



HKUST Exchange Report
National University of Singapore
2018 Fall Exchange
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PART I – MONTHLY ACTIVITY LOG

August 2018

August can be said as the month to explore Singapore and have fun. It began with orientation activities such as providing guidance to course registration and extracurricular activities details such as how to find your suitable student clubs.

Some hotspot I recommend is Marina Bay. You can pick up some drinks there with your friends when you feel depressed. One point you need to know is that drinking on street after 10 p.m. is strictly prohibited.

Also, you can go to orchard road for shopping. However, the price of luxury and electronic devices are a bit expensive.

The third place I recommend is Bayfront. You should go there on national day and see the air force shows if you are on exchange in fall semester

September 2018

The academic burden started to increase in this month and you will receive a lot of homework and assignments. The attitude of the local students is quite impressive. You can observe that they are participative in classes and eager to question any unreasonable points in the lectures.

October 2018

The highlighted event of this month is my lovely study break and I went to Indonesia. The first destination is Surabaya volcano which is spectacular. The second place I went to is Bali in which diving and surfing are widely provided.

After returning to Singapore I recommend you the Halloween night in Universal Studio. The amazing make-up of the ghosts will definitely scare you and friends.

November 2018

This week we have another study break and I went to Kuala Lumpur but the experience is not that satisfactory. The only tourist spot worth visiting is the Petronas Twin Tower.

Second thing I did in this month is having uncountable exams and group projects. Business school examinations came in the middle of the month so you need to plan your time properly to avoid clashes of deadline.

December 2018

There was only one week left in Singapore so I revisited the universal studio with my Beijing University friends. I also visit NTU because of my curiosity. One thing to note is that the accommodation ends at 9th December. Additional charge will be imposed if you check out later.

I went to Semporna before going back to Hong Kong, which gave me the most unforgettable experience in my life.

PART II – General Exchange Information

Visa Procedures

You basically will receive a file from NUS directing you how to get your visa. The website you need to visit is the SOLAR system and you need to prepare and complete the eForm16 a month ahead in order to visit Singapore on time.

Orientation Activities

The first day will be an information session telling you how to register the courses and where you can travel during your spare time. There will be some orientation tea for international students to know each other.

International Services & Activities

AIESEC in NUS provides wide range of activities.

Accommodations

Exchange students will be housed on campus and I lived in PGPR residence which is quite beautiful. However, I recommend you to stay in Utown as the facilities are more mature.

Course Registration

You will be required to register courses during the application and there is an additional add-drop period for you to get more courses. For business school, most of the courses are related to management and finance. However, most of them cannot be transferred back. And there are no accounting and marketing courses provided.

Teaching & Assessment Methods

Teaching method is quite similar to HKUST but requires you to engage more in the lessons. Probably, you have to do group projects and answer questions to secure some points. Assessment method may somehow different from Ust. You may need a computer when doing final exams.

Sports & Recreation Facilities

You can go to Sport hall for doing sport. But I often go to Utown one as the facilities there are newer.

Finance and Banking

In Singapore, definitely you have to use Singapore dollars but you can also use wechat pay or Alipay off campus.

I don't recommend you to open a bank account as the procedures take a long day and you cost may not be reduced.

Also, the administrative fee for getting money from ATM is around 20HKD per transaction

Social Clubs and Networking Opportunities

I joined the board game society helping to relieve burden in studies.

Health and Safety

You can go to hospital in Kent Ridge in case you feel sick. Please remember to bring the Student ID Card to get a discount.

Food

Food in NUS is much better than HKUST and the price is much lower also. I recommend you go to engineering school to have a meal. The food choice there are more diverse.

Transportation

In NUS, you can take the shuttle bus which is free in campus.

But If you want to go out of campus, you need an ezlink card similar to octopus card in HK.

I don't recommend you to take grab in Singapore as it's quite expensive

Climate

The climate is quite hot but not humid. It can be regarded as Autumn in HK. In my opinion, the temperature is not that high so you don't need to buy an air-conditioner.

Communication

Don't forget to buy a singtel card (normally 15SGD) and you can top up the card by downloading singtel app.

Cautionary Measures

Remember not to be a jaywalker in Singapore as it may cause you heavy penalty.

Other Notes

Students should also be aware that the passing grade of NUS is D. Don't skip too many lessons.

Part III – Items to Bring

- Business suit (important for business student)
- Passport
- Laptop
- Clothes
- Two phones in case you will lose one just like me
- Two suitcases
- Flipper
- Pillow

PART IV – Useful Links and Contacts

Course Catalog

<http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/info/ng/NG-Modules.pdf>

NUS Exchange Program Website

<http://www.nus.edu.sg/gro/student-exchange.php>

Transportation/Map Information

<https://www.lta.gov.sg/content/ltaweb/en/public-transport/mrt-and-lrt-trains/train-system-map.html>

Emergency Contact

Tel: +65 6516 2376