



NUS

National University
of Singapore

Exchange Report

Spring 2019

Monthly Activity Log

Jan 2019

Spring semester started on Jan 15th which is half month earlier than HKUST. Therefore, I arrived at Singapore on Jan 10th. In the first round of selection, I was not given on-campus housing, but I received Prince George's Park Residence Single room type C in the second round. There were several mandatory orientation activities and student visa application process in the first few days. You should check the school email regularly to register. For the first month, I spent lots of time exploring Singapore and took a weekend trip to Bantam Island, an Indonesia island near SG. There are many small Indonesia islands near Singapore, which generally take one or two hours by ship.

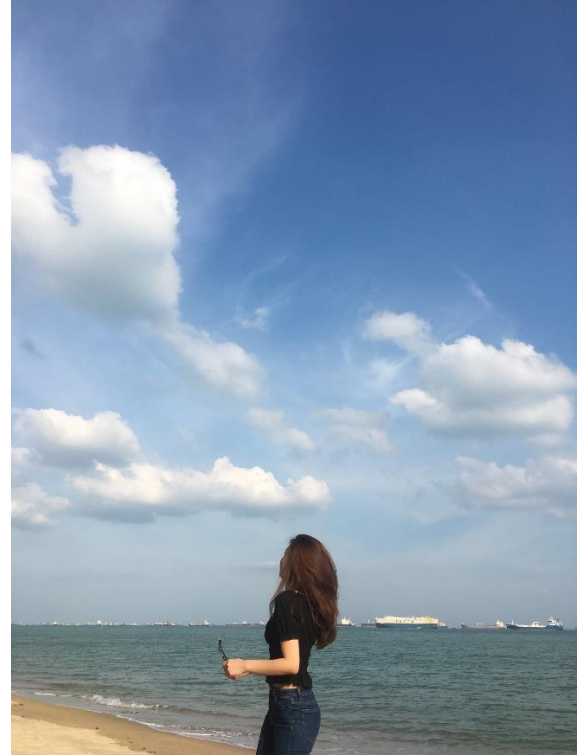


Feb 2019

As I gradually got used to the lifestyle and pace in Singapore, I had a relax and healthy schedule in February. As NUS has excellent sports facilities, I went to gym two or three times a week and went swimming regularly. Assignments and projects took me lots of time in weekdays as I chose biz and Science courses. But it was an enjoyable experience when I balanced the life and study well. I always hang out with friends on weekends to some local and non-tourist neighborhood. For the recess week in late February, I went back to Hong Kong for Spring Festival.

Mar 2019

All my midterm exams and presentations were in earlier March. Therefore, I buried myself in the library for the first two weeks of March. After midterm, I went to Universal Studio and Gardens by the Bay with my friends as well as some famous tourist attractions e.g. Little India, Clark Quay



April 2019

The most exciting thing in April is the recess week. For business course, final exam will be at middle April which is before the recess week. Others will be in early May. My last class ended on April 18th and my first final exam was at May 4th which means that I have half a month for travelling and I went to Taiwan for a long trip.

May 2019

My non-business courses have final exams in early May. My last final exam was on May 9th and I left two days after. The Hall check out deadline was on May 13th and the student visa ended up on May 20th. Therefore, if you plan to have a travel after exam, you should be aware of the tight schedule.



General Exchange Information

- Visa Procedures

The Student Visa Application is purely online process. NUS will help you to register Student's Pass application via the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA). They will notify you through email and ask you to login to the Student's Pass Online Application & Registration (SOLAR) system and submit the "eForm16". Payments should be made on the website through Visa or Master Card. Upon notification of "approval of student visa", you need to remember make all the necessary payments and print out the In-principal Letter. The In-principal letter will act as a single-entry visa to Singapore.

- Orientation Activities

Before and during the semester, there will be lots of orientation activities designed for exchanged students. Most of them should be registered earlier by email or on website. There will be some icebreaking events for exchangers such as "campus tour", "discovering Singapore", etc. And it is the best time to make friends through such events. Try not to miss it. Additionally, there will be various activities hold by societies or by halls including sports competitions.

