



Exchange Report

Singapore Management University, Singapore

Spring 2018

Liu Anlu

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MONTHLY ACTIVITY LOG

Jan 2018

I arrived Singapore on the 2nd of January (School starts on the 8th), and unfortunately missed the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority Verification Exercise that was held in SMU campus. And because I missed it, I had to go to the IPA building and do the Visa application myself. Fortunately, their orientation was after the day I arrived. The orientation briefed us on basic information such as grading system, which was quite useful to attend. SMU have also organised 1-hour campus tour and Jalan & Makan Tour, but I did not join any of them.



I have never been to Singapore previously, so I've explored around Singapore during the first month there. I went to Sentosa, Bugis, Different farms in Singapore, Marina Bay and etc.

Feb 2018

School works starts to get slightly more intense, with midterms, tests, assignments and group project. Every course has a group project, so there were quite a few meetings to attend during the month. But I still visited the Zoo and River safari, which was great, they even had a polar bear there.

Most midterm is before recess week, so during recess week, I went with my friends to Thailand. We went to Bangkok and Pattaya, mostly shopping at Bangkok and relaxing at Pattaya.



March 2018

I joined an ICON (International Connections) event in March. SMU ICON consistently organises events for student to join. The one I joined was a food tour, they brought us to three very famous hawker centre and bought a lot of different food for us to try, which was really worth it and fun. I've also been Art and Science Museum, Night Safari and National Museum (This is actually right next to SMU).

At mid March, I went to Cameron Highlands located in Malaysia. We took a

overnight bus there, which was quite a nice experience. At Cameron Highlands, it is mainly farms and picking strawberries.

At the end of the month, I went to Bali. The resort we stayed was really nice, it even has a pool inside. We also woke up really early in the morning to see dolphins.

School work was intense during this month, basically there is at least one group project meeting every week.



April 2018

School ended at the start of April, so there were no more classes. Exams were on third and fourth week of April.

By April, I've already visited most of the tourist places in Singapore. My family came over to visit me, so we went to Gardens by the Bay, Sentosa, Universal, etc.

The last exam was on the 26th, so after that I went to Johor Bahru (Malaysia), which is really close to Singapore. After that, I came back to HK since the visa was only valid until May 1st.

GENERAL EXCHANGE INFORMATION

Visa Procedures

Once you received the acceptance email, SMU will send you the detail procedures in applying the Visa online through the SOLAR system. Just remember to use IE browser when using the SOLAR system, other browsers take ages for the page to load.

SMU sent an email regarding the procedures to collect student pass at the start of December.

The normal procedure is to bring the following,

- Printout of e-form 16
- Payment receipt made for Issuance fee and Multiple Journey Fee
- Valid original passport
- Embarkation card
- One recent colour passport-sized photograph
- Printed copy of the IPA letter

to SMU campus on the day of ICA verification exercise.

Orientation Activities

They had one orientation on the day after the ICA verification exercise, this was on basic information about the school, grading systems and etc. SMU also organised a 1-hour campus tour and Jalan & Makan Tour before school started.

International Services & Activities

SMU ICON organises activities consistently, they will send out emails frequently and it is very easy to join.

Accommodations

I've rented a small condo with another girl from UST, and also a girl from other school. The Accommodation was located at Geylang, which was pretty close to SMU, about 15 min bus.

Course Registration

SMU uses a bidding system for course registration. Normally, exchange students are allowed to take 4 courses at max, if you would like to take 5, remember to apply beforehand (They will also send email regarding this). Each students get 100 e-dollar, you can check last years bidding prices and just bet roughly that amount. Some courses will only be opened in the second/third round.

Teaching & Assessment Methods

Teaching method is quite different from UST, a lot of time, it requires self-learning. Each class is 3 hours, with a 15 min break in between, there is only one class per week for each course. All classes have group projects, and most of them you will have to find your own group mates. They also put a lot of emphasis on class

participation, so try answering questions or asking questions to gain participation points (which will be counted towards your grade).

Sports & Recreation Facilities

There is a gym and a swimming pool.

Finance and Banking

I activated the overseas ATM withdrawal option, so I didn't have to bring much cash there. But if you are using HSBC, sometimes it might take a while before you can find an ATM machine.

Item	Cost (HKD)
Airfare	3000
Accommodation	24000
Student Pass and fees	800
Telecommunication	500
Transportation	1500
Food	10000
Travel	8000
Miscellaneous	2000
Total	49800

Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

There are many different clubs, most of them welcome exchange student and will send out email regarding the activities they have.

Health & Safety

SMU provide medical insurance. There is also a clinic in the campus and is free.

Food

There are a wide range of cuisine in Singapore.

Hawker centres are everywhere, food is cheaper compared to Hong Kong.

Uber eat (which is now called grab food), Food Panda, Deliveroo is also a nice option if you are lazy to go out, it is cheaper than Hong Kong.

Transportation

Their equivalent of octopus is called ezlink, it is mainly used for transportation only. The MTR in Singapore is not as convenient as Hong Kong, I mainly travel via bus. Bus does not show/ announce the next bus stop, so I

always have to rely google map. It will be really helpful to download the app called “SG Buses”, it shows when the next bus will be coming.

Climate

Hot. Rains a lot during Monsoon season.

Communication

Convenient, just buy from prepaid card from 711.

Cautionary measures

Remember to bring an umbrella out during Monsoon season.

ITEMS TO BRING

1. Passport
 2. IPA letter, Payment receipt
 3. Colour passport-sized photograph
 4. Acceptance Letter
 5. Clothes, Shoes, etc
 6. Cash
 7. Calculator/ Financial calculator
 8. Charger (Socket same as HK)
 9. Sunscreen
 10. Umbrella
 11. Formal wear
 12. Stationary
 13. Phone, Laptop, etc
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USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACT

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

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

<https://boss.intranet.smu.edu.sg>

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

<https://www.burpple.com/>
