

# Exchange Report

## National University of Singapore



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*Spring 2019*

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## Part I. Monthly Activity Log

### January 2019

The spring semester in NUS started in January. As there were some compulsory orientation activities, I arrived in Singapore on Jan.8<sup>th</sup> with other exchange students. The orientation activities were quite useful to help us get familiar with the new campus life.



### February 2019

At the beginning of February, I went to Jakarta and Bali with several friends for one week. Fantastic journey to hit the beach and enjoy the sunshine. And also a nice memory to spend the Chinese New Year at a strange place with some best friends. For academic, the life during the first two month wasn't busy. Therefore, I have got plenty of time to travel around the country and visit several famous attractions. I strongly recommend the exhibitions at the Art-science Museum. Most of the exhibitions are well-designed and deserve a visit.



## March 2019

After the recess week, as I have taken 5 courses (the most we could take), I have also got many group projects and assignments. Well, these assignments helped me to make friends with local students and I still keep in touch with most of them. And some local friends took me around the city for a ride during the weekends and that was so marvelous.



## April 2019

The semester ended at Apr.20<sup>th</sup>. Unluckily, I still had lectures after that because of my instructors' special plan. Most of us were quite busy preparing for exams and presentations etc. For business courses, there are usually in-class final exams. Therefore, I suggest you to spend some time in the library for reviewing and end your semester with a satisfied result.



## **Part II. General Exchange Information**

### **Visa Procedures**

For mainland students, it takes about 1 month to apply for the visa. No worries because NUS will send you an email with very detailed guidelines for application. And when you arrive at NUS, you will need to complete another part of the application to get a student visa card. I suggest you to prepare for it as soon as you get to Singapore, because if you don't complete it at NUS during specific time period, you will have to go to the office by yourself.

### **Orientation Activities**

NUS will send you an email about the orientation activities and a brief introduction. Notice that business school usually has its own orientation activities and necessary information will be provided during them. There are compulsory and voluntary activities but I suggest you to take as many as you can because it will help you to start well at an unfamiliar place.

### **International Services & Activities**

NUS provides some well-designed activities for international students include to help you to get familiar with Singapore and NUS. If you have any questions, just ask the contact person for exchange students. They are quite nice and patient.

### **Accommodations**

NUS announces that the on-campus accommodations are not guaranteed. But at least all my friends from HKUST got one. The university dormitories are single rooms. However, most of rooms do not have air conditioners and you need to find ways to solve it as the temperature in Singapore is always quite high. In general, the hostel situation is quite good.

### **Courses Registration**

During the orientation activities, NUS will have a very detailed explanation about their course registration platform. One thing to notice is that business courses need to be enrolled using a different system. Details and guidelines will be given during the business orientation.

#### **Teaching & Assessment Methods**

The teaching and assessment methods are just the same as UST. There are lectures and tutorials for most of the courses. And your grades are decided by midterms, finals, assignments and participations. All instructors will provide their own syllabus at the beginning of the semester.

#### **Sports & Recreation Facilities**

NUS has nice sports and recreation facilities. You can enjoy yourself at basketball courts, soccer courts, gyms, swimming pools etc. As I lived in PGP, it's quite convenient as we have our own gym and other facilities.

#### **Finance & Banking (including currency / expenses)**

You can find DBS ATMs on campus and I suggest you to apply for the DBS account as it won't take too much time. If you didn't do so, you can still use your HSBC or Hang Seng cards. 1 SGD is about 5.8 HKD. The meals on campus takes about 5-10 SGD each.

#### **Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities**

There are plenty of social clubs and networking events, including sports clubs, drama clubs, academic clubs etc. And you will have opportunities to make friends with other students. Notice that for some clubs, exchange student are not allowed to apply for them.

#### **Health & Safety**

There is a health center at NUS. For common issues, you can just go there and ask for help. The public hospitals are also quite nice, you will get a special number which can be used in all hospitals. Singapore is well known for its safety. But as

we always say, safest doesn't mean no danger. So still take care of yourself and have a nice journey.

#### **Food**

There are many canteens on campus. Actually, I haven't been to all of them because there are just too many. So, you've got plenty of choices. Also, the university canteens have different kinds of food, including Chinese, American, Singaporean, Korean, Indian, Indonesian etc. Just have a try and find what you want.

#### **Transportation**

For public transport, you can buy a EZlink card, which is quite similar to Octopus. The bus and metro system in Singapore is well-developed and quite convenient. And there are Campus Bus for you to get to different places on campus. You can download an application called NUS Campus to check the map and the time for the campus bus.

#### **Climate**

The temperature in Singapore is always high and the weather is usually humid. It rains quite often although it usually doesn't last for long. I suggest you to always bring an umbrella with you and sunglasses are also needed.

#### **Communication**

Most of us bought Starhub half year contract. You can buy the card at the airport or any 7-eleven. You can top up your account using phone or at 7-eleven. It not very expensive and should be affordable. You can also buy special plan and use it in Indonesia if you plan to go to Bali for a trip.

#### **Cautionary measures**

Safety is always the most important especially when you travel in other countries. I suggest you go travelling with several friends and do research of your destination before you go.

### **Part III. Items to Bring**

- Passport and other documents
- clothes for hot weather
- Umbrella and sunglasses
- Electronic devices and chargers, adaptors
- Enough cash or credit card

### **Part IV. Useful Links and Contacts**

- Timetable: <https://nusmods.com/timetable/>
- NUS map: <http://map.nus.edu.sg/>