

Exchange Report

Singapore Management University
Lee Kong Chian School of Business



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Finance and Information Systems, Year 3

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PART I – MONTHLY ACTIVITY LOG

December 2016

I arrived Singapore on 26th December and settled down in yo:HA @ Pearl's Hill. After settling down, I went to Chinatown Point to buy some daily necessities. On the next day, I handed in necessary documents for applying Singapore student pass (SOLAR) in school. I also attended the orientation session, campus tour and Jalan-Makan tour organized by the school. During these few days before the new semester began, I met friends in Singapore and explored the city with them.



January 2017



On 1st January, I went to Marina Bay and watched 2017 New Year Countdown and Fireworks with my friends. I felt very excited because it was the first time I celebrated New Year in a foreign country. On 3rd January, the first day of school, I collected my student pass and SMU student card from SMU Administration Building. I have made seasonal pass in Universal Studio Singapore and visited there with my friends. We also went cycling in East Coast Park and tried Boon Tong Kee chicken rice there. Besides, I joined SMU ICON activity, where we met 3 local students who brought us to try durian in Geylang. On Chinese New Year Eve, we had hotpot in our hostel. As most of the restaurants and hawkers were not opened during Chinese New Year, on the first day of Chinese New Year, I travelled to Batam with an exchange student and we spent 2 days there.

February 2017

I joined the "Octopus Exchange Students Singapore", which was organized by a group of church friends. We had dinners in local homes and discussed on some meaningful topics with exchange students from NUS and NTU. In my spare time, I visited Night Safari, Sea Aquarium and Singapore Zoo with my friends, these places are worth going because they show how Singapore government works on protecting the nature. Besides, I also celebrated Lantern Festival with my SMU buddies, we had dinner and dumplings at Liang Seah Street. In the week of 12th February, I completed all the midterms, quizzes and a case study presentation. Therefore, I travelled to Malaysia with 3 other exchange students during the recess week, the food there was delicious and affordable.



March 2017

In early March, I travelled to Johor Bahru with my friends, it is the nearest Malaysia City to Singapore where we could reach by bus. Besides, I went hiking on the Southern Ridges, the view of Henderson Wave at night was gorgeous. I also spent time visiting National Orchid Garden and Jurong Bird Park, these were good places for me to relieve from academic stress. There was an event "I Light Marina Bay" happened throughout March, in which we could watch movie outdoor at the Lawn, it was an impressive experience. On 26th March, I joined the activity organized by SMUX biking team to cycle around the Central Business District. It was a Car-free Sunday, which takes place on the last Sunday of every month so as to encourage "city with fewer cars". During the week of 26th March, I had all my group projects and presentations completed. On 29th March, the school organized an Exchange Farewell Party for us, we took a lot of photos and had fun with games and lucky draw that night.



April 2017

During the study break, I travelled to Bangkok with another exchange student, it was a nice trip as we experienced the night market culture and tried lots of delicious local cuisine. In order to explore more of Singapore natural environment, I visited Changi Coastal Walk and Labrador Nature Reserve. Besides, I also watched "Garden Rhapsody" which happens every night at the Supertree Grove. The light show was nicely blended with classical music. During the week of 16th April, I completed all final exams and went back to Hong Kong.



PART II – GENERAL EXCHANGE INFORMATION

Visa Procedures: Once receive SMU acceptance letter, follow the SOLAR Application Procedure to register by using the application number shown on the acceptance letter. You will need to pay the processing fee of S\$30 by credit card upfront. After the registration is processed and approved by the immigration office, pay the issuance fee S\$60 and multiple journey visa S\$30 together by credit card. IPA letter will be sent to your e-mail once available, print this letter for one-time entry VISA into Singapore. After arriving Singapore, hand in necessary documents to ICA and collect the student pass after a few days.

Orientation Activities: There will be an orientation day organized by the school, which helps exchange students to know more about the SMU student activities, learning culture and some cautionary measures. There will also be a campus tour held by local students so that you can familiarize yourself with the new school environment. Moreover, the school also organizes Jalan-Makan tour which helps exchange students to explore Singapore.

