, CA, and one in "bio valley," outside Philadelphia, PA. NUS has an enrollment of 23,500 undergraduate (including 6200 foreign nationals) and over 5,600 graduate students from 88 countries. It has roughly 2100 full-time faculty members. Its U.S. research and degree partners include Johns Hopkins (biomedical science), MIT (engineering and life sciences), the John F. Kennedy School of Government (Masters in Public Management), the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (chemical engineering), UCLA (Executive MBA) and Duke (Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School in Singapore).

The National University of Singapore Law School's Web site is <http://law.nus.edu.sg/>



- The Law Faculty

The Faculty of Law at NUS is commonly recognized as one of the leading law schools in Asia and one of the world's leading "global" law schools. The law school's high standing in international legal education is underscored by NYU Law School's selection of NUS as its sole strategic global partner in an innovative dual degree LL.M. program focusing on the global economy, called NYU@NUS.<sup>1</sup> While NUS law school has over 35 worldwide exchange partners throughout Asia, Australia, New Zealand and Europe, it only has six other U.S. partners to date (though this is likely to expand): Georgetown, Duke, NYU, Illinois (Urbana), Santa Clara and Washington University in St. Louis.

Founded in 1956, the Faculty of Law offers a four-year undergraduate LL.B. degree and a three-year LL.B. degree for students who have a non-law first degree. It also offers post-graduate programs leading to LL.M. and Ph.D. degrees. In addition to the LL.M. in Asian Legal Studies, the school offers specialized LL.M. degrees in Corporate & Financial Services Law, Intellectual Property and Technology Law, Maritime Law and International & Comparative Law. The Faculty of Law has more than 50 full-time professors and 800+ undergraduate and 150+ post-graduate students from over 25 countries. Roughly 10 percent of undergraduate and more than 50 percent of graduate students are international. The law school also welcomes over 70 visiting foreign exchange students each year.

The Law Faculty describes its mission and teaching philosophy as distinctly global. The school believes that "with the increasing demands placed on legal practice by globalisation, it is essential for legal professionals to approach the study of law from a broader, multi-jurisdictional perspective."<sup>2</sup> According to the school's web site, "virtually all faculty incorporate global

<sup>1</sup> According to NYU's web site, "Students enrolling in NYU@NUS will spend 10 months (with an option of extending this for another two) in Singapore during which they will work toward an LL.M. in Law and the Global Economy from NYU, in all respects substantively and procedurally equivalent to the LL.M. degree awarded in New York City. Concurrently, and through an integrated curriculum, students also will be studying toward their NUS LL.M. degree. They will thus graduate with two distinct LL.M. degrees." The program launched in May 2007. (<http://www.law.nyu.edu/llmjsd/llmsingapore/index.htm>).

<sup>2</sup> Visit <http://law.nus.edu.sg/>.

perspectives from civil law or other common law jurisdictions in their teaching.”<sup>3</sup> In addition to its regular teaching staff, the school hosts around a dozen visiting faculty each semester, bringing further global perspectives to the classroom. The preponderance of NUS professors have received at least one or more advanced law degrees from the U.K. (often from Oxford, Cambridge or the University of London) or the U.S. (often from Harvard), on top of their Asian degrees. The faculty’s scholarship is prodigious.<sup>4</sup> More information, including publication lists, is available at <http://law.nus.edu.sg/>.

- Singapore – Island, City and State

Singapore is made up of not just one island but a main island with 63 surrounding islets. The main island has a total land area of 682 square km. However, its compact size belies its economic growth. In just 150 years, Singapore has grown into a thriving centre of commerce and industry. Singapore is the busiest port in the world with over 600 shipping lines sending super tankers, container ships and passenger liners to share the busy waters with coastal fishing vessels and wooden lighters.

One of the world's major oil refining and distribution centers, Singapore is a major supplier of electronic components and a leader in shipbuilding and repairing. It has also become one of the most important financial centers of Asia, with more than 130 banks. Singapore is an incredibly clean city where nothing is allowed to dull the shine – even down to the banning of chewing gum. Its strategic location, excellent facilities, fascinating cultural contrasts and tourist attractions contribute to its success as a leading destination.<sup>5</sup>



