

# Communications and New Media

## A\Y1819

In this issue we cover condusive places you can study for finals.

Places where you can take advantage of your student status and get great discounts!

And also cover a topic

some of us might be interested in: relationship issues! We are interested in what you think, so feel free to write to us your opinions too.



- issue two -

# Communications and New Media

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# Hello,

To whoever reading this, we hope you're not feeling too stress from finals prep just yet, but if you are, then the CNM Society is happy to share with you our second edition of CNM Writes (Hooray!!). So take a break, settle down, and flip through this for awhile.

First ideated and published last year by the CNM Creative team '17, CNM Writes features a collection of short, curated stories, articles, and content on various topics and interests related to the students of the school. While still a fresh development with room for improvement, the CNM Society hopes to be able use this magazine to provide a quirky, enjoyable and useful reprieve from the stress that is university life.

This semester, CNM Writes 2nd Edition is a proud result of the hard work and creative strength of our loveable team of Content Creators! They have done everything from ideating, sourcing of information, going down to places and checking them out for you, writing and filming and many more. We promise a wider and intriguing range of content next semester but for now, enjoy the fruit of our labor and read on....

**With love,  
Karin, Abigail & Russell  
Creative and Publicity Directors of CNM Society 18/19**



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One cannot think well,  
live well, sleep well if one  
has not dined well

**00** **This issue would not have been possible without the contribution of**  
  
Kirstie-Mae Baptist  
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Chea Rui Xuan  
Dou Meilun  
Hun Shi Yu  
Kelsea Koh Ke Xin





# Places To Study + Study Tips

We cover places from school and outside school.

