



EXCHANGE REPORT

SPRING SEMESTER- SINGAPORE MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY(SMU)

Fina and OM (Year 3)

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First month-January

This is the first month that I arrived Singapore and starts my exchange in SMU. I settled down in a private department with another UST student and also a student comes from western country. We took some orientation activities and met our buddies face-to-face. Out of my expectation, SMU is literally in the middle of the country which located on Victoria road. So, I would say it is super easy to find the school (at least its administration building) Another surprise for me is that every course in SMU requires team up with other students for group projects and assignments. People are aggressive in this University, they love learning and expressing their intelligence. So, it is normal that you see people actively raising hands and answering questions. Moreover, you must have prepared to start your group projects so early at the first week after the commence of your term started since it is clearly their habit

Second month-February

This is relatively a relaxing month because I am already known how the university works, how the professors held their lectures and how students behave during classes. So, I have joined relatively more activities in SMU and I even planned going to Thailand with two of my friends. At the same time, I still need do quite a lot homework and practices each week due to the heavy workload of each courses. I even dropped a course because the teaching method is totally different from UST's. It would be a waste of time if I learn the knowledges again.



["Songs and flowers given" held by Voix](#)

[on valentine's day](#)



Third month-March

This month is one of the tough months, mid-terms are coming, and projects progress are constantly monitored by the professors, not to mention the numerous quizzes held each weeks. The only good news about this month is that precious Easter holiday. Which it allows students enjoy one week free time for relaxion. So in this week, for us being an exchange student, it is one of the best timing of exploring Singapore. Or, of course, doing group projects and start revise for you final exam which is coming shortly.

Last month-April

With no doubt, this month is the toughest month in my exchange journey. Final exams are expected, group projects needs to be handed in, and also the stressful presentations. From quantitative analysis to qualitative analysis, all of them needed to be included in the report. Most of the requirements are not touched by the professors, for example Monte Carlo simulation is required for my finance group project. Even though none of us has leant it before, we still need to do a comprehensive one. At the same time, we have to handle aggressive questions coming from the other teams. This month is extremely stressful, and I feel kind of burned out, but indeed, these experiences are truly valuable to me.



The SMU lab (an innovative studying building)

General Exchange Information

SPRING SEM, SMU

Visa Procedures

Student visa is required. But before acquiring that, we need to get the student pass which is a student Multiple-Entry Visa. To attain this, SMU will send you emails about apply for SOLAR, receiving IPA letter and proceeding to e-appointment. Fees will be need to pay at each steps.

Orientation Activities

For my exchange, they held an orientation day for us. Which we attend tours and talks which allows us know more about SMU. We also taken care of the rest of the visa issues. Other orientation activities are optional, so we can choose join or not.

International Services & Activities

There are an international office that you can ask any questions there. Optional activities held by school and societies are also available.

Accommodations

There are no halls provided, the university do have cooperated halls recommended to students. But I have heard about the inconvenience and cleanliness issues there. So I chose to rent an apartment with my friend. Rent is about SGD800/person/month.

Courses Registration

This is totally different from UST, they use a bidding system. So each exchange student have \$100 e-dollars for bidding. And we are in a different window from the full-time students so no worry about fairness. I successfully bid all courses with around \$11-23 per course. You can find history cost for each course in their website,

Teaching & Assessment Methods

Interaction is highly encouraged and kind of forced. There are 20% participation mark, so you have to answer questions in class. Workload is extremely high, each course has attendance, participation, mid -term, final exams, homework, group projects and even term paper.

Sports & Recreation Facilities

Have a gym, not much recreation facilities.

Finance & Banking (including currency / expenses)

Just deposit some SGD in bank account and get a debit card that can withdraw money there, I personally use Citibank card. Also do prepare your credit card.

Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

Quite a lot, but most of them do not allow exchange students to be their member. Yet, you are more than welcome to join their activities.

Health & Safety

Free clinic services, doctors are nice. Medicine are quite strong. Safety level is high so no worry.

Food

Food is generally cheaper than HK's. Quality is pretty good, but the problem is they all located in a few places named Hokka Center.

Transportation

It is not as convenient as Hong Kong's transportation, but it is a little cheaper. You can buy a card so you can save a little bit each round. Uber and Grab are quite popular there so you can also use them if you are in a hurry.

Climate

Very very hot, and the air conditioner in SMU mostly sucks. So prepare as the summer in Hong Kong.

Communication

They generally use telegram and wechat as communication tools. For languages, they mainly speak English and Mandarin. However, their English is actually Singlish which you may not be able to understand their unique accent.

Cautionary measures

Not much, just be careful of the sun.

CHECKLIST

- Credentials
- Summer clothes (including jackets)
- Formal or business casual outfit
- Money: Cash, Credit card, debit card
- Grooming items
- Umbrella
- A big suitcase ensures you can happy shopping 😊
- A mind that is well prepared for stressful academics

USEFUL LINKS

SMU official guidelines:

<https://www.smu.edu.sg/global/global-programmes/international-exchange/incoming-exchange-students/one-stop-resource>

SMU maps

<https://www.smu.edu.sg/campus-life/visiting-smu/campus-map>

Student portal

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

SMU: The lab

<https://x.smu.edu.sg/smu-labs>

Booking website

https://www.klook.com/zh-HK/?gclid=CjwKCAjwma3ZBRBwEiwA-CsbIH30PalfpmlbNtb-5YSvt3yqNefPPtNapixLukaxNV4cPMIYy6kCJhoCRnsQAvD_BwE