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Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> NUS’s web site states that “In recent years the journals faculty have published in include the *Australian Law Journal*, *Butterworths Journal of International Banking and Financial Law*, *Cambridge Law Journal*, *Canadian Foreign Policy*, *Columbia Journal of Law and the Arts*, *Connecticut Journal of International Law*, *Harvard International Law Journal*, *Human Rights Quarterly*, *International and Comparative Law Quarterly*, *International Constitutional Law Journal*, *International Journal of Evidence and Proof*, *International Maritime and Commercial Law Yearbook*, *Journal of Business Law*, *Journal of Contract Law*, *Journal of Corporate Law Studies*, *Journal of World Investment*, *Law Quarterly Review*, *Lloyd’s Maritime and Commercial Law Quarterly*, *Legal Studies*, *Modern Law Review*, *Oxford University Commonwealth Law Journal*, *Regent University Law Review*, *Restitution Law Review*, *Singapore Academy of Law Journal*, *Singapore Journal of International and Comparative Law*, *Singapore Journal of Legal Studies*, *South African Law Journal*, *The Law Teacher*, *Torts Law Journal*, *Tort Law Review*, and *UCLA Pacific Basin Law Journal*.” (<http://law.nus.edu.sg/>)

<sup>5</sup> Most of this information was copied from the Singapore Tourist Board Web site: <http://www.visitsingapore.com>.

## The NUS Exchange Program

- What the Program is – and isn't

This program is designed to offer an incredibly serious study of Asian law in an international setting. This is definitely not the same thing as a college semester abroad. As this is a fairly new exchange agreement, it is of the utmost important that any student selected to participate in this program represent BU Law well. This program is academically rigorous; thus, only 2L students with a record of academic achievement will be considered.

- Number of Students

As noted above, we will be selecting up to two BU Law students to attend the National University of Singapore for the full academic year.

- Program Dates – *(Please note, these dates are tentative and subject to change.)*

Fall Registration:	Late July
Fall Orientation:	Early August
Fall Semester:	Early August
Fall Exam Period:	Late November- Early December
Spring Registration:	Early January
Spring Semester:	Early January – Early May
Spring Exam Period:	Late April - Early May

You will be expected to arrive in Singapore in time to attend the orientation program for the fall semester and the first week of January for spring semester.

- Course Offerings and Selections

The NUS LL.M. (Asian Legal Studies) degree requires a total of 40 credits of subjects (generally earned through 10 courses), at least 24 credits of which must be in the Asian law specialization. Students must thus take at least 6 subjects (24 credits) from a list of specialized subjects, including a compulsory overview course on Asian Legal Systems (Comparative Legal Asian Traditions). Specialized Asian Legal Studies courses offered in past years included:

- ASEAN Economic Community Law and Policy
- China, India and International Law
- Chinese Commercial Law
- Chinese Contract Law
- Chinese Corporate and Securities Law
- Chinese Legal Tradition & Legal Chinese
- Comparative Constitutional Law
- Human Rights in Asia
- Indian Business Law
- Indonesian Law
- International & Comparative Law of Sale in Asia
- International Law and Asia
- Islamic Law
- Law, Economics, Development, and Geography
- Law, Governance & Development in Asia
- Law, Institutions, and Business in Greater China
- Ocean Law & Policy in Asia

- The Contemporary Indian Legal System

BU Law students will be expected to take a minimum of 10 courses for 40 NUS credits, at the National University of Singapore in order to earn 24 credits towards their BU Law degree.

Detailed course descriptions for the courses listed above can be found at [http://law.nus.edu.sg/student\\_matters/course\\_listing/courses\\_disp2.asp?MT=LL5&Sem=ALL&MGC=2](http://law.nus.edu.sg/student_matters/course_listing/courses_disp2.asp?MT=LL5&Sem=ALL&MGC=2).

We expect that the course offerings this year will be very similar to those offered in past years.

- Exams and Grades

Exams at NUS take place at the end of the course and are written exams, typically three hours in length. Students may also write papers during the semester for each course, which are calculated into their final grades.

NUS uses a letter grading system: A, B, C, D and F. Grades are typically based on a combination of final exam, research papers, assignments, class participation and other factors, depending on the course requirements.

- International Student Support at NUS

In addition to the support team in the exchange program office of the Faculty of Law, the Office of Student Affairs at NUS offers support to incoming international students. To learn more about the services offered by this office, please visit <http://nus.edu.sg/osa/iss>.

## How to Apply

If you decide to apply, you must do two things:

1. Complete an application available online at [www.bu.edu/law/jd/studyabroad](http://www.bu.edu/law/jd/studyabroad), and submit all additional materials.
2. Complete an interview with Assistant Dean John Riccardi and Associate Director Maureen Tracy Leo, scheduled through the Graduate and International Programs Office.

