



Exchange Report

Singapore Management University, Singapore

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Economics and Finance, Year 3

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Part I: Monthly Activity Log

January 2020

The funny fact is that this year, we are suggested to arrive on January 1st, the first day of the year. Therefore, a lot of exchange students chose to arrive a few days earlier that they can join the New Year Countdown, such as a 90-minute firework display at Marina Bay.

The first month is just familiar with and adapt to the new environment. Not much workload from the study part, I just need to be familiar with the syllabus, the course requirements, and also find the group members to do group projects. Most of the time was spent on meeting new friends from different countries and different universities, finding the way around the campus and learning to use campus facilities – SMU website, eLearn, the printer.....



February 2020

The second month of the exchange will have some small quizzes and most importantly, the projects are all started. I was lucky that I didn't have any mid-term, so all I have to do is reviewing my quiz and starting the group project. The recess week was also in February. Due to the COVID-19, I decided to stay in Singapore and not go out for travel. I went to some tourist attractions, such as Marina bay, Garden

by the bay and also University Studio for many times. I also spent my time on visiting local restaurants and small but unique stores, which are good places to buy special souvenirs.



March 2020

The third month was a quite busy month. Although I still had time to go around, I spent most of the time on group projects. There were a lot of meetings in this month. While doing group projects, groupmates always had numbers of ideas and suggestions, so my part was revised over and over again. Some courses were ended in this month and the group projects were also needed to be done. Due to the COVID-19, exchange students were back to their home countries in a rush from mid-March. It was a quite sad period cause the time to say goodbye a month ahead of the schedule and what's planned could not be realized.

April 2020

Due to the COVID-19, I went back to my home country. However, all the final exams were not cancelled but change to online final exams.

Part II: General Exchange Information

Visa Procedures

It's a quite simple process because SMU will give clear guide, all the things can be done online and at SMU administration building.

1. While receiving the acceptance letter from SMU, they will also send you an email about your personal SOLAR details to facilitate the application of Student's Pass (a link to ICA website will also be provided)
2. Once approval is granted, download and print the **IPA letter** (also be needed when entry into Singapore)
3. One of the orientation activities is Completion of Formalities, just need to bring everything needed.
4. The collection will also at administration building

Orientation Activities

The orientation contains 3 parts: completion of formalities, orientation briefing, collection of SMU student card and student's pass. The orientation briefing is like a talk gathering all the exchange students together, introducing all the things we need to know when exchange. After the talk, SMU provided delicious food for lunch. A campus tour and Singapore story tour will also be provided, I highly recommend you attend the campus tour!

International Services & Activities

The SMU Inbound Exchange International Office is really helpful, you can just send them email for enquires.

Accommodations

There are total 3 hostels provided. SMU will give the links and instruction for application ahead. I was living in Dwell, at first, I think the environment is not that good compared with UST. However, the location is incredibly convenient, not only near to the MRT station, but also close to large shopping mall and the center area of Singapore. The staff are super friendly. In addition, all the exchange student lived in Dwell will be on the same floor, so you can make so many new friends.

Course Registration

SMU is using a system called BOSS, mainly is that provided you 100 e-money and you bid on the course you want. It's quite difficult for me but the instruction given by SMU is clear enough.

Teaching & Assessment Methods

SMU's professors are super super super nice! It makes me send them email with hesitation when I have questions. They will reply your email in a short time but with comprehensive explanations. All the courses in SMU put a large percentage in class participation, so attend every lesson is needed. Exams and group projects are similar to UST's.

Sports & Recreation Facilities

I always walked pass by the gym but never entered the gym. But I heard from my roommate that the gym was good.

Finance & banking

I didn't set up a local bank account in Singapore. I brought the cash I needed and mainly using my VISA card. WeChat pay is also accepted at many stores.

Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

Although I mainly hang out with other exchange students, there were lots of clubs in SMU. There was an introduction of the clubs at the orientation talk.

Health & Safety

There is a clinic inside the campus and it is similar to the UST's one, it is convenient. It is super super super safe in Singapore!

Food

The food is really good, especially the local Singapore style breakfast. There is a large variety of choices inside the campus, it is much cheaper than outside.

Transportation

Using the ezlink card like octopus card which you can get at 7-11. One thing needed to take care is that, remember to tap your card again when you get off the bus.

Climate

Near the equator, Singapore is extremely hot! Umbrellas and the sun-screen are needed. T-shirts and slippers are always the right choice.

Communication

Mainly using English (Singlish), but most of the people can speak Mandarin.

Cautionary Measures

Remember to check the things which are not allowed to bring into Singapore. The law in Singapore is strict.

Part III: Items to bring

The things for daily used is the same as the things you need while travelling. The things forgot is easy to get at supermarket and shopping mall. However, the document needed to bring must be checked again and again before departure.

Document:

- passport-sized photo against white background
- embarkation card
- original passport and also one copy
- a copy of IPA letter
- a copy of e-Form 16
- a copy of your payment receipt

Others:

- a copy of acceptance letter from SMU
- SMU housing offer letter
- medical/immunization records
- extra photos if needed

Part IV: Useful Links and Contacts

- SOLAR ICA (Immigration : <https://solar.ica.gov.sg/solar/index.xhtml>)
- ISEP (Inbound Exchange Office): <https://www.smu.edu.sg/global/faq/isep-inbound>
- Access to SMU campus email: <http://live.smu.edu.sg/>
- Access to eLearn, BOSS, Payment: <https://oasis.smu.edu.sg>