

Alumni Journeys

CLARA CHE WEI PEH ('19)



ECONOMICS MAJOR, ARTS AND HUMANITIES
(ART HISTORY) MINOR

The thing is, no matter how brilliant or talented you think someone else is, they are, very very likely, feeling just as scared and nervous as you are. Because college is not an easy experience for anybody. The good thing is, you won't have to walk through it alone.

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Fun Facts

- **Major/Minor:** Economics/Arts and Humanities (Art History)
- **Residential College:** Saga College
- **Favorite Common Curriculum Classes:** Literature and Humanities 2, Modern Social Thought
- **Favorite Major Classes:** Labor Economics, Development Economics
- **Favorite Electives:** Global Women's History, Woolf and Historiography
- **Extracurricular Activities in Yale-NUS:** Admissions Student Associate, Language Peer Tutor (Chinese), Saga Residential Council, (aside), P.S. We Care, Bhangra, Yale-NUS Consulting Grop (as a Project Lead), Development Office Student Associate, Senior Class Gift Committee, Wellness Committee
- **Favorite Book:** Circe by Madeline Miller
- **Favorite Movie:** A Man Called Ove
- **Dogs or Cats?:** Cats! But also dogs!
- **Fun Fact:** I was in Bhangra for two semesters and absolutely loved it

Academic Experience in Yale-NUS College

Favorite Common Curriculum Class

The thing about the Common Curriculum is that often when you're going through it, especially if you're feeling really sure about your intended major (which I was), you might question, how will this knowledge serve me? But a while later, you look back at this experience and you feel grateful for having been exposed to how different disciplines understand and interact with the world, for learning different types of knowledge, and realize you're a better person because of it. From that perspective, I don't really know if I'd have a favorite. But I really enjoyed my experience in *Literature and Humanities 2* and *Modern Social Thought*.

[Click here to learn more about the Common Curriculum!](#)

Favorite Major Class

Firms Strategy and Market Competition was the course that cemented my decision to major in Economics, but I think my favorite class would have to be *Labour Economics* or *Development Economics*. Both of these classes were very well taught and engaging, and had a good mix between theory and real-life examples. The kinds of papers we looked at in these two classes really showed me that Economics can be a very expansive field, with tools that can be used to look at all sorts of things happening around us.

[Click here to learn more about the Economics Major!](#)

Favorite Elective Class

This is a really difficult question, I enjoyed most of the electives I took (including for my minor). In first year, I took *Global Women's History* with Prof. Rebecca Tannenbaum, which was a very important awakening experience for me to learn more about women's social position in the world and how it's changed over time. I also loved my time in *Woolf and Historiography* with Prof. Heidi Stalla, it was a very challenging course that pushed me to look at literature in a way I had not before and gave me a lot of room to interrogate my preoccupations meaningfully.

Learning Outside the Classroom

Week 7: China

I went on a research trip with Professor Valerie Hansen to *Xiamen* to look at China in the Year 1000! I think the most memorable part of it was just going into temples, conducting research on the area's history, interviewing the temple workers and learning about how field work is done.

Semester Abroad: Bocconi University

I went on semester exchange at *Bocconi University in Milan*, one of the best schools for Economics. Bocconi was great for me because they also had classes on art management and policies. I had the chance to take a class taught by a gallerist, work on a project that was pitched to the Prada Foundation and an economics course given by the Vice President of the Institute for International Political Studies. I also really enjoyed living in Milan and being able to travel to nearby Italian cities and towns for quick weekend trips, it was just a dream.

Summer Abroad: Internship in New York City

I interned at Christie's in New York in my second year. At the time I was already considering if I wanted to minor in Arts & Humanities (Art History) and think about working around art objects, so this was a great opportunity to get my foot into the door and gain experience from the art market side of things. My favorite part of the experience was probably just being there, in one of the world's most important art cities and being at the heart of it all.

Dear Applicant,

Congratulations on everything that you have achieved so far. I am so excited for you to be embarking on this next journey. I hope that whatever you choose, the experience will be what you need and want it to be.

If I could go back in time, to right before I started college and tell myself one thing, I would tell myself that... college is going to be the most transformative journey you have been on. I don't know if it is going to be the best time of your life - I haven't lived through enough post-college life to be able to judge. But what I do know, is that it is going to be full of excitement, of laughter, of love, and most of all, it is going to be full of growth.

The thing is, growth often comes out of an uncomfortable place. As great as college is going to be for you at times, it is also going to be feel pretty difficult and stressful sometimes. It may not be easy to learn to figure out how to stay on top of coursework and co-curriculars, have a functioning social life, lead a balanced lifestyle, while trying to stay connected with friends and family from afar, on top of taking care of yourself and learning to be independent. It may be a little scary sometimes, because college will often put you in a position where you will have to question some of the things you always took for granted to be true. It may even be disheartening at times. Many of us have stood out in our communities, achieved impressive work and showed great potential in high schools and even middle schools. And that's what got you here! But now that you're in college, so many of your peers are going to be just as accomplished and ambitious and hardworking as you are, and sometimes, that can feel a little intimidating. But if I could just let you in on a little secret... The thing is, no matter how brilliant or talented you think someone else is, they are, very very likely, feeling just as scared and nervous as you are. Because college is not an easy experience for anybody. The good thing is, you won't have to walk through it alone.

Once again, congratulations! I can't wait for you to experience college, and graduate a stronger, wiser, kinder version of who you are, and become closer to the person you want to grow into. All my very best wishes to you.