In screening applicants, we will look for such things as a strong academic record, a favorable faculty recommendation, serious interest in international and comparative law, and experience with different cultures and overseas travel.

The application deadline is February 5.

## National University of Singapore LL.M. Application

Participating students must complete the NUS LL.M. application no later than March 31. The Graduate and International Programs Office will facilitate the application process for selected students.

## Student Advising

All students would be required to meet with CDO to receive counseling about how spending an entire third year abroad would impact their job searches and otherwise fit in with their career plans. Assistant Dean Riccardi will counsel all interested students about taking foundational "American law" courses during their second years.

## Student Evaluation and Grades

Your exams will be graded in the first instance by the NUS faculty in accordance with the NUS grading system. NUS grades its students in the International Program on a scale of A-F, similar to that in the U.S. However, because grading standards between BU Law and NUS may differ, a direct translation to BU Law's letter grading system is extremely difficult. Therefore, participating BU Law students will, upon successfully completing a course, receive a designation of "credit" for the course on their transcripts. This designation will include an asterisk or footnote indicating that the actual grade is available upon request, and that it will be accompanied by an explanation of the host institution's different grading system.

ACCEPTANCE OF ANY CREDIT OR GRADE FOR ANY COURSE TAKEN IN THE PROGRAM IS SUBJECT TO DETERMINATION BY BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW. We expect, however, that all credits earned at NUS will count towards Boston University School of Law credits.

One final point about grading. None of the grades for the NUS semester will count toward your BU Law GPA or towards School of Law honors and awards (such as the scholarly awards, graduation prizes or degree rankings, such as *cum laude*, *magna cum laude* and *summa cum laude*).

## National University of Singapore Program Director and Staff

The Program Director is Professor Joel Lee, Vice Dean of International Programmes. Joel Lee is an honors graduate of the Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. He spent 2 years in New Zealand legal practice before returning to Singapore to teach at the NUS Faculty of Law. He went on to obtain his Masters of Law at Harvard Law School. At Harvard, Joel focused his research and studies on Alternative Dispute Resolution, Negotiation and Mediation. He now runs the Negotiation and Mediation workshops at the Faculty of Law. He has taught these subjects and Postgraduate Practice Law Course run by the Board of Legal Education and has also been on the Faculty for the Masters of Public Policy Executive Programme "Effective Negotiation in an Era of Rapid Change," run in conjunction with NUS, Conflict Management Group and the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, since 1999. Vice Dean Lee's full profile is available at [http://law.nus.edu.sg/about\\_us/faculty/staff/profileview.asp?UserID=lawleej](http://law.nus.edu.sg/about_us/faculty/staff/profileview.asp?UserID=lawleej).

Joel Lee's can be reached via email at [lawleej@nus.edu](mailto:lawleej@nus.edu).

Professor Lee is supported by Ms. Grace Lam, Assistant Dean and Ms. Rahima Hussain, Management Assistant Officer. Ms. Lam is the main contact for exchange student enrolled in the LL.M. in Asian Legal Studies Program and handles all of the orientation and student affairs-related issues. Her contact information is:

Ms Grace Lam  
Assistant Dean

Faculty of Law  
c/o International Programmes  
National University of Singapore  
469G Bukit Timah Road  
Eu Tong Sen Building  
Singapore 259776

Email: [lawllcg@nus.edu.sg](mailto:lawllcg@nus.edu.sg)  
Telephone: (65) 6516 6631

Facsimile: (65) 6779 0979

URL: [http://law.nus.edu.sg/student\\_matters/student\\_ex.html](http://law.nus.edu.sg/student_matters/student_ex.html)

In addition, the National University of Singapore has an International Relations Office, which offers assistance to all international students at NUS. The contact information for this office is:

National University of Singapore  
3rd Storey, Unit 03-03,  
Shaw Foundation Alumni House,  
11 Kent Ridge Drive,  
Singapore 119244  
Phone: (65) 6516 4356 Fax: (65) 6778 0177  
Web: <http://www.nus.edu.sg/iro>

The Student Services Advisor for incoming students at the International Relations Office is Ms. Teng Teng Lim, who can be reached via email at [iroltt@nus.edu.sg](mailto:iroltt@nus.edu.sg).

