

EXCHANGE REPORT



Singapore Management University, Singapore

School of Business

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IS & MARK Year 3

Fall 2022

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Part I Monthly Activity Log

Aug 2022

Due to personal preferences, I struggled a lot with the accommodation during the first few days in Singapore. After moving several places, I finally settled down in a small bedroom with a balcony. I was very happy to find a place like this to stay for 4 months.

I remember after one week of arrival, it was Singapore National Day. All Singaporeans wear red, to celebrate their festival. There was a firework show at Marina Bay Sands.



On Aug 11, I visited SMU for the first time. It was the day of orientation for exchange students. The best part about SMU is its location. SMU, as a city campus, was located downtown. It was close to everywhere, easy of getting food and

shopping after school. I also love the buildings and facilities in campus because they are modern and new.

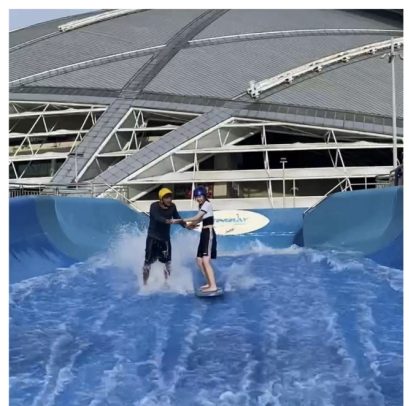
Singapore Night Festival were holding during Aug 19 to Aug 27, there were several activity points in downtown, and most of them were close to SMU. I remember one of the shows was holding right at SMU's campus green. I love the energy and vibe that everyone has.

On the day of city tour, I visited the most famous representative statute of Singapore – Merlion. It was half lion and half fish. The weather was great that day.



Sep 2022

During September, I participated in many activities, such as longboard, handball, and surfing. I enjoyed trying out new things and exploring new sports. SMU provided me with many opportunities to try out different things, being adventurous all the time. Thanks to all the CCAs in SMU, my spare time was fulfilled by the activities they provided (weekly). I met lots of new people during activities (mostly locals), and they were so nice to show me around Singapore.



Oct 2022

In the beginning of October, SMU had one week off (Recess week). Me and my friends had decided to have a short trip to Malaysia. Since Singapore and Malaysia were so close to each other, we chose to take the shuttle bus to Malaysia. It only took us around 6 hours from HarbourFront Center to Kuala Lumpur.

We had visited many places in Malaysia, such as Petronas Twin Tower, Mosques, Indoor/Outdoor theme park, etc... I really enjoyed this experience of traveling with friends.



Nov 2022

My exchange's final month was packed with parties. In the first picture, I was taking part in a Halloween skate party that Skating CCA organized. The next two pictures were taken during the exchange parties to which I was invited. The first one was taken in a club, and the second one was taken at a BBQ party. I was the only person in the picture who was Chinese, and others were from foreign countries. I had a great time talking with them and sharing funny cultural facts. I hope to see them again in the future.



During final period, I'm a bit busy with finals and presentations, but I still find time to explore more about Singapore more. The first photo was taken in Sentosa. I watched the sunset from the beach while I was rushing to finish my final paper (due at 11:59 pm). I love the wind, the clouds, and the sea; everything on the beach makes me feel relaxed.

A few days after the final exam, I visited the Universal Studios in Singapore. Honestly, not recommended as the place is too small and the waiting line is long.

The last photo was taken at the final party at SMU. I had so much fun chatting with my Asian friends there, I was sad to say goodbye to them.



Part II General Exchange Information

Visa Procedures

SMU provided documentary support for Student's Pass procedures. Just check your email frequently. There were two steps to complete before departure, and links were provided via email. Those links would redirect users to the ICA website, and the next step is just inputting personal information and paying an application fee.

After completing the first two steps, you are fine to legally enter Singapore (at least for HK passport holders). Step 3 (final Step) can only be completed after arrival. Step 3 also known as COF, and it is usually arranged by the host university. In order to complete COF, being fully vaccinated and having NIR are needed before going onsite. For NIR, I simply googled and found a clinic that offers this kind of service.

Orientation Activities

SMU had many exchange students each semester, and most of them were from Europe. The host university would arrange orientation for exchange students, introducing background information of the school, and having local students to tour us around campus. Besides, city tours are provided with only \$5. It was a great opportunity to have an overview of Singapore. I also had the chance to meet lots of European friends during city tours.

