



SMU

SINGAPORE MANAGEMENT
UNIVERSITY



Exchange Report

Singapore Management University

HO, Wing Sze

Fall 2016

Part I - Monthly Activity Log

August 2016 - Arrival

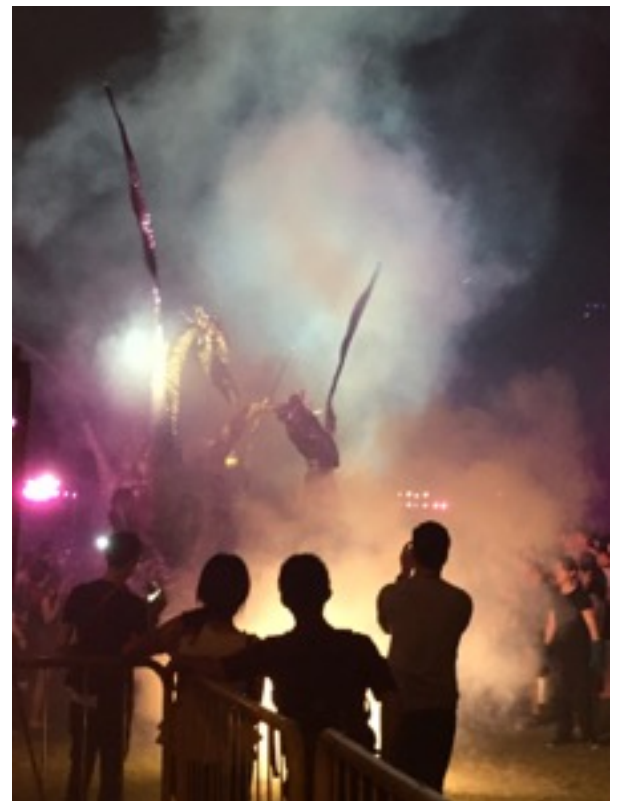
It was a relaxing month. As SMU suggested exchange student to arrive on or before 4 August for easier application of student pass, we had half a month to settle accommodation and administrative matters and to explore Singapore. I joined *Jalan* and *Makan* tour of Chinatown, Little India, Kampong Glam and a short bumboat cruise along the Singapore River organised by OGL, had tasted some yummy ethnic local favourites such as *murukku* and *tau sa piah* and met other exchange students.



The remarkable Convocation 2016, which showcased SMU's best performing groups and celebrated freshmen's transition to University, marked the beginning of the semester.

There was a Night Festival at late August, which various performance were shown in Bras Basah. Every year the theme of the Festival is different.

Photo showed one of the programmes, Let's Celebrate by Close-Act, performing in front of Singapore National Gallery, which is opposite to School of Economics.



September 2016 - Study & Mingle

It was a month by which accommodation and all administrative matter should have settled. The add/drop period had ended as the project groups were finalised. Project groups started to book a common slot for meetings and started discussion on projects and presentation. Aside from studying, I continued my exploration on Singapore, going Universal Studios Singapore, watched fireworks, enjoyed gourmet and cycled at Pulau Ubin with friends.



The cycling route in Pulau Ubin was not easy, having lots of slopes. It was challenging but fun!

SMU FUSE carnival was held on the 21st September, the United Nation's international day of Peace. We enjoyed a wide range of cultural activities and knew more about South East Asian countries.



October 2016 - Midterm & Recess

It came to the midterm in the blink of eye. This was the week busy studying to catch up with whatever course materials and prepared for midterm examinations. One of my project groups was finalising and rehearsing for the presentation scheduled right after the recess week. Luckily, my friends and I had the midterm exams held before recess week. Thus, we went for a short trip to Penang and Langkawi in Malaysia.



The tower building game was a learning activity conducted by the presenting team on testing mindfulness and decision making process. With good team spirit, we managed to create a tower that was second tallest!

It was time to relax. Adapting to a new environment can be quite stressful. So, the good way to relieve stress is to travel. We had a ride on traditional tricycle, tasted local cuisines and taking photos with the street arts.



November 2016 - Last month of School

Time flew when it came to the second half of the semester. For some modules, there was still mid-term quizzes. I was busy preparing final reports and presentations. I also had my very first final examination in Week 13. Though it was a busy week, I still managed to go Bali in Indonesia with my friend in early November. The second half month was SMUgging hard in library, i.e. studying hard for coming exams.

It was so healing to enjoy the beautiful scenery in Bali and free yourself from the hustle and bustle.



Done with presentations! Let's wish us good luck on final exam.

December 2016 - Bon Vage

Since my exam ended in late November, I packed my stuff and went travel with friends. We went to Sabah in Malaysia for snorkelling, visited the temples of Angkor in Siem Reap, tasted the famous Pho in Hanoi, watched the astonishing Vietnam water puppet show and got to know more about the colonial influence on Ho Chi Minh City. And the last stop was Hong Kong, a place where we called home.