## Academic and Library Facilities

The C J Koh Law Library is one of the constituent libraries within the NUS Library system. The original NUS Law Library was established in September 1957, catering primarily to the Faculty of Law which was then at Bukit Timah Campus. In April 1980, the Library moved to Kent Ridge, occupying two floors of the new Faculty of Law building. It was renamed the C J Koh Law Library on 1 January 2001, in appreciation of Mr Koh Choon Joo's generous donations to refurbish the Library's facilities and expand its book collection. On 27 February 2002, the Honorable Chief Justice Yong Pung How presided over the official opening under its new name. Following the Government's announcement to reallocate Bukit Timah Campus to NUS on 28 May 2005, the Library and Faculty of Law made their historic return to their first home in August 2006.

The C J Koh Law Library collection development policy emphasizes the acquisition of the complete primary resources of Singapore and Malaysia. The legal resources of the United Kingdom, United States of America, India, Canada, Australia and New Zealand are also extensively acquired. Over the years, the library has developed collections on public international law, international business transactions as well as the laws of the European Community, the ASEAN nations and the People's Republic of China. As at 1 July 2006, the unique title collection of the library numbered 51,245 books, 3,874 periodicals and 59 e-resources. The Law Library's major online databases include Lexis.Com and HeinOnline.<sup>6</sup>

## Provisions for Students with Disabilities

The National University of Singapore Law School facilities are accessible to individuals with disabilities. If you are interested in the program and will need some special assistance due to a disability, please speak with Assistant Dean for Graduate and International Programs, John Riccardi. He will then contact NUS to obtain information about the availability of needed services.

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<sup>6</sup> This information was copied from the NUS web site: <http://www.lib.nus.edu.sg/lib/about.html>

## Student Housing and Living Arrangements

Exchange students are welcome to apply for on-campus housing at NUS. Due to the number of requests they receive, however, BU Law students are not guaranteed to be granted a place in on-campus housing.

The following link provides information on the student residences at NUS:

<http://www.nus.edu.sg/osa/housing/General/options.html>.

On-campus housing is handled by the Office of Student Affairs (OSA). You may wish to contact OSA directly on your housing matters:

Tel: (65) 6516 1384 (General Line)

(65) 6777 0155 - General Fax Line

Link: <http://www.nus.edu.sg/osa/>

Details of matters relating to accommodation can be obtained from the OSA website at

<http://nus.edu.sg/osa/housing/nongraduating/index.html>

Living in one of the six Halls of Residence will be similar to living in an undergraduate dorm. Students will be required to participate in social activities including sporting events and community service. Students living in the Halls of Residence are also required to have a meal plan.

Living in the Prince George's Park Residences will afford students more of an independent lifestyle. Single and double rooms are in a cluster and there are shared kitchens and bathrooms. Taking part in social activities within the Residence is not compulsory and meal plans are not available for those students.<sup>7</sup>

On-campus student housing will cost approximately \$1050 to \$ 2650 for per semester while living off campus can cost as much as \$900-\$1,000/month. Please also be advised that the majority of the rooms on-campus are not equipped with air conditioning. Both the Halls of Residence and the Prince George's Park Residences are within a reasonable commute of the LAW campus facilities.

## Anticipated Tuition, Fees and Living Costs

Because this is a revenue-neutral exchange program, participating BU Law students will pay Boston University the normal tuition at BU Law for both semesters. Eating out, entertainment and transportation are less expensive than in Boston. NUS informs us that students can expect to pay the following:

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| • On Campus Housing:                         | \$240 - \$610/month    |
| • Off Campus Housing:                        | \$900/month            |
| • Meals:                                     | \$350 - \$700/month    |
| • Public Transportation & Personal Expenses: | \$225 - \$300/month    |
| • Books and Supplies:                        | \$175 - \$250/semester |

Participating students living in on-campus dorms should budget at least \$1,650 per month for expenses, while students living off-campus should budget at least \$1,875. Please be advised that

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<sup>7</sup> Much of this information was copied from the NUS web site:  
<http://www.nus.edu.sg/osa/housing/undergraduate/options.html>.

if you plan to travel while abroad, your personal expenses will exceed \$300 per month. In addition, you will need to obtain a multiple entry visa, which costs an additional \$23.

In addition, BU Law students will be asked to pay the following fees during their time at NUS:

- Student Service Fee: \$200
- Health Service Fee: \$92
- Total Fees: \$292

Information on Accommodation and Living Expenses can be found here:

[http://www.law.nus.edu.sg/admissions/accom\\_living\\_exp.html](http://www.law.nus.edu.sg/admissions/accom_living_exp.html)

It is advisable to take up travel insurance to cover things such as lost luggage or trip cancellation. The NUS Group Medical Insurance Scheme does not cover travel to and from Singapore.

