



SINGAPORE
MANAGEMENT
UNIVERSITY

EXCHANGE REPORT

FALL 2018 - SINGAPORE MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY

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Monthly Activities

August-The First Month

The first day of school started on the 20th of August. I arrived one week before the start of the semester. In my first week in Singapore, SMU International Office (IO) organized the student matriculation day, orientation day, campus tour as well as city tour for all exchange students. All the staff and student helpers were so nice that we finished the matriculation fast and we enjoyed the activities very much. After having the first few classes at SMU, I felt that the learning atmosphere was similar to that of our school. However, as all the lectures were held in seminar form, there are fewer



students in a class and we had more opportunities to interact with professors. Some students answered questions and expressed their opinions very actively. An interesting fact was that they all decorated their name tent very well, this may be a good way to let professors and classmates remember their names!

September-The Second Month

I felt relatively relaxed this month as I had got used to the school life at SMU. SMU organized many fairs in the school concourse every week. After classes, I joined some of these fairs, for example, Global Village. It was a good chance for me to know more culture of other countries. I also signed up for some events organized by various school clubs, such as the tour to Gardens by the Bay. Moreover, some group works started this month. Many courses at SMU required students to finish more than one group works, so my groupmates and I needed to meet and have discussions together. However, I think that it was not difficult to have a work-life balance as long as planning was done constantly. I felt happy that I did work hard and have a chance to explore something new in the meantime.

October-The Third Month

This month would be a mid-term month for SMU students. We had a recess week in the second week of October, and exchange students would usually take this precious opportunity to visit other countries. My dad came in the mid-October. We visited the Merlion, Clarke Quay, Chinatown, Sentosa, and even went hiking to the highest

mountain in Singapore (it is not high comparing with mountains in HK though). After the mid-term exams, our host (as I joined the Host Program organized by the school) organized a trekking activity, and we had a walk in a country park for almost three hours. I enjoyed chatting with other host members along the trip. In my opinion, it was a good way to release stress after intense mid-term exams!

November-The Fourth Month

The last day of the semester was on 16th November. On the 8th November, SMU IO organized a farewell party for exchange students. Although we still had about one more month in Singapore, we already felt a bit sad. We all worked hard for the group project and final exams. But meanwhile, my friends and I still spent some days to visit some famous attractions in Singapore. For example, Universal Studios Singapore and the four zoos in Singapore. As there was a revision week before the start of the final exam, exchange students may plan a small trip this week. But revision was also important as everyone worked hard for the finals!

December-The Fifth Month



The finals were not yet finished until the end of the first week in December. My friends and I went to the school library every day, and we felt quite surprised as we could not even find a seat in the library in the first few days! SMU students were very hardworking and they gave us the motivation to work hard as well. After the finals, I went to Brunei with my friends, it was a nice traveling experience.

General Exchange Information

Visa Procedures

For exchange students, Student Pass is used as Student Visa in Singapore. SMU IO will provide all the guidelines for exchange students to apply for Student's Pass. Students should complete the SOLAR application form and pay Processing Fee via the SOLAR website about two months before the start of exchange, and after about one week (it may vary for different students), students can download the IPA letter and pay Issuance Fee Via the SOLAR website. Other tasks will be done on the matriculation day.

Orientation Activities

SMU IO held a half-day orientation after the matriculation day. The officers and student helpers talked about some basic information about SMU. There were campus tour and city tour afterwards. In my opinion, this would be one of the best opportunities to make new friends. I met some friends from other universities in HK and in mainland China, and they became my best friends.

International Services&Activities

SMU IO can be easily reached by email. They also posted information in the Facebook Group frequently. Moreover, they organized different activities for exchange students throughout the semester.

Accommodations

SMU does not have halls, but some hostels which have cooperations with the school were recommended to us. I chose yo:HA @ Pearl's Hill in Chinatown, one of these recommendations. It was the cheapest option among all which cost about a total of HKD 17,000 for a four-month-period. Also, traveling from the hostel to school is quite convenient as it takes about 10 min to travel from the hostel to Chinatown MRT station, and another 5 min from Chinatown station to school's station. The environment was fair, but note that some insects may fly into the apartment as the hostel is close to a hill.

Course Registration

Normally, exchange students are allowed to take no more than four courses. SMU uses bidding for course registration, in which students should spend a certain

amount of e-dollars to bid for the courses they want. Historical price for courses can be found in BOSS, the student course bidding online system of SMU.

Teaching&Assessment Methods

A seminar is three-hour long normally, and there are no tutorials. Professors usually split the class into two sections, and give us a fifteen-minute break in between. Grading is based on several criteria such as quizzes, group projects and exams. The workload is similar to that of UST.

Sports&Recreation Facilities

There are a gym and a swimming pool. SMU also has many sports students clubs to join.

Finance&Banking

Similar to HK, Singapore has many banks. Some exchange students open a bank account, but I exchanged quite a large amount of SGD before arrival and held it as cash, and I know some of my friends kept their money in the same way. Expenses greatly depend on the travelling plan. I have spent about HKD 30,000 for the whole exchange.

Social Clubs&Networking Opportunities

There are many student clubs at SMU, and they often organize activities such as meeting and visiting. Non-members can join those activities sometimes.

Health&Safety

The school clinic is free of charge, and the safety level is high.

Food

Generally, the food is cheaper than in HK. There are cuisines from different countries all over the world. Hawker centers are a special feature of Singapore where a wide variety of food with a low price is provided.

Transportation

Very convenient. I usually travel by MRT or bus. They are punctual and inexpensive.

Climate

Singapore is quite hot throughout the year. I didn't bring any coat with me. However, there may be sudden and huge precipitation, so it is better to bring along your umbrella when you are outside.

Communication

There are some big telecommunications companies in Singapore such as Starhub and Singtel. Furthermore, local people usually communicate in English or Mandarin.

Cautionary Measures

No.

Check List

Passport
IPA Letter
Colour passport-sized photograph
Acceptance letter
Enough cash
Calculator
Mosquito repellent
Charger
Umbrella
Formal outfit

Useful Links

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

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

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

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