

# THE ASIAN UNDERGRADUATE SYMPOSIUM 2024

An NUS-AUN Summer Programme

ORGANISED BY

# OBJECTIVES

1

Enable students to understand and attend to challenges to the future of the ASEAN region and Asia.

2

Empower students with selected competencies to address and overcome the challenges with interdisciplinary solutions.

3

Develop students to become global citizens through meaningful intercultural exchange, networking and capacity building.

# INTEGRATED NUS APPROACH



The Asian Undergraduate Symposium (AUS) is jointly organised by NUS College and the Global Relations Office, with support from the President's Office of the National University of Singapore (NUS). In 2024, AUS will run as the NUS-AUN Summer Programme.

By 2025, an integrated NUS Summer Programme will be offered, which will synergise with other programme offerings within the university, such as the NUS-ASEAN Universities Network (AUN) Summer Programme, NUS Enterprise Summer Programme in Entrepreneurship and Asian Regeneration Symposium.



# ABOUT NUS COLLEGE



NUS College is the first honours college of the National University of Singapore. The College offers a rigorous and stimulating interdisciplinary education designed to help students cultivate the necessary skills to work effectively across boundaries, so that they are able to respond to the challenges of the 21st century. This is achieved with a suite of groundbreaking experiential programmes and an incredibly rich residential life, to give students a holistic education that goes beyond the classroom. There are three guiding principles that the College emulates - beyond grades, beyond self and beyond discipline; NUS College students are eager to learn, willing to be stretched, and excited to make a difference in ways big and small.





The programme is threaded through with intercultural interactions. Social and cultural events are organised at the beginning and end of each main section to help participants bond, ideate and inspire one another.

The programme ends with the call to implement. This is achieved through events such as a masterclass primer on venture creation and a timeline for the project teams to submit their written project proposals. Five selected teams will be awarded a seed grant of S\$5,000 and given three months to implement their project.

### **Theme: Interconnected Communities**

Globalisation has resulted in an interconnected world. The compression of space and time through technology, media, migration, trade, and finance into a smaller world has created many common challenges for communities. Often, the same issue transforms in different contexts and presents varied and novel complexities to be addressed.

Communities face unique but shared challenges, and their members have a mutual understanding of existing opportunities and threats. However, communities tend not realise their strength in connecting with each other to tackle these challenges.

Through the theme of Interconnected Communities, NUS will explore how problems ranging from the inaccessibility of basic needs, like sanitation and food security, to more complex issues like climate change and inequality could be tackled by providing communities networking platforms and interdisciplinary solutions. The three subthemes for AUS 2024 are:

- Climate Change & Sustainability
- Needs & Wants
- Diversity & Inclusion



# PROGRAMME OUTLINE

The programme aims to provide a progressive development of knowledge, competencies and skills over two weeks, enabling participants to implement their proposed solutions in three months. After probing the subthemes in expert panels and seeing practitioners in action on their learning journeys, they network with peers to form cross-national teams to craft proposals for their projects. All project teams will have an academic mentor and trained student councillors to guide them during the period of project ideation and proposal writing.



# WEEK 1

**Plenary Roundtable:** participants are introduced and exposed to the theme and subthemes of AUS 2024 through a roundtable discussion between our expert advisors, who are top NUS scholars in the fields of sustainability science, the social sciences of development and inequality, and humanities and cultural studies.

**Smart City Study Tour, Ministerial Dialogue:** participants receive a close-up experience of Singapore as a smart city to orientate them to issues, challenges and solutions facing future Asian cities. The tour will take them to various sites related to technology, enterprise and community for brief field studies led by expert guides. A ministerial dialogue takes place in the second week to complement the smart city tour, where participants interact with a top policymaker from Singapore's government to discuss the issues, challenges and solutions facing future Asian cities.

**Expert Panel Seminars:** participants join expert panels that dive into the niche subthemes under the umbrella theme of Interconnected Communities. For AUS2024, there are three panels on Climate Change & Sustainability, Needs & Wants, and Diversity & Inclusion. Each expert panel runs will have guest speakers, both local and foreign, who will discuss solutions for problems found in each of the subthemes to help participants expand their outlook and knowledge, helping them jumpstart their project and proposal ideas. This will be followed by an open mic questions & answers discussions.

**Learning Journeys:** participants will visit various organisations and institutions where they will deep dive into the action and have opportunities to interact with practitioners who will share their experience in the field. Through this, participants will gain a better understanding of social entrepreneurship, branding and strategy, how these organisations function sustainably and the challenges the practitioners face.



# WEEK 2

**Project Team Formation:** participants hack ideas and network to form teams. This allows like-minded individuals to get together in teams and work to develop their implementable solution. To ensure a diverse perspective / representation is present, each team must have members from different disciplines and nationalities - and must include participants from ASEAN and non-ASEAN countries.

**Mentor & Project Workshop:** every team is mentored by a NUS College faculty member to facilitate the development of project proposals as well as workshop the relevant skills such as how to ideate, plan and pitch for a project. Mentors will also see through the project to its conclusion if the team's project is selected for implementation.

**Project Showcase:** each team presents the project to all participants and participants get to ask the team questions. Participants vote for the top projects to be presented at the closing dinner attended by speakers, mentors, sponsors and other important guests.

## INTERCULTURAL

**Welcome & Orientation Workshop, Sundown Games, Rest & Recreation, Cultural Night & Closing Dinner:** these events provide ample opportunities for participants to network, socialise and learn more about each other's country and culture. It is hope that these events together with the rest of the programming will help participants build bonds that will be the foundation for an AUS alumni community.

## IMPLEMENT

**Venture Masterclass, AUS Grant Competition:** participants are introduced to venture creation through a masterclass by an expert facilitator from NUS Enterprise. Up to five teams are eligible for grant money to see the project to fruition. Teams are invited to submit their project proposals for the grant competition two weeks after the conclusion of AUS 2024. Selected teams are given three months to implement their project with milestone checks along the way. Mentors see through the project to its conclusion if the team's project is selected.





# STUDENT COUNCILLORS

A 20-member student council comprised of NUSC students from all years of study has been formed to work with the NUSC Special Programmes administrative team and professors to plan and organise AUS 2024. The council will be supplemented by 10 AUS Fellows specially selected from the participants of AUS 2023.

Student Councillors will attend a two-day online training on basic group facilitation and team dynamics.





# STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

NUS is targeting 300 participants with 30 student councillors leading multinational project teams of 10 students each. Two hundred of the 300 participants will be recruited from ASEAN University Network partner universities with the help of GRO. Another 50 participants will be recruited from NUS College's Asian partner universities. The last 50 Singaporean participants will be recruited from NUS.

NUS will open applications to students by end January 2024.



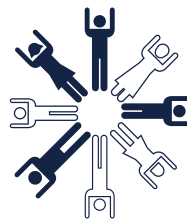
# DATA FROM AUS 2023

At the conclusion of the programme, NUSC invited participants to complete a survey form. These were some of the highlights of the survey results.



## 93%

Of the participants rated an overall satisfaction of between 4-5 for AUS 2023.



## 95%

Participants strongly agreed and agreed that there was diversity among participants.



## 98%

Strongly agreed that the chosen issues engaged with were of value.



# CONTACT



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