If you have queries about the Health Insurance, kindly email to:

[uhc\\_health@nus.edu.sg](mailto:uhc_health@nus.edu.sg)

## Program Cancellation Information

We expect the program to go forward as planned and anticipate no obstacles to implementation. However, the ABA requires that we inform you about our contemplated course of action in case of cancellation or change and in case a State Department Advisory is issued for the program area.

- General Policy

In the highly unlikely event that the entire program has to be canceled, students selected for the program will be informed immediately by telephone and by mail, email, or in person, and notices of cancellation will be posted on the BU Law website. In addition, individual meetings will be arranged with any student who wishes one. If in the even more unlikely event that the Program is canceled after students have arrived in Hamburg, Assistant Dean John Riccardi will contact all participating students by telephone, if possible, or by email.

Should particular courses be canceled or rescheduled, students selected for the program will be informed by email, telephone, or in person.

- State Department Advisories

The most current Consular Information Sheet on is available on the internet at <http://travel.state.gov/>. If an Advisory is issued before you are selected for the program, notice will be posted on the BU Law website and all applicants interviewed for the program will be personally informed via email and phone. If, based upon the information conveyed to you, you wish to cancel your enrollment in the program, you will have an opportunity to do so. If such an advisory is issued after students are selected or during the program term, all participating students will be notified immediately by phone and email and given an opportunity to withdraw.

- Specific Program Cancellation Information

- This study abroad program may be subject to cancellation by the host school in the event that conditions in and around its location may endanger the health, safety or security of its participants or others.
- In addition, addition, Boston University reserves the right to issue an instruction that all University faculty, staff, or students evacuate or not travel to a given location when, in its

sole judgment, conditions have changed to the extent that continued participation in an activity at that location endangers the health, safety or security of participants. Were this to occur, this program will be cancelled.

- BU Law will notify participants by email immediately of the program's cancellation and will post an appropriate announcement on the program's current student web page.
- If the program is cancelled prior to commencement of the term, all students will be refunded in full any fees paid to Boston University related to the program (excluding any advance room, board and travel costs associated with getting to the host country that have been paid). In addition, all students will be integrated into the regular semester at Boston University School of Law.
- If cancellation takes place while the program term is underway, students will be permitted to choose either a refund of fees billed by Boston University, in accordance with the University's refund schedule (this would exclude room, board, and any travel costs associated with getting to the host country prior to the date of cancellation), or completion of the semester's study at BU Law if such is feasible. **WE CANNOT GUARANTEE THE OPTION OF COMPLETING THE SEMESTER AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW (AND THUS NOT LOSING A SEMESTER'S PROGRESS TOWARD THE J.D. DEGREE).** This option is dependent on resources and the availability of course and independent study opportunities at BU Law. In the event that arrangements at the School of Law are not feasible, or the student elects a refund, the student will be refunded fees as above, in accordance with the University's refund schedule.
- If a faculty, staff member or student does not heed a University instruction to evacuate, that individual does so at his or her own risk, may forfeit insurance coverage, academic credit, tuition payments or expense reimbursement, and may be held responsible for additional expenses incurred by the University due to the individual's refusal to follow this policy.

## Visa Information

U.S. citizens do not require a formal visa to study in Singapore, but must obtain a Student's Pass upon arrival in Singapore. The International Students Office will apply for a Student's Pass on student's behalf, once a student's application has been approved. The following link provides details on procedures for applying for a Student Pass:

<http://www.nus.edu.sg/osa/international/svcs/spass.html>.

All international students must hold a valid Student's Pass issued by the Singapore Immigration & Checkpoints Authority for their studies in NUS. All information on obtaining the student's pass will be provided by NUS after admission into the exchange program. Thus, while the Graduate and International Programs Office is happy to help participating students liaise with the International Students Office in Singapore, it is ultimately the responsibility of the student to obtain the Student's Pass.

For more information on immigration-related matters, students may visit the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority website:

<http://www.ica.gov.sg/index.aspx>

## Program Reports

Please note that all BU Law students selected to participate in a study abroad program will be required to submit to the Graduate and International Programs Office, before their departure, a one-page statement

defining their academic goals for the semester. In addition, to receive credit for foreign study, all students will be asked to submit:

1. Completion of a one-page mid-semester written report or survey, assessing their experiences in light of their academic goals and objectives
2. Completion of an end of program survey assessing a student's academic progress and attainment of educational goals.
3. A two-page report at the end of their program, evaluating their experiences.

Students will not receive academic credit until they submit these reports.