




Study Abroad Report

National University of Singapore



NUS
National University
of Singapore

Fall Term 2022-23
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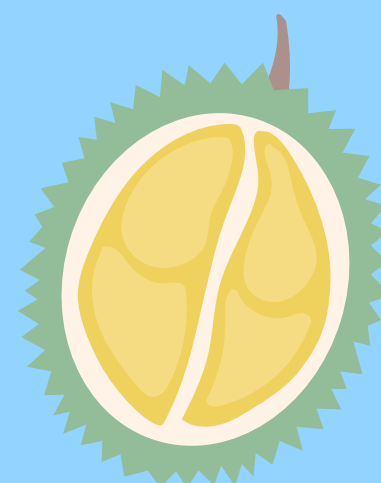
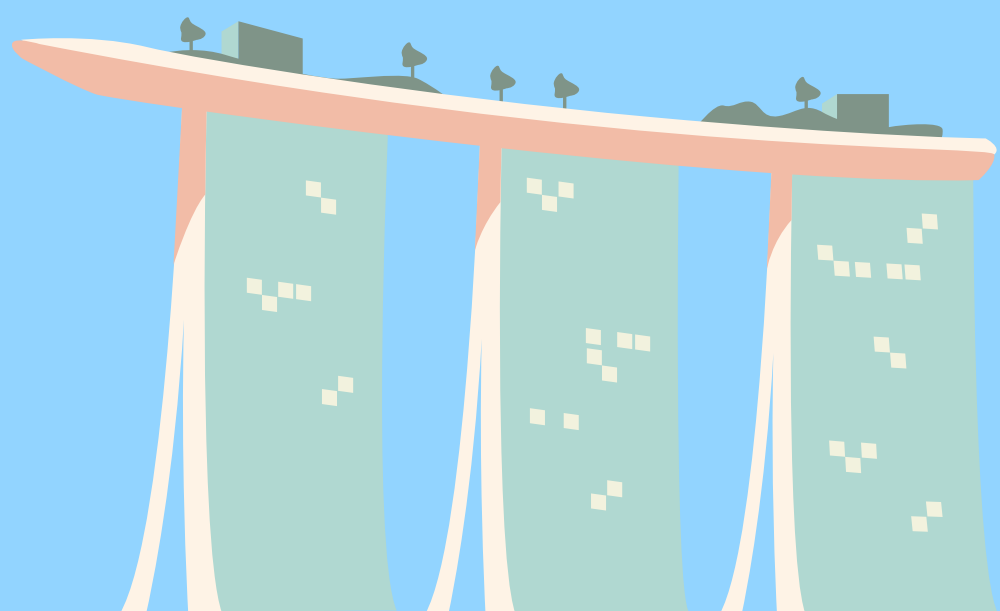
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Part I. Monthly Activity Log

August

I arrived in Singapore in mid-August after the new semester began, because my internship just ended at that time. It took me some time to find classrooms and familiarize myself with the campus, so I spent most of my time at school that month and I also joined the Karate club of NUS at the same time.

At the end of August, I went to Chinatown with my friends. It was almost the Mid-Autumn Festival, so there were many elaborate decorations in Chinatown to celebrate it, immersed in a strong festive atmosphere.



Part I. Monthly Activity Log

September

As a big fan of Detective Conan, my friends and I went to many places in Singapore in September to replicate scenes from the Detective Conan movie, such as Merlion Park, Gardens by the Bay, Haji Lane, Ya Kun Kaya Toast, and Maxwell Food Centre.

The midterm exams were conducted at the end of September and the week before midterm is a one-week holiday called 'recess week' in NUS, which is similar to the midterm break in HKUST, so we have plenty of time to go over the lessons.



Part I. Monthly Activity Log

October

October is not very busy for me, because the midterm exam has just finished, and I didn't have other exams this month. Therefore, I signed up for the Intervarsity Karate Championship 2022 through the NUS Karate club and participated in this competition with other club members that month.

Besides, I also went to Fort Canning Park with my friend and visited the internet celebrity attraction, spiral staircase of underground crossing in tunnel, at that park. After that, we had a taste of the Bak kut teh and enjoyed the night view near Kra Quay. I really like the flavour of bak kut teh. It's mildly salty, spicy and very delicious.



Part I. Monthly Activity Log

November

The semester was approaching to the end, so I wanted to take the time to visit more places. I went to the National Library, Singapore Art Museum, and the NUS Museum. The staff in the Singapore Art Museum are quite warm and friendly. Some of them offer to tell you the history of the exhibits.