## Central Library NUS

Nearest Bustop: CLB



## The Hangar by NUS enterprise

Nearest Bustop: Biz 2



## Kuok Foundation House Rooftop

Nearest Bustop: YIH



## Study Rooms at YIH

Nearest Bustop: YIH





# Places To Study Outside NUS



## Lowercase

Nearest MRT: Rochor

**Perks:** Provide free wifi, powerpoint, good music, specialty coffee and quality food all day long!

**Opening hours:** Mon - Fri: 9am - 9pm  
Sat: 10am - 9pm  
Sun: 10am - 3pm

## Desk Next Door

Nearest MRT: Ang Mo Kio

**Perks:** Provides wifi, plugs, print, laminating and scanning services, and laptop rental services

**Rates:** \$3 for 2h,  
\$6 for 5h,  
\$10 for 10h

**Opening hours:** 24 hours



## Scape Hubquarters

Nearest MRT: Somerset

**Perks:** Provides wifi, powerpoint and aircon

**Opening hours:** Mon to Sat: 9am - 9pm, closed on Sun



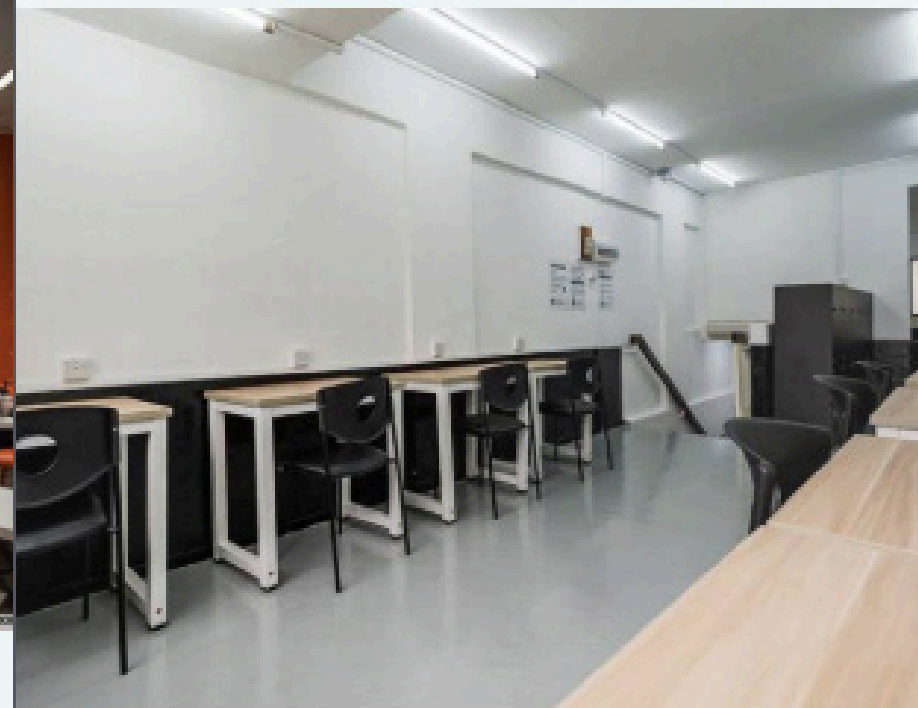
## The Study Area

Nearest MRT: Tai Seng or Kovan

**Perks:** Tai Seng outlet provides complimentary access to the swimming pool and gym & lockers for personal items

**Rates:** \$12 for 12h

**Opening hours:** 24 hours







## *Sengkang cc study room*

Nearest MRT: Sengkang

**Perks:** Aircon with plugs and free wifi, able to eat while studying and provide light snacks too!

**Opening hours:** 24 hours

## *The National Library*

Nearest MRT: Bugis

**Perks:** Largest library in Singapore - many tables for you but chope early to avoid disappointment!

**Opening hours:** Daily 10am-9pm



## *Changi Airport*

Nearest MRT: Changi Airport

**Perks:** Aircon, free wifi, food, many Starbucks outlet and shops open 24 hours!

**Opening hours:** 24 hours



## *The Book Cafe*

Nearest MRT: Chinatown

**Perks:** Sofa area with power outlets, however may need to share seats & it is a remote place

**Opening hours:** 8.30am - 10.30pm (Weekdays),  
8.30am - 12.30am (Weekends)



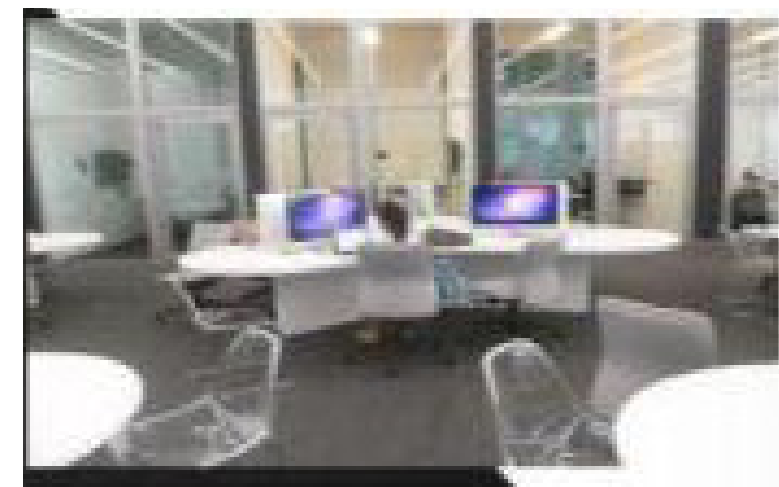


# 24-hour study places in NUS UTOWN



**The Study @ level 2 and the  
Ian and Peony Ferguson  
Study @ level 3**

**Collaborative Commons, Mac  
Commons and PC Commons  
located at the Education Re-  
source Center**



**UTOWN Starbucks and the  
study area outside**



**Learning Cafe @ the  
lower ground of Education  
Resource Center**





A person with long dark hair is seen from behind, sitting on a bed or couch. They are holding a smartphone in their right hand, and the screen is lit up. They are looking out a large window at night. The view outside the window shows a cityscape with many lights, some of which are blurred into bokeh. The overall mood is contemplative and somewhat lonely.

# Courtship Conundrums

*An essay on relationships.*



Are you having difficulties in your love life? (or the lack thereof). Is the daunting task of awkward silences preventing you from finding your one true love? Are you kept awake at night plucking petals, contemplating if he/she loves you or loves you not?

Have no fear! Here is the article to all your problems (or at least three of the most common ones) endorsed by the opinion of a clearly, qualified individual. No doubt humans are complicated creatures, where despite centuries of studying and dissecting, we cannot truly figure each other out. But the answer you need is a simple one. (Spoiler alert: It's communication. Urg, how cheesy.)