Accommodations

I would recommend not to live in the hall that SMU suggests. SMU did help exchange students with housing, but the number of rooms is limited. The place they arranged students was called yo:HA @ pearl's hill. I didn't not apply successfully in the first place due to limited resources, but I know from my agency that there was a vacancy. The room I booked was a bedroom twin sharing 4 PAX, around \$1500 (exclude hydropower). The sanitation had disgusted me... I moved out after one night. After a long time of researching/contacting people I know from SMU, I finally rent a single bedroom in an apartment with only \$1350 per month.

Anyways, co-living apartments are highly recommended. It would be better to check the house in person (or ask your friend to check for you), because it could be troublesome. I would highly recommend the apartment close to the MRT station. Last but not least, be careful when signing the contract!!! Some landlords can be sneaky, and they would charge you extra.

Course Registration

SMU has a different course registration system compared with HKUST. SMU has a bidding system for course registration, which literally means you have to place the bid for courses. Each exchange student has 100 bids. SMU professors normally recommend exchange students to take 2-3 courses, but I think 4 courses are totally fine for ust students. After choosing the courses I wanted to take, I placed the bid according to the bidding history of each course, making sure that I can enroll in all the courses I want. From my experience, bidding is easy and it is totally controllable, but I did have several friends tell me that they failed to choose the courses they wanted. I guess it somehow depends on luck.

Teaching & Assessment Methods

SMU adopts a seminar teaching style, with small-sized and more interactive courses. Students are encouraged to participate in class discussions, and there are a lot of group projects in SMU.

Finance and Banking

The expense will vary from each individual. On average, I spent around \$1700 SGD per month (rental is excluded). Since I did not cook, I spent \$600-800 SGD on food each month.

It's totally up to you to open a bank account or not. For my case, I mainly use cash and it is totally fine for me. HK credit cards are accepted in Singapore, but be aware that union pay is not widely accepted.

Social Clubs and Networking Opportunities

I did not officially join any student club (aka CCA in SMU), but I did participate in many CCA activities. There were a lot of CCA activities organized by student clubs each week; they would send out registration forms one week before via email. I participated in many CCA activities such as longboarding, surfing, archery, skating, rock climbing, etc... I enjoyed participating in those activities.

Food

Due to the culture of Singapore, there were a lot of hawker centers. Hawker centers by definition are like a food court that provides a variety of food. Singaporeans don't usually cook at home, and they like eating at hawker centers since the price is cheap. Normal restaurant costs between \$30-60 SGD.

Singapore is known for its durian and coconut. I strongly suggest all exchange students to give it a try.

Transportation

SMU is located in downtown. With the city campus, SMU students can get around the city easily. It is convenient for exchange students who like to visit different places. Campus is connected to an underground MRT station for the convenience of all students.

Climate

The climate in Singapore is very hot and humid. Sunscreen and Sunglasses are highly recommended to bring. Students are also recommended to bring a light jacket to school, because the air conditioning is on all the time. I felt cold when I was only wearing a T-shirt at school.

Communication

Singapore locals do use WhatsApp, but in addition to that, they also use Telegram. According to my experience, I used Telegram a lot more when I was studying in SMU. For course projects, locals tend to create a Tele group for communication purposes. I also chat with some of my professors through Tele as well.

Cautionary Measures

The weather in Singapore is unpredictable, and the weather forecast is not trustworthy. As it may rain anytime, it will be a good idea to put an umbrella in your bag at any time.

Part III Items to Bring

Checklist	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Slippers
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T-shirt
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jacket (cold in indoors)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Umbrella
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sunglasses
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Water bottle
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wallet

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cash
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bedsheet
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pillow (Or arrive early and buy in IKEA)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Phone charger
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Power bank
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Laptop charger
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Power Strip
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Laptop
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Headphone
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Credit card/Debit card
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Contact lenses (need prescription to buy in SG)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Medicine

Part IV Useful Links and Contacts

Course Catalog

<https://inet.smu.edu.sg/sites/courses/Pages/Course-Offerings.aspx>

SMU Exchange Program Website

<https://www.smu.edu.sg/global/student-programmes>

Transportation/Map Information

<https://goo.gl/maps/e5LZhi9kp93S8Lre9>

Emergency Contact Tel

+65 6828 0343 (24 hours campus security)

IT Help Desk Email & Tel

helpdesk@smu.edu.sg

+65 6828 0123.