



SMU

**Exchange Report
Singapore
Management
University (SMU)
Spring 2019/20**

Prepared by Season LI

Monthly Activity

First Month - January

SMU commenced its spring term on 6 January, the earliest among the universities in Singapore. I arrived in Singapore on 1 January to check in the hostel (*Dwell @ Selegie*), a shared bedroom assigned by the school, and join multiple orientation activities organized by the SMU International Office. In the activities, I knew a lot of useful information (e.g. Student pass, different campus activities etc.) and met other exchange students. They also provided a welcome lunch buffet after the briefing session which I met a lot of the local students. All the local students were very nice and friendly and suggested us some places to go for visiting and having meals. In the first few weeks of the lectures, I am stocked by the cultures since all the classrooms were relatively small and the professors always interacted with the students by asking questions. Also, SMU had an underground concourse connecting different schools (Law school, Accounting school...) and it was convenient for me to go different to attend lessons.

Second Month - February

I enjoyed the school life there since I met a few friends at the school and hostel. We often hung out in different malls since the city development of Singapore was well organized and pretty much of the shores located inside malls. They were famous and decent malls such as ION Orchard, Vivo City and Bugis Junction etc, and all of them were downtown and close to the campus. We also spent a weekend in Bintan, an island nearby Singapore, which only took an hour to go there. It was relaxing to enjoy the sun and beach and play watersports. In the meantime, many mid-term projects started this month. Some professors required groups to have a certain number of locals and exchange students together and the locals were very helpful to call the meeting, book rooms and initiate the project. Also, the professors would

remind the students in every class about the due date and try to connect some relevant concepts to help us understand the projects. I did feel a lot more easier to handle the projects.

Third Month - March

After the mid-term assignments, there was a recess week without classes so I went to Bali and Malaysia with my friends. It only took a few hours to get there and the flight tickets were quite cheap. For Malaysia, I went to Kuala Lumpur and the price level there was much lower than Singapore. As a durian lover, I almost ate it everyday with exceptionally low price and good quality. However, because of the COVID-19 breakouts, many cities were blocked down and the Singapore government took more restriction on the citizens so many courses shifted to online lessons after the recess week while SMU adapted to the policies quickly and launched clear guidelines for us to attend classes remotely.

Fourth Month - April

In this month, many final projects and examinations shifted to online because of the COVID-19 breakouts and SMU allowed exchange students to go back to their home countries earlier and take online examinations. The Singapore government restricted citizens to stay home and reduce unnecessary outing activities so I spent pretty much time in the hostel. My exchange journey ended earlier as my parents recommended and I took the online examination in Hong Kong.

General Exchange Information

Visa Procedures

Every exchange student must apply for the student's pass through the SOLAR (Student's Pass Online Application and Registration) application system and pay the required fee before entering Singapore. The IPA letter will be issued after finishing the application on SOLAR. After finishing the online application on the SOLAR, SMU will arrange the completion of formalities (CoF) for Student's Pass and collection at the campus. SMU International Office will provide all the guidelines to show the procedure step by step so always check your email.

Orientation Activities

SMU held a half-day orientation event including a briefing session that you could know some useful information from the sharing of SMU's staffs and local student helpers. After the session, SMU also provided a free welcome lunch and campus tour that you could meet other exchange and local students. There was an optional city tour afterward and I think that would be a good chance to meet new friends and know more about the city.

International Services & Activities

SMU organized a Facebook group that you could meet other exchange students and they kept posting the latest announcements and activities via the group and email throughout the semester.

Accommodations

SMU campus located downtown so it only provided 3 off-campus options for accommodation. I chose Dwell@Selegies and it was relatively more expensive than others, around \$18000 for the whole semester (but still cheaper than other rentals). It only took 5-10 minutes to walk to campus. The hostel had a common floor that provides all the necessities such as laundry, hot and cold water and basic kitchenware.

Courses Registration

Students in SMU enrolled courses through the BOSS system, a online course bidding system, and it was not really user-friendly for a newcomer. You have only 100 coins for bidding so you must check the historical price of the courses and use your coin wisely. You really needed to spend some time to study and plan for your course registration.

Teaching & Assessment Methods

Normally, a lecture takes 3-hours long and the class size is relatively small. The professors always encourage people to talk and answer questions in class. SMU has a in-house online learning platform, eLearn, in which you could download all the lecture materials and take quizzes there.

Sports & Recreation Facilities

SMU has a gym room and swimming pool. There are some sport-related student clubs you could join.

Finance & Banking (including currency / expenses)

I didn't open a bank account there so I brought a lot of cash there. You could do the exchange in Chinatown (the rate is quite good!). You could also choose to withdraw money directly from local banks through UnionPay. I recommend UOB, a bank in Singapore since this is the bank that you could press more money at one time without local bank charges according to my experience.

Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

I didn't join any social clubs but I know there are a lot of student clubs you could join. You could also stay tuned to the email since SMU will sometimes organize some workshops and activities.

Health & Safety

There is a free clinic service provided.

Food

Besides the canteen, there are various options located in different schools. My favorite one is a Thai restaurant located on the ground floor of SMU Connexion. You could also travel to different attractions such as Chinatown through MRT.

Transportation

It is very convenient but you need to be careful about what MRT line you are going since they are closely located and different MRT stations head to different lines.

Climate

Singapore is usually hot and rainy.

Communication

There are few options such as Starhub, Singtel and M1. You could buy a sim card from the airport, convenient store and even the branches.

Cautionary measures

Not much. Just be careful when you were outside.

Check List

- 1. Passport**
- 2. IPA Letter**
- 3. Colour passport-sized photograph**
- 4. Acceptance letter**
- 5. Smartphone**
- 6. Laptop**
- 7. Cash, Credit Card, Debit Card**
- 8. Calculator (if needed)**
- 9. Charger**
- 10. Umbrella**
- 11. Formal outfit**
- 12. Summer clothes**

Useful Links

1. SMU Official Website:

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

2. SMU Maps:

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

3. Student Portal:

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

4. Student Online Learning Platform:

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

5. Online Course Bidding System:

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