

**JOINT NEWS RELEASE**

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**NTU Singapore and Erasmus University Rotterdam expand exchange opportunities to nurture maritime talents**

The success of a study abroad programme by Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore) and the Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR) in nurturing young talents in the maritime industry has led the two partners to extend it for another two years.

The **NTU Singapore-EUR Study Abroad Programme** allows a cohort of between 80 and 120 Singaporean Maritime Studies students to participate in a four-month immersion organised by the Erasmus Centre for Urban, Port and Transport Economics each year.

Launched in 2019, the initiative covers an extensive programme involving teaching by maritime academics from the EUR and guest lectures by industry experts from the Rotterdam Maritime Services Community (RMSC). Visits to the Port of Rotterdam, the largest seaport in Europe, are also part of the programme.

**Professor Ed Brinksma, President of the Executive Board of the Erasmus University Rotterdam**, said, “Development of knowledge and human capital are key for society. In this globalised world, building international networks for knowledge exchange is crucial. Erasmus University Rotterdam has a strong focus on that. The Study Abroad Programme between Erasmus University’s Center for Urban, Port and Transport Economics and Nanyang Technological University, Singapore is part of this network building, and I am glad about the continuation of this important relationship with NTU. We look forward to welcoming the talented Maritime Studies students.”

**Strengthening ties between ports of Rotterdam and Singapore**

The extension of the NTU Singapore-EUR Study Abroad Programme was inked earlier this year, while the exchange of agreements to mark the collaboration was conducted on Tuesday, 2 August - at the sidelines of the **World Cities Summit** hosted in

Singapore during a high-level visit by a Rotterdam delegation to strengthen relations between the major Dutch port city and Singapore.

**Ahmed Aboutaleb, Mayor of Rotterdam**, said, “The recently signed partnership between the Maritime & Port Authority of Singapore and Port of Rotterdam is testimony of a mutual ambition of the port cities of Singapore and Rotterdam to lead the international shipping corridors of the future. Talent development is essential to meet the challenges of tomorrow, in the field of energy transition, digitization and geopolitics. Therefore, it is fantastic that the partnership for the program in Maritime Studies between Nanyang Technological University and Erasmus University’s Centre for Urban Port and Transport Economics has been extended.”

Citing the collaboration as an excellent example of the EUR’s ‘convergence strategy’, Prof Brinksma said, “The Resilient Delta Initiative’s mission is to design resilience solutions in the Rotterdam delta and to implement these solutions around the globe. Tackling today’s global societal challenges requires resilience, especially in the delta regions.”

**Professor Chu Jian, Chair, School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, NTU Singapore**, said, “By tapping into the academic and industry links of the Erasmus University Rotterdam, the overseas study programme exposes our maritime studies students to broader perspectives and provides a platform for them to engage international world-class experts. This can help build global connections to address common challenges in the sector when these students join the workforce in the future.”

**Dr Wouter Jacobs, Academic Director of the Study Abroad programme**, said, “Despite the successful online programs of the past two years, nothing beats ‘physically being there’ to learn, in an international setting, from cultural exchange and real-world observations.”

**Dr Larissa van der Lugt, Director of Erasmus Centre for Urban, Port and Transport Economics**, said, “The maritime expertise we have at the Erasmus University is world-class, interacting with students from NTU Singapore, a world-class university, enriches the maritime research and education we provide across the board.”

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### ***About the Erasmus University Rotterdam***

The academics, students, and alumni of Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR) endeavor to solve complex global societal challenges, drawing inspiration from the thriving modern metropolis Rotterdam. We contribute to our society, not as a knowledge institute at a distance, but as a knowledge centre in the midst of society. If others say it isn't possible, we do it in Rotterdam.

### ***About Nanyang Technological University, Singapore***

A research-intensive public university, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore) has 33,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students in the Engineering, Business, Science, Medicine, Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences, and Graduate colleges.

NTU is also home to world-renowned autonomous institutes – the National Institute of Education, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Earth Observatory of Singapore, and Singapore Centre for Environmental Life Sciences Engineering – and various leading research centres such as the Nanyang Environment & Water Research Institute (NEWRI) and Energy Research Institute @ NTU (ERI@N).

Under the NTU Smart Campus vision, the University harnesses the power of digital technology and tech-enabled solutions to support better learning and living experiences, the discovery of new knowledge, and the sustainability of resources.

Ranked amongst the world's top universities, the University's main campus is also frequently listed among the world's most beautiful. Known for its sustainability, over 95% of its building projects are certified Green Mark Platinum. Apart from its main campus, NTU also has a medical campus in Novena, Singapore's healthcare district.

For more information, visit <https://www.ntu.edu.sg/>