Indeed, we loosely throw around the term "communication", making it the golden factor that straps a safety net around all relationships. Somehow miraculously resolving all problems when it comes to dating. However, the real question remains. How does one communicate in the first place?

Well, in this amateur version of a Cosmopolitan advice column, this Communication and New Media student (wowow what a coincidence) will attempt to answer that using three of your most common courtship conundrums.

## Sickening Silences

Awkward silences - teenagers (and maybe some adults) worst fear. The shifting eyes, the fiddling fingers and the desperate refreshing of your homepage, hoping to look preoccupied. Growing up, we've encountered and internalized the terrors of awkward silence and the strange social obligation to keep the chatter going.

As an introvert, I strongly relate to the pains of silences on a first date and even some of my rather extroverted friends have encountered such circumstances. However, with my "extensive" research, I've managed to break down such instances and deduce ways of which we can handle them.

First, before we even attempt to tackle the problem, embrace it! Awkward silences are indeed unpleasant but unfortunately, they are inevitable especially when it comes to meeting new people. Expel the belief that you're meant to "click" with a fated person. Media has constructed the impression in our brains that an 'ideal date' is one that is filled with meaningful conversation and ends off with a kiss goodbye.

If there are silences in your conversation, be the first to address it! A simple statement like "this is awkward. I'm sorry I'm just a little nervous" can help the conversation flow

smoothly. Communicating out loud the difficult situation and predicament you're in often helps to lessen the tension in the room. Just remember, it takes more than one date and a few bazillion moments of awkward silences to settle into a comfortable silence.

Hence, the best we can do is get used to it and do our best to cope with it!

On the bright side, there will always be fall-back topics to engage in. Humans are inherently egotistical creatures so encourage the person to talk about themselves. You don't have to limit yourself to the typical questions like, "what are you majoring in?" or "are you staying on campus?".

Ask fun questions!

*Do they have any pets? Why or why not? What was their dream pet?*

*What was the craziest thing they've done?*

*What were they like in secondary school? Were they a goody-two-shoes or a rebel?*

*What is their philosophy to a happy life?*

We're at the age where some of us may tire at the "small talk", so be creative! Ask questions that boggle the mind and stimulate conversation. Awkward silences as a result of mismatched interests can be avoided but it just needs a little work.

Lastly, consider the circumstances that the awkward silence arose from. I used to think awkward silences were only the result of both parties running out of things to say, but an insightful conversation with a close friend has brought to my attention that sometimes they could be the result of self-consciousness.

Jenny (not her real name) mentioned that she was usually silent on the first few dates because she was often overthinking and deliberating the "right" thing to say to them. Would it come off too creepy? What if it's a deal breaker? Does it seem like too much information?

Well, to be very frank, I have no idea how to avoid this sort of awkwardness. It would often differ from person to person as what you may find inappropriate might be completely normal to your partner. So, the best advice I can offer you is, be as honest as you want with what you're saying and with what's on your mind.

How honest you are with that person and how reciprocating they are to your genuine emotions are a major hallmark for how your relationship with this person might progress. Don't be afraid of saying the "wrong" thing, people are more forgiving than we think. You can always clarify and rephrase your statement, change the conversation topic and simply move on.

Don't just think of awkward silences as a challenge. Instead, use it as a benchmark in your future relationship with this person. The effort of helping to create a smooth conversation is something that needs to be made by both sides, so keep practicing and keep communicating. Eventually, with enough dates and enough time, awkward silences will no longer be seen as a daunting task.



## Verifying the Vibes

*They love me, they love me not.*

A century-long question that still continues to boggle the mind, does this person actually like me?

Being the generation that has advanced so quickly in communication, picking up the signs have become so complicated and difficult. However, rest your troubled hearts as there is a way to identify if the person actually likes you. Ask them.

I know, a brutal and painful solution but admittedly the most effective one. I've received advice from people telling me to look at how frequently they text, how in-depth their conversations are or how frequently they invite you out. But the truth is, you can encounter the exact same scenario with close friends.