International Services & Activities: SMU ICON organizes many activities throughout the semester to let exchange students experience different culture, such as Food Trail and Peranakan Trail. Do check the e-mail frequently such that you won't miss these activities.

Accommodations: You can choose to live in yo:HA @ Pearl's Hill, which is leased by SMU. Although the rent is cheaper, the hygienic condition there is not good and the lift often malfunction. I would recommend living in some other hostel such as CSL Selegie or renting a private flat with other exchange students.

Course Registration: SMU uses a BOSS bidding system for course registration. Exchange student will get e\$100 for bidding courses. The school provide 3 windows exceptionally for exchange students. Remember to plan well by looking through the past

year bidding price and try your best to get all the courses in these 3 windows, otherwise it will become very difficult to get a course when local students come in.

Teaching & Assessment Methods: The class size in SMU is small, with about 40 students in a class. Majority of the courses have group projects where you will have to cooperate with other students. They also put emphasis on asking questions and expressing your opinions in class so as to gain class participation points.

Sports & Recreation Facilities: There is a gym room located near School of Information Systems. Besides, there is an outdoor swimming pool located at the 6th level of SMU Administration Building.

Cost and Expense:

Expense Item	Amount	
Flight (HKG to SIN)	/	HKD\$2,849
Accommodation	SGD\$2,675.7	HKD\$15,427.1
Singapore Student Pass (SOLAR)	SGD\$120	HKD\$668.4
Miscellaneous Fees	SGD\$208.26	HKD\$1,160
Telecommunication	SGD\$90	HKD\$501.3
Local Transportation	SGD\$206.23	HKD\$1,148.7
Dining	SGD\$1,373.33	HKD\$7,649.1
Travel	SGD\$912.9	HKD\$5,084.6
Groceries	SGD\$271.69	HKD\$1,513.3
Entertainment (e.g. Movie, KTV)	SGD\$239.4	HKD\$1,333.4
Clothing	SGD\$43	HKD\$239.5
Others	SGD\$52.58	HKD\$292.9
Total Amount:		HKD\$37,867.3

Social Clubs and Networking Opportunities: There are many CCA clubs that welcome exchange students to join. You can choose to join the club according to your interest. Besides, I would recommend you to join the Buddy programme and Host programme.

Health & Safety: SMU has health clinic located conveniently on campus. Students with ID cards can see the doctor without any charge.

Food: There are many hawker centers around Singapore where you can find affordable and delicious food. Do aware that restaurants in Singapore usually charge a 7% tax and 10% service charge.

Transportation: You can buy a Ez-link card (similar to Octopus in Hong Kong) for taking public transport. Both MRT and buses are very convenient. It is cheaper to take a bus and its fare is counted based on distance travelled.

Climate: The weather is usually hot, and there will be rain and thunder occasionally. It is recommended to bring an umbrella when you go outdoors.

Communication: In school, we mainly use English to communicate. While outside of school, especially when ordering food, Mandarin is often used, you may also need to learn some Malay words when you order drinks.

PART III – ITEMS TO BRING

1. Passport & IPA letter
2. Photos*4
3. Notebook
4. Phone
5. Cash
6. Calculator
7. Charger
8. Clothes for Summer
9. Medicine
10. Sunscreen
11. Formal attire
12. Umbrella
13. Sandals

PART IV – USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACTS

1. **SMU global programmes:** <https://www.smu.edu.sg/global/global-programmes>

2. **BOSS guide for exchange students:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/y2jeuvs2pld7bua/BOSS%20Guide%20for%20Exchange%20Students.pdf?dl=0>.

3. **SMU exchange student guide (spring 2017):** [https://www.dropbox.com/s/v1qtspbsxagw49f/SMU Exchange Student Guide AY2016-17 %28Spring%29.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/v1qtspbsxagw49f/SMU%20Exchange%20Student%20Guide%20AY2016-17%20Spring%20.pdf?dl=0)

4. **Leasing private apartment:** <https://www.ura.gov.sg/uol/buy-property/about/leasing/residential.aspx>