



Exchange Report

Singapore Management University, Singapore

School of Business

Conan Tan

Spring 2017

Part I – Monthly Activity Log

January 2017

When I first arrived SMU, I was stunned by the study atmosphere here. Students are very active during the lectures and they usually put a name tag in front of their desk. The library and learning common was crowded and it was very hard to book a group study room even at the start of semester. Apart from study, I joined an entrepreneurship activity and I got a chance to work with some like-minded and passionate students.



February 2017

A month has passed and I was starting to get used to the routine life. I have joined the badminton club and had regular section once a week. In addition, I was engrossed by the gym room facilities here as it was comprehensive and there were two full-time trainers who gave advices to students.



March 2017

The mid-term exam was approaching, adding a lot of people to the library which was already packed. While I studied hard for the exam, I also took the time to visit some spots in Singapore and nearby country during the study break. For example, I visited LegoLand in Malaysia, Universal Studio in Sentosa, to name but a few.



April 2017

Time flies and the final was close. Notwithstanding that it was a busy month as lots of presentations and project deadline were approaching, I joined an activity called car-free Sunday, in which the roads were blocked and allowed people to bike in the central area of Singapore.



Part II – General Exchange Information

Visa Procedures

SMU provided the documentary support for visa procedures and sent emails for reminder periodically. We needed to complete and submit a SOLAR Application Form online. Then we received IPA (In-Principle Approval) letter, which is a confirmation of your Student's Pass. This IPA letter, which we needed to print out ourselves and show the officer when we passed through the immigration office, was very crucial and would need to be verified for the issuance of Student's Pass.

Orientation Activities

SMU had many orientation activities for exchange student, in which some of them are mandatory. This may include campus tour, tour around the city or a lecture on some important reminders.

International Services & Activities

SMU provides a lot of international activities, in which most of them are facilitated by student clubs and supported by students' office. Examples include Exchange students' night, which include all exchange students in Singapore.

Accommodations

SMU would send out emails for application of accommodation around two months before your arrival. Since there are only limited vacancies, it is encouraged to apply at the first day of opening of application. If the application for campus dorms is unsuccessful, you can contact SMU accommodation office for help and there would be lots of private accommodation provider, which co-operate with SMU to provide low rate for students, to choose from.

Courses Registration

SMU pre-registers students in their courses before arrival. One thing to note is that they operate a bidding system to "bid" for courses. Only 100 points would be allotted and as such students need to allocate points strategically to the course they want to study most. Another interesting point is that they allow course withdrawal before the midterm.

Teaching & Assessment Methods

Since SMU are business-focused, most of the teachers had commercial background. Notwithstanding that most of them are locals, they usually would have obtained a PhD's and have international study background.

Sports & Recreation Facilities

Although there are only a few sports facilities at SMU, most of them are very advanced and provide excellent service. For example, the Gymnasium and Fitness Centre have three levels and you can find all the gym tools here. On the other hand, there is also a study facilitate, called

SMU Labs. This Lab operates 24-7 and has a mission of encouraging students to relax. As such, apart from normal studying materials, there is also a VR room, a music room and some interesting facilities inside the Lab.

Finance and Banking

The expenses will depend on how much a student travels during exchange. For the whole semester, I spent around HKD\$15000. The main currency used in Singapore is Singapore dollar. I do recommend a bank account because there may be emergency that you need to withdraw money.

Social Clubs and Networking Opportunities

I joined many student clubs such as the badminton club, entrepreneurship club and biking club. One club I really recommend is biking club. They have regular bike travel once a week. Joining them is totally free and all of the required equipment, e.g. road bike, helmets, would be provided.

Health and Safety

SMU has health and dental clinics located conveniently on-campus. Students with ID cards can see the doctor for free.

Food

SMU located in a very convenient location and had lots of restaurants nearby, which mostly serves Asian foods. Remember to bring along with your student card because they have discounts for SMU student.

Transportation

Singapore has a convenient MTR and bus system. You can purchase the ET card, which is like the octopus card in Hong Kong, in any MTR stop. Alternatively, you can use MoBike, since biking on pedestrian road is allowed in Singapore.

Climate

The climate is very hot and humid. It rains every day.

Communication

It is recommended to buy a sim card upon your arrival in Singapore. The card usually carry several GB free data, which would prove very convenient as it is your first time going to the country and you would need to use Google Map for lots of the times. To dial, press +65.

Cautionary Measures

Always bring an umbrella as it rains every day.

Other Notes

Strictly no chewing gums.

Part III - Items to bring

Checklist	
	Passport
	IPA letter
	Jacket
	Notebook
	USB
	Camera
	Charger
	Medicine
	Sweater
	Shoes
	Umbrella
	Water Bottle

Part IV – Useful Links and Contacts

Course Catalog

<https://inet.smu.edu.sg/sites/courses/Pages/Course-Offerings.aspx>

SMU official website

<https://www.smu.edu.sg/>

Transportation

<https://www.lta.gov.sg/content/ltaweb/en/public-transport.html>

Useful Tel

Samaritans of Singapore (SOS) (24 hours Emergency Counselling)	Tel: 1800-221-4444
Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) Hotline (24-hour automated hotline for information on their services and procedures. Customer service officers are available from 8am - 5pm, Mon to Fri and 8am - 1pm, Sat)	Tel: (65) 6391 6100
International Calls	Tel: 104
Time of day	Tel: 1711
Weather	Tel: (65) 6542 7788