The most common fear people have when they try to confess is either rejection, awkwardness or indecisiveness. The bad news is, these are all situations that are (again) inevitable. The good news, on the other hand, is these are all circumstances that can be embraced with a little internal reconstruction.

Rejection is terrifying, psychologically there are studies that show humans are inherently afraid of rejection due to our biological need to belong. And sure, maybe you will shed a few tears and eat an entire tub of Ben and Jerry's wondering why he/she never loved you back, but all these are feelings and emotions that can be recovered from.

However, there may be some of us who may be beyond the fear of rejection. For me personally, rejection has never been a problem, I've asked many people out on dates and been rejected countless times (sadly). Though what does make me absolutely aggravated is being left in the zone of indecisiveness.

They don't give you a direct answer, yet they still continue to be friendly as if nothing happened or worse, they avoid your question altogether.

If this occurs usually there are two simple reasons for this.

One, they don't like you back. The truth is, no response can sometimes just mean no. It's a hard truth to swallow, but it's something that you can get by with time.

Two, they aren't sure of their own feelings. In circumstances like this, the ball is in your court. Consider how much effort and time this person is worth. If you're an impatient person (just like me) you can even give them a few days to consider their response, but ultimately how much time it takes for them to respond is all up to you.

Next, awkwardness. This is felt especially when you both are already close friends and you don't want to risk breaking your friendship with each other. Again, the solution to this problem is circumstantial and dependent on your communication with this person.

If you know that your friend is someone who isn't as open-minded or comfortable with the idea of a relationship, then maybe it's best you don't tell them and let the



crush dissipate. However, if this crush is one that is killing you from the inside, make it clear to them that you are telling them as a means of letting things off your chest.

A good friend would be understanding enough to let you go through these emotions, sure your dynamics would have changed but both parties should reflect on the foundation of your friendship and do your best to support each other.

If this person refuses to continue the friendship with you because of this awkwardness, maybe it's time you question if the person was even a good friend, to begin with.

## Making a Move

A rather split problem I've encountered, on one hand, I have folks confidently yelling, "Just ask lah." On the other, I have quieter, more shy folks who internally combust at the idea of even approaching the person they have taken a liking to. Before we even formulate and come up with a great master plan to ask the person we're interested in, we need to consider the circumstances we are currently given.

First, question where your relationship with this person is. Are you friends? How frequently do you guys "hang" with each other? How frequently do you guys text? If you both are mutual

friends who see each other in a group but don't text a lot how about consider getting to know the person better.

Asking them out on a date makes it clear that you are already interested in dating them, so maybe hang out with them more as a friend and get to know them better before even formally asking them out. If you live in on campus this can come easy, simply seize every opportunity you can to talk and converse with them.

If you need tips on what to talk to them, scroll up and read the portion on Sickening Silences and take some pointers to help you along.

Secondly, after you've established common interests with them start texting them! For example, if your common interest is memes (ew) consider initiating texts by sending them pictures. Or if you're interests lie in movies, invite them out to catch a film at the theatre. This may seem awkward and out of character for the quieter folks but trust me, consider this as a means of making friends instead of just intending to be in a romantic relationship with them.

Texting in our modern day and age is crucial in engaging in a relationship and even maintaining a friendship, if you're a terrible texter then I'm afraid you may end up dying alone.

No, but seriously, learn how to text better and make it a habit. If you want to date in the first place you need to know how to maintain relationships outside of romantic ones. Communication is key and the effort needs to come from both parties in various forms.

Lastly, deciding where the date takes place. Once you've asked the person out (whether over the phone or in person), consider where you want to take them in the first place. If you both are already close friends take them to a place where both of you enjoy.

If not go to the cinema, admittedly the movie theatre is the best way to fill awkward silences. With each date, you both embark on, do consider it ranging from interesting places - the museum, water parks or beaches, to casual places like the park or the library.

Choosing casual places is the most important as these will be the locations you will be the most comfortable in. Whenever I go on a date I always make it a point to do a bit of grocery shopping with the person I'm with (I know what a weirdo) but believe it or not, how well the person reacts to me in my natural zone tells me a lot about the person.

I've had dates where the person would open up, telling me their own family adventures at the supermarket and at the same time I've had people close off. Awkwardly trailing behind me and waiting for me to finish.