Time to farewell and take photos with everyone.

Happy travelling!



Part II - General Exchange Information

Visa Procedures

It is important that not to mix up the two terms, student pass and student card.

The **Student's Pass** is your Student Multiple-Entry Visa issued by the Singapore Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) for your study at SMU, and is a very important card for traveling in and out of Singapore.

The **Student Card** is a matriculation card issued by SMU for you to access the facilities on SMU campus.

After receiving the acceptance letter by SMU, you will need to follow the guideline stated in the email and login to SOLAR to start applying for Visa. You will need to make two payments online using credit card, one for processing fee and one later for the issuance fee. After receiving the In-principle Approval letter (IPA letter), you can collect the visa once you arrive. You must present the letter to Singapore immigration checkpoints upon arrival.

Orientation Activities

There is an orientation day for exchange students, introducing the SMU learning culture and the Office of Global learning (OGL). There are several sessions of campus tour led by local students on the orientation. There is also a list of welcoming activities, like Buddy programme, Host programme etc.

International Services & Activities

SMU ICON is the student society organising activities for international and exchange students, including movie night, food trail and mid-autumn festival celebration. These activities can be signed up via emails. So, stay tuned.

OGL is the Office of Global Learning which is a SMU department taking the needs of exchange students. For administrative matters, they will always be there for help.

Accommodations

The school provides hostel for students while it is not operated by the school. There are two hostels, one at Prinsep and one at Chinatown. YO:HA@ Chinatown is open for exchange students to apply on a first-come-first-serve basis while the one Prinsep mainly serve SMU freshmen. If you apply the hostel via SMU, the price is much cheaper than renting other private flats. For me, I lived in YO:HA@ Chinatown, sharing one room with another girl. It is a quadruple sharing flat with two bedrooms, kitchen and washroom. The condition of the flat is acceptable since it is of much lower price than a condominium.

Course Registration

SMU uses a bidding system (BOSS) for course registration. Each exchange student is assigned with 100 e-dollars. The maximum credit load for exchange students is 4 units while 5-unit load will be granted if applied through home university exchange coordinator with valid reason. The past bidding record can be found on BOSS website for reference. It is not so difficult to bid the course you want successfully. But you are strongly advised to have more alternatives.

Teaching & Assessment Methods

The class in SMU is relatively small in size, with only around 30-40 students. Attendance is mandatory since participation is highly encouraged and emphasised. Almost all business courses need to complete projects and presentations, and also examinations.

Sports & Recreation Facilities

There is a newly established 3-storey gym near School of Information System. There is also a swimming pool located in the administrative buildings. Around the city campus, there are several museums, including Singapore National Gallery and Singapore National Museum. There are large shopping malls nearby.

Finance and Banking

Whether to have a bank account in Singapore depends on your way of money withdrawal and credit card usage. I found it inconvenient to pay the course pack using my credit card issued in Hong Kong since it required One-time passcode (OTP) from SMS. Otherwise, it is quite convenient to withdraw cash using Union Pay Card in Singapore.

Items	Costs (SGD)
Air ticket	3000
Transportation	240
Rent (600 rent + 25 fixed utility rate)	2500
Food (hawker centre offers cheaper options; I cooked sometimes, so it costed more)	2400
Course material (business cases and textbook)	100
Travel	3000
Total	11240

Social Clubs and Networking Opportunities

There is a VIVACE Week which lots of student societies will set up booths and recruit new members. Some student communities welcome exchange students to join their function. I joined the Tax Society and OBHR Society. They offered alumni sharing nights and other activities.

Health and Safety

Singapore is a safe city, but it is always good to keep an eye on crowded area. The school offers medical insurance that you can go to the Clinic on campus or other panel doctors for free. Be mindful of any outbreak since I came there during the time Zika getting serious.

Food

Hawker center is always a good place to find tasty local food with reasonable price. The food court (Koufu) on campus offers a more cheaper food option. It will be more expensive if you plan to cook.

Transportation

SMU is having a city campus, which is easy to access by MRT or by bus. It will be cheaper if you take bus. Both MRT and bus are charged based on distance. Since I lived in Chinatown, which is quite close to school, I sometimes would just walk back to hostel as exercise.

Climate

The climate is hot and sometimes with thunderstorm. It is recommended to bring an umbrella with you when you go out.

Communication

The main language is English. Many locals can speak Mandarin and/or Cantonese.

Cautionary measures

Students are advised to bring a light jacket to school since the air conditioning is very strong in school, especially in library.

Part III- Items to bring

- Passport
- IPA letter, acceptance letter and related documentaries
- Laptop
- Medicine
- Umbrella
- Summer clothing
- Light jacket
- formal attire for presentations
- shoes and sandals
- sunscreen
- USB drive
- Chargers

PART IV – Useful Links and Contacts

Gothere.sg

<https://gothere.sg/maps>

OGL Emergency (24 Hrs)

+65 9112 8896