- Accommodations

I live in Prince George's Park Residence, the one that being called the china town in NUS. Many of the Chinese students live there and the restaurants have delicious Chinese food. The room is quite good except that mine was a non-aircon room. In fact, many of rooms in NUS do not have air conditioner (only a fan). Therefore, be prepared to the hot weather there.

- Courses Registration

The exchangers are using a unique course registration system unlike the local students. Business courses are separated from other schools using its own system. At early December, when doing online registration for NUS, the school will ask you to fill in a form of courses that you want to take. In January, you will receive the notification of course registration status. For unsuccessful ones, you need to write approval letters and submit them online through different systems(one of biz courses, the other for non biz courses). Tutorials should be registered after the semester starts two weeks.

- Teaching & Assessment Methods

Same as HKUST, the assessment methods are different according to professor's requirement. E.g. Money and Banking: 10% tutorial participation, 35% midterm, 55% final. Introduction to Psychology: 50% midterm, 50% final. Corporate Finance: 25% test 1, 25% presentation, 35% test 2, 15% assignments

- Sports & Recreation Facilities

NUS have two swimming pools, one in Utown and one in Sports Center. Utown, PGP, and Sports center have gyms. Football field, basketball field and badminton courts are near the Science school.

- Finance & Banking (including currency / expenses)

I opened a DBS debit account there. It was quite useful as Singapore's online payment is quite prevalent (NETSPay, DBS PayLah). Most of the shops and restaurants accept online payments. Therefore, it is suggested that a local bank account being opened.

- Food

From my perspective, Food in NUS is quite delicious. Most of the Canteens in NUS are like the food republic, which means that a canteen will have ten more counters for different kinds of food (Korean food, Taiwan food, India food, etc.) Additionally, as there are lots of Chinese in Singapore, the Sichuan Mala Hot pot is quite popular. Also, you can always find the traditional Singaporean style in the canteen (e.g. laksa).

- **Transportation**

In Singapore, I chose to take bus or metro when I was not in a hurry. The public transportation system is quite developed. NUS is at a metro station called Kent Ridge. It will take around 20 minutes to go to Orchard Road or Marina Bay if you choose public transportation. Also, Uber would be a convenient choice and is frequently used.

- **Climate**

The weather is quite hot in Spring. It would be rainy occasionally so prepare the umbrella and sunscreen at the same time.

- **International Services and Activities**

I download the international SOS app in case of any emergency. When you arrive at NUS, you can note down the campus secure number and campus emergency number.

- **Social Clubs and & Networking opportunities**

NUS business school will organize net working events and workshops for students who want to do finance job in the future, and even the PGP Hall has job consulting events. I attended a PGP Hall organized event called “Future job consulting”. Alumni from NUS came back to give us panel talk and there are Q&A session to give student a networking opportunity.

- **Healthy and Safety**

NUS has the university health center for students and there is National university Hospital on campus. However, I would suggest taking some medicine with you when you go to Singapore in case of any discomfort.

- **Communication**

As Singapore use English as official language, there should be no worry of communication. Also, many Singaporeans can speak Mandarin and Cantonese. People I met in Singapore are enthusiastic and friendly, and professors and university staff are being very helpful to exchange students.

- **Cautionary Measures**

Please be reminded to the laws in Singapore of drinking, smoking and chewing gum. It is one of the most secure country in the world and at the same time it is a country that has strict laws. However, it is never enough to be cautious to

Items to bring:

- Passport
- In-principal Letter
- Summer clothes
- swimsuits & Sandals

- Umbrella & sunscreen
- Bed sheets, pillow, blankets (not provided in dormitories)
- Laptop, phone, chargers, international adaptors
- Cash, credit/debit card

Useful links and contacts:

- Course Catalog:
<https://bschool.nus.edu.sg/marketing/modules/bba>
- Campus Map:
<http://map.nus.edu.sg>
- <https://ivle.nus.edu.sg/> (similar to HKUST Canvas)
- <https://luminus.nus.edu.sg/>
- Education records system:
https://myedurec.nus.edu.sg/psc/cs90prd/EMPLOYEE/SA/c/NUI_FRAMEWORK.PT_LANDINGPAGE.GBL?&
- MoRe System:
<https://myaces.nus.edu.sg/PRJXIA/Student/Login>