So as you make a move, just remember to consider the circumstances you start of with and how you maintain it. And while you plan for grand dates to spend with the person of your deep interest also consider your own comfortability, finding means to enhance your communication with this person is key.

## It's Complicated

Dating is difficult and admittedly this rather general advice only scratches the surface of romantic relationships. However, when it comes to addressing major problems in dating, we cannot deny that communication is key in tackling them. Seek different ways to communicate, whether it be verbally, online or face-to-face.

We are complicated creatures creating connections, and I don't know about you but that is something that is so frightfully fascinating. So, don't be afraid of rejection, awkwardness and the 101 other problems that may come with it.

Now go out there and have fun.



### Advice from Strangers

<b>How do you deal with Awkward Silences on a Date?</b>
<div>1) Play ice breaker games or quizzes (e.g. ricepuritytest.com 😊) (F/19/S)</div> <div>2) Just enjoy the silence, not all silence is awkward. Though sometimes I guess just talk about random things. (M/20/T)</div> <div>3) Talk about cute Instagram animal accounts I follow. Especially fat cats, this is also a test of our compatibility because I could never love a pussy hater. (F/19/S)</div> <div>4) I'll start a conversation, about any mutual interests, pop culture, or anything really. I'll ask questions too, about them or their opinion regarding issues (F/20/T)</div> <div>5) Do something stupid and spontaneous, get drunk or plan an activity before hand that does not require much talking. (M/19/S)</div>
<b>How do you determine if the person is interested in you?</b>
<div>1) How the person behaves around me relative to around other people, friends help me listen out and judge as well. (M/20/T)</div> <div>2) How long the person takes to text back, openness to physical contact. (M/19/S)</div> <div>3) If the person takes initiative or remembers small details like what you like or enjoy. (F/19/T)</div> <div>4) If you introduce to them something you have passion and interested in and they reciprocate by actually watching/reading/researching that activity then talking to you about it. Also, if they share their interests with you as well. (F/19/S)</div> <div>5) I'm quite oblivious LOL you gotta be explicit. but i think physical contact like hugs, hand around shoulder, arm touches? (F/20/T)</div>
<b>How do you ask someone out on a date?</b>
<div>1) On the pretext of getting food, that usually works. (F/19/S)</div> <div>2) If you don't know the person at all, strike up a conversation first. Try to last 10 mins. Then ask, if you can't do that without awkwardness there's no point of a date. If you do, just be chill and to the point. Moves are made in real life, not on text. (M/19/T)</div> <div>3) Movies are my go-to, easy to pair with lunch/dinners. If not, study dates cos the grind doesn't stop. (F/19/S)</div> <div>4) FOOD IS EVERY GIRLS DREAM. Even if they hate my guts they can't and won't resist food. (M/21/T)</div> <div>5) Just whack, wan ask then ask luh at most kenna rejected. (M/19/S)</div>
<b>Other comments?</b>
<div>1) i want a boyfriend please i have two dollars. (F/19/S)</div> <div>2) lol idk I'm in the same ditch as you are. (F/19/S) <a href="#">[A/N: welp]</a></div> <div>3) Affairs of the heart are often complex and ironically disheartening. People like to dance around each other in tiptoes and vague gestures that suggest interest but we stumble around half-formed intimacies and unspoken agreements. We fumble about our commitment issues, looking for love where we shouldn't, in the swiping of Tinder and at the bottom of glass bottles. We walk around like puzzle pieces trying to find a perfect fit but never seeing the big picture. Adopt a cat, make life easier. (F/19/S) <a href="#">[A/N: preach]</a></div> <div>4) I don't even know why I have a girlfriend, I wouldn't date myself. :.) (M/21/T)</div> <div>5) This kinda feels like you've got numerous problems in your dating life and created this survey to gather the opinions of others in order smoothen things down in your own (I'm assuming) troublesome love life. (M/20/S) <a href="#">[A/N: I am attacked 😞]</a></div>





# Opinions & Views

## Tinder (confirms) establishment as the new recreational activity of the decade

When I think back at the time that my friends and I were looking at a platform for meeting new people, tinder definitely crossed our minds. Evidently swiping left or right is destiny's way of showing that we have definitely made the "right" choice.

