

## Hu Yu

Winner of the Lim Chong Yah Gold Medal AY2022/2023, Semester 2



*Hu Yu discovering unexpected connections here at NUS with his hometown, Jiangxi.*

爷爷告诉我：哎，不要紧  
遥远还馥郁在他的江西茶壶里  
我揭开壶盖，轻轻地：喂  
久久，才听到，小小的一一唉

作于1986年4月

### Could you share about your education journey prior to your Masters?

Before starting my Masters at NUS, I completed my undergraduate degree in finance at Peking University in China. I covered the basics of micro and macroeconomics, then took more finance-related courses on financial markets, institutions, and financial engineering.

### What is your most memorable moment in your education journey?

My most memorable moments have been interactions with teachers at NUS. All my teachers provided me immense support. For instance, in my Python programming course, TC Huang patiently responded to my questions via email when I was still a programming novice, and his care and support extended throughout the entire academic year and beyond. Angela Huang, my macroeconomics instructor has also been a great help. She invited me for coffee and assisted with queries related to the job search and academics. Denis Tkachenko and Yeo Wee Kiang, who taught machine learning, were highly responsive to my inquiries, promptly replying my emails and patiently addressing questions outside of class. Their dedication to teaching extended beyond the classroom, as they established a strong mentor-student relationship with me. Even after graduation, they continued to respond to my queries.

### Why did you choose to pursue a Masters and what led you to choose NUS?

I chose to do a Master's because I'm excited about constantly learning new things, and in today's fast-changing world, picking up new skills is essential. For example, this Masters program allows me to learn about artificial intelligence (AI). Even if I don't end up working in this area, understanding the basics is crucial to staying up-to-date.

Also, I really love the climate in Singapore. I am not a fan of cold weather. During the rainy season, the daily rain here makes me feel calm, cosy, and refreshed. Also, the NUS campus is beautiful! I like the layout with buildings scattered across ridges of different heights. Plus, the lush natural scenery blends in well with the modern architecture, making it feel like you're wandering through a maze where nature meets modernity.

### What projects or hobbies do you pursue outside of school?

Outside of classes, I play badminton, jog, and swim. I jog and swim more than I play badminton because badminton courts at NUS are always fully booked. I also enjoy sightseeing by bus or on foot. In Singapore, I've seen interesting mixes of different culture, with many different building styles coexisting in the same neighborhood.

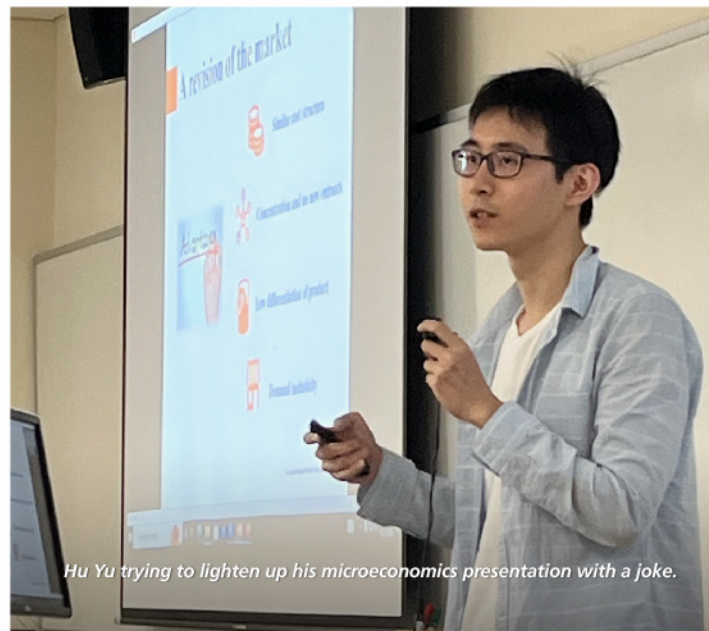
For example, in Chinatown, traditional Chinese shophouses mingle with modern skyscrapers, showcasing a fusion of heritage and contemporary architecture. The Buddha Tooth Relic Temple stands as a testament to Chinese Buddhist culture, while bustling markets offer a taste of authentic local cuisine.

### What are your plans after graduation?

After graduating, my plan is work in a state-owned enterprise in China, putting what I've learned into action there. Specifically, I want to introduce to these firms my perspectives from my time studying abroad in order to shake things up a bit. For example, by using my understanding of economics, finance, and AI, I hope to help firms increase work efficiency. In addition, I'm all about continuing to learn, so I want to continue exploring different ways to soak up more knowledge.

### What non-marketable skill are you the most proud of?

I take pride in my skills of finding cheap yet delicious food and discovering cool places that are not just fun but also free, with my course mates. These skills made my life outside of classes more interesting, letting me fully enjoy the hidden gems of Singapore. I recommend visiting malls or buildings that make their rooftops available to the public for free. From these elevated vantage points, you can marvel at the stunning city skyline and immerse yourself in the beauty of the urban landscape. I also think having a positive attitude, facing challenges head-on, and finding the silver lining in negative situations is a pretty valuable skill.



*Hu Yu trying to lighten up his microeconomics presentation with a joke.*