

Exchange Report

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY of SINGAPORE



Fall 2022



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Part 1: Monthly Activity Log

July & August 2022

The commence of Fall semester in NUS falls on the beginning of August, so I arrived at the campus in the last week of July. There were several orientation activities at that time, but pitifully I did not attend any of them. Instead of joining the orientations, I met with some of my friends undergoing undergraduate study in NUS. Some proofs regarding your covid situation were needed and could be easily done both on-campus and off-campus. Before the official commence of the semester, I mainly stay in University Town and explore around.



September 2022

Due to the early commence of the semester, the midterm period, accompanied by the midterm break, fell in this month. The exams are relatively easier than UST's, so I took a 'holiday' and travel around Singapore during the exam and break period. My friend flew from another country to Singapore and we hang around together. Not only did we try some of the Cantonese restaurants, but we also went to several bars to spend the nights, which are actually short in Singapore.



October 2022

The Formula 1 began at the very beginning of October, last day of September to be exact, and last for 3 days. My friend and I went watching the games on the second day. Street lights glowed around the circuit, racing cars roared before they turn away at the corner and vanish into the silent nights, leaving audiences staring at the screen which captured the cars at the other end of the track. Following the end of the race of that day came the concert of Westlife. It was wonderful to see the ones you had spent your childhood listening to just singing right in front of you. Later in the month, I went to watch the *Evangelion 3.0+1.0 Thrice Upon a Time* in a cinema during its special movie festival, in which the cinema played significant Japanese movies only. One night my friend and I were walking in a silent park next to our hotel, chatting about the missing years because of the covid and breathing the freezing (comparatively) air which belongs to only the midnight. The point I would like to make here is that although these moments may not bring me any forms of success, which most of us are striving for, they actually make up our life. Some might call this methodology *Carpe Diem*. However, as we walk on the midnight street and saw all kinds of people wondering around, we realized that this was exactly what the life touches like, the thought that would only come to you when you are solely on your own.



November 2022

November was the exam month, well, redemption month for me. My routine became more than 10 hours of self-studying everyday until mid November, the end of the exam period. After finishing the study in NUS, I went around the campus again and again, trying to capture those beautiful sunsets in case I would not see them anymore. Meanwhile, I also went to some local places and wandered near my neighborhood. The

weather is just satisfying in Singapore's November, everything seems to cool down a little bit. I flew back to HK at the end of November but you can stay there or travel to nearby country using your student visa of Singapore. That being your choice.



Part II General Exchange Information

1) Visa Procedures

- You need to renew your passport and complete eForm16 that NUS will be sending to you. After the submission, NUS will help hand your material to the Immigration & Checkpoint Authority, which will be processing your student visa.

2) Orientation Activities

- Follow the email, you will get detailed instruction from NUS. The orientation activities will most likely to be held right before the commence of the semester, so make sure you arrive few days in advance to better engage in the local atmosphere.

3) International Services & Activities

- You can directly contact Lin Xinying, who is responsible for handling issues about non-graduating students.

4) Accommodations

- You need to apply for dorm. NUS will be sending you details about each dormitory. Some of the on-campus accommodation requires basic meals plan, but others do not. One point you might need to consider is that a few halls do not have AC in its rooms, and Singapore can get extremely hot all year around.

5) Courses Registration

- NUS will send you a copy of courses that you can choose during the exchange, the choices for certain subjects can be limited. Moreover, the school requires you to fulfill the pre-requisite, if any, for your chosen subject. Therefore, you might need to go over your current transcript and see whether you have finished corresponding courses. According to some other exchange students and my personal experience, the course selection can be pretty tough, if the course can get UST credits transferred, so you might need to make up your mind earlier and make second-hand preparation if the quota is full and your registration fails.

6) Teaching & Assessment Methods

- Class format is pretty much alike to UST. Social science courses involve participation and group project throughout the semester while Econ courses are mostly pure one-man-show of the professors. Most courses I took required participation and pop-up questions could be given during the lecture, so make sure you went to class in the flesh if you are seeking high grades.

7) Finance & Banking

- Similar to Hong Kong, you do not really need a bank account to survive in Singapore. Cash is broadly used there, and local bank cards can also be used in most of the boutiques. However, if you want to go to places like local markets, cash will be the best payment method. Few local restaurant accept Visa/Mastercard payment, while credit cards, both local and international, are likely to be the most popular payment method in fancy restaurants. Daily expense in dining can be around 100 HKD in campus. For those who want to go to the fanciest restaurants, sky is the limit.(The rule applies universally though)

8) Climate

- Personal speaking, the seasons in Singapore can be divided into two, one being dry summer, and another rainy summer. During the fall semester, the outdoor temperature can be higher than 20 Celcius throughout the day, meanwhile the ACs are working relentlessly in the libraries. Make sure you bring some jackets to survive in lecture halls and libraries, and an umbrella to avoid the sudden rains, which happen quite frequently.

9) Health & Safety

- **Singapore is the safest place I have ever been to.** If you leave something behind, do not worry, it is highly possible that no one would ever take them. It is amazing that you can feel free to walk in the street in the midnight and not being afraid of rubbery or anything similar. There is a clinic in the campus, right next to the central library. The insurance covered by NUS cannot be used there because of my identity as a non-graduating student. The only place I have heard bad about is the Little India district, so you might need to be more careful there.

10) Food

- There are several canteens in the campus, you can go around and see whether food in there suits you or not. Cuisines in Singapore can be a little bit spicy when it comes to Thai and Malaysian food, but my viewpoint may not be convincing since I can not deal with spicy food at all. Michelin restaurants are all around, mostly located in Orchard and Marina Bay. One can also go to local food courts to have a taste of local food.

11) Transportation

- Buses and metros are highly recommended, of course, by me, taxis' convenient and yet expensive. There are several local taxi companies, and their prices vary, so you might want to check each price before you order one.

12) Communication

- Whatsapp and Telegram mostly. Some might use Ins.

13) Sports & Recreation Facilities

- There are several gyms in the campus, piano rooms can be found in UTown. The fields are located next to the Science School and in UTown, you can run on the track or play football and Frisbee there.

14) Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

- Some society might begin recruiting members before the semester commence, but I suppose they do not mind anyone join midway. There will also be parties held by each dormitory, just feel free to join and chat with locals as well as other exchange students.

15) Cautionary measures

- Do not offend the law and regulations, that's what the whole society bases on and every member in it cherishes.

Part III Items to Bring

- Passport, ID card, all the necessary identity proof.
- Clothes suitable for tropic weather, suits in case you need to do presentation or join a rather formal party
- Adapters not needed, chargers same as we use in HK
- Credit cards and prepare some amount of cash in advance is better

Part III Useful Links

- Actually the school will provide you all the links you will be needing, so I am listing some apps that might help you with campus life.
- uNivUS
- LumiNUS
- Kahoot! is sometimes needed
- BusLeh for checking the arrival time of buses
- NUS NextBus for school shuttle buses