The path I took, the simple act of relying on such a dating app, allowed me to achieve the highest form of trust. As one who had renounced the conventional approach to meeting people while, I was free to explore the "carefully" curated profiles and share my new found wisdom of the online dating world with others. That said, I have to admit that if I were to do it all over again, I'd probably swipe left.

Not too many times, of course. Maybe 20 times - 40, tops.

To be sure, having so many different choices mindfully picked out to please the human eye blinds one from what is on the inside, but obviously the outside is what counts right? That's why, if I were to to swipe right, I'd limit it just to the essentials, a pair of blue eyes perhaps, to get lost in, or a pair of strong muscular arms, so I could rest my head after a tiring day at work. It's not as though overlooking the extremely pathetic process of face-to-face conversation will halt the discovery of true love, will it? I mean how could it? It's just an insight into the individuals' mind, thought process and true feelings right?

I understand, perhaps better than anyone else, how vital the "bio" is to finding the "right" one or two, or three, or four, or five ... that awaits us at the end of this path to revelation. And you know what makes deciphering the bio of a potential "right" a hell lot easier? It having absolutely zero connection to their personality in real life! But it's not as though that stops me from swiping (left or right).

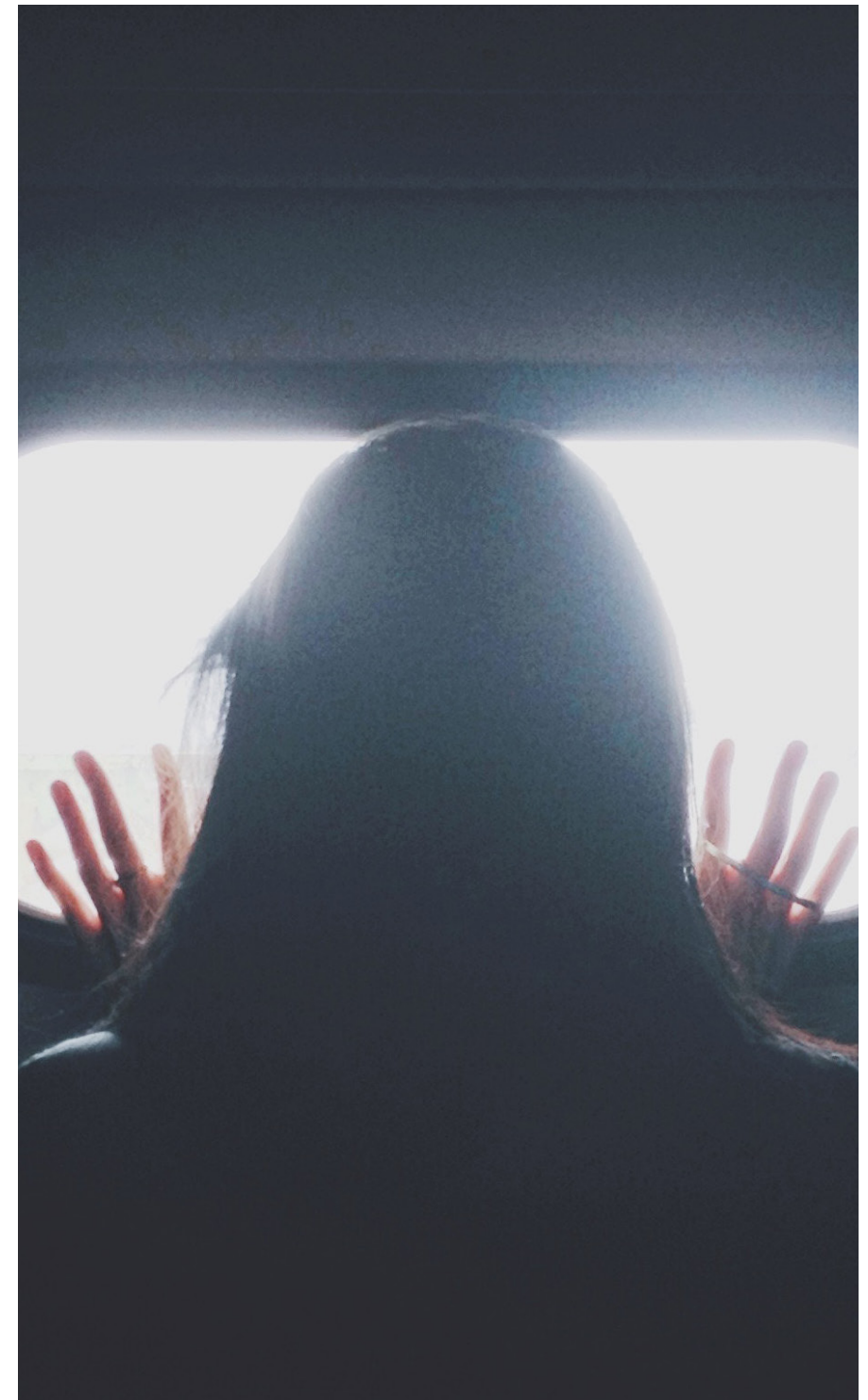
If I am being completely honest, it's not the lack of choices I regret. I probably spent way too much time just sitting there of the ground doing nothing but swiping infinitely day after day when there are so many other things to see and do in the world. What a waste. Frankly we live too short to keep swiping for recreation. love.

Seriously, why suffer right?

Question More.

-Shreya

*Would like to comment your own opinion write to us at:*







## **Budget Series: Student Life**

Who says “no” to discounts?



# From food to lifestyle

## Pizza Hut

Pizza hut offers student meals at an extremely affordable price of \$5.90. It includes a main course and a free flow of soft drinks! Available island wide at all outlets, it's definitely an option that would not go wrong. However do take note that it is only available from *Monday to Friday from 1.30pm to 5pm* so it would suit better as a lunch option!

## Eighteen Chefs

Many of us probably have heard of or have once ate at this place. But for those who have yet to know, Eighteen Chefs offers value student meals at \$6.80. Not only does the meal include a main course and a drink, it even includes an ice cream! Saves the money of getting a IIao IIao after your meal.

## Hot Tomato

Hot Tomato offers student lunch special for \$9.50, include a main course which you can choose out of 5 salivating options, and ice lemon tea or lime juice. However it is only available on weekdays from 11am to 5.30pm. They have outlets at Plaza Singapura and 313@Somerset which are very centralized and easily to get to for most of us.

## Brew Maison

A hidden gem located near Stevens MRT station, the study-friendly Brew Maison is a cafe which offers delicious affordable main courses and a comfortable environment (plugs and wifi available!) for studying. The lunch promo allows you to get a mix and match of 2 mains at \$10. Detailed address: 383 Bukit Timah Road, #01-09B, Alocassia Apartments, Singapore 259727.

## Coco Ichibanya

In case you are craving for Japanese food in the midst of studying for your Japanese test, head down to Coco Ichibanya where

students can enjoy 15% off their bill. However it is only available for a very short duration of 1.30pm to 3pm so do plan your time wisely.

## Sukiya

Enjoy your favourite Japanese steamboat at \$13.90++ (Additional \$3++ on Fridays). This offer is valid Monday – Friday 11.30am – 3.00pm at Tampines Mall, Marina Square and I12 Katong. Whereas for Plaza Singapura, it is valid only Monday – Thursday 11.30am – 4.00pm. Make sure that a valid student card is presented before you dine.

## The Tea Party @ NUS

A eat place located conveniently in your school, The Tea Party gives 50% off for NUS students and staff on pastas when you present your NUS pass. Head down today to claim your share!

## Spotify Premium

For some of us, concentration is impossible without the help of some motivational background music. Spotify Premium is available at only \$4.99 per month for students. That's like \$0.17 per day! Affordable isn't it? Check it out now at <https://www.spotify.com/sg-en/student/> to study with the company of your favourite artiste.

## UniDays

This website allows you to get instant student discounts in shops from Cotton On to Typo and even Zalora. What's better than a shopping therapy after your finals are over? Check the link to find out more <https://www.myunidays.com/SG/en-SG>

## ShareTea Bubble Tea

Although not fully verified, NTU, SMU, NUS, SUTD and SIT card-holding students get 10% off drinks at Sharetea outlets.



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