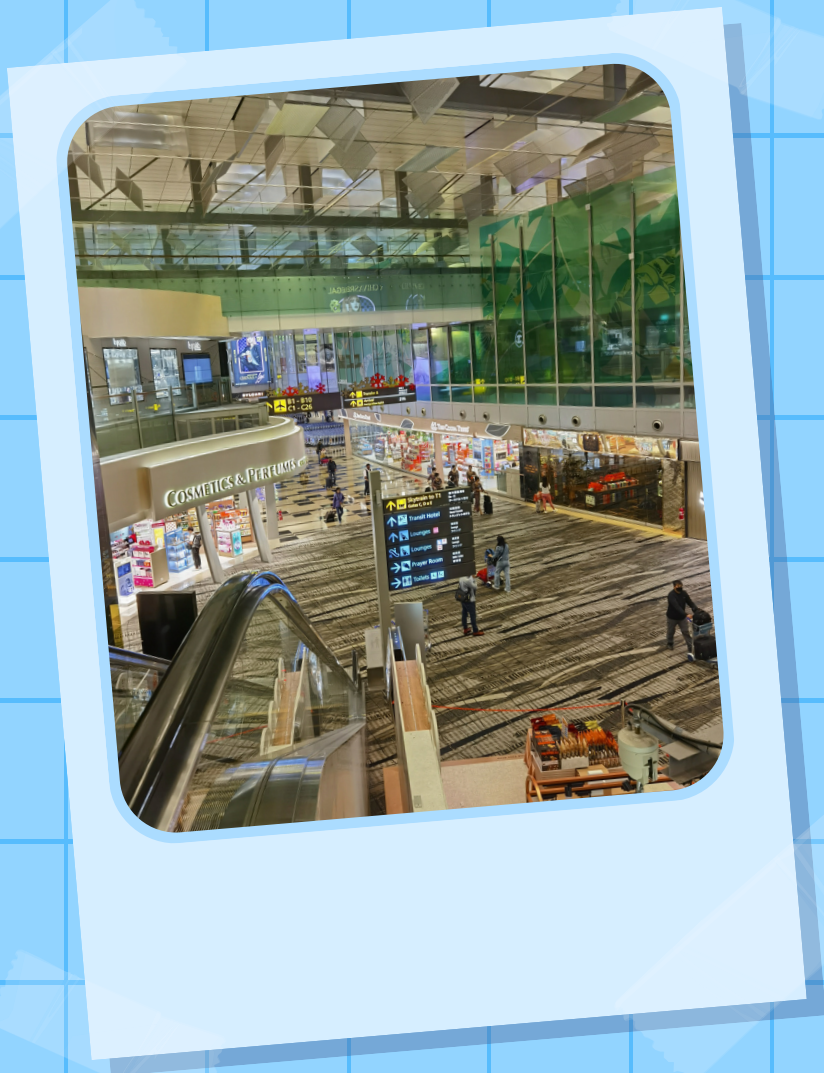
During the reading week before the final examination period, my friend and I had a 5-day trip to Thailand, where we went to Pattaya and Bangkok, respectively. After that, we returned to Singapore to prepare for the final exams.



Part I. Monthly Activity Log

December

This was the end of the exchange, and I flew home after taking my last final examination in December.






Part II. General Exchange Information

- **Visa Procedures**

The overall procedure is quite simple, and NUS will send you a pdf file of instructions. Before going to Singapore, all the visa procedures are online. You just need to fill in the application form and pay the money according to the instructions. If your application is successful, you will receive In-Principle Approval (IPA), with which you can enter Singapore. However, it is only a short-term entry permit, after which you need to apply for a physical Student Pass card, which allows you to stay in Singapore until the end of your exchange. NUS will host Offset Enrolment so that you can pick up your card on campus, but you need to make an appointment via the link given in the email. If you can't join it, you can make an appointment through the immigration office website yourself and go there to get it, but it is usually fully booked for the coming month, especially near the beginning of school, so remember to make an appointment in advance.

- **Orientation Activities**

I didn't attend any orientations due to my time conflicts and I don't remember there are official orientations, but it has some unofficial orientations for exchange students organized by NUS student societies.





Part II. General Exchange Information

- **International Services & Activities**

Activities would be notified via NUS email, and you could sign up for those you are interested in. The NUS community of Peer Advisors also held the exchange buddy program. If you want to be matched to an NUS student as your exchange buddy, remember to sign up, because it would not automatically assign to you. I was lucky to be assigned an exchange buddy, but I heard that some exchange students weren't.

- **Accommodations**

Neither I nor the other HKUST students I know received a NUS hall offer that semester. I applied for hall in the second round (the visa was issued late because I could not enroll in a total of three courses due to the limit quotas at the beginning, so I could not participate in the first round of hall application) and also submitted appeals, but all were unsuccessful. I live in the hall of MDIS residence at last, but the conditions there are not good, and I have been checking out for three months now, but I have not received my deposit, nor have they replied to your email.





Part II. General Exchange Information


- **Courses Registration**

NUS would send you a pdf file containing course registration guide via email and a list of courses available to exchange students. You could also check all courses offered by NUS on a website called NUSMODS, but I recommend you check the list of courses NUS sent to you, because there are many courses that exchange students cannot choose.

In the first round of course registration, you can apply for up to 8 courses. If you do not enroll in three courses in this round, you are required to continue your application until you have selected three courses, because you need to enroll in at least three courses before you can apply for the visa. After that, you also have one more round to submit your course application before the semester starts, and the first two weeks of the semester is an add-drop period.

- **Teaching & Assessment Methods**

The teaching and assessment methods are almost the same as HKUST. For example, statistics and economics courses typically consist of lectures and tutorials and assessment methods may include attendance, participation, assignment, quizzes, midterm and final exam.





Part II. General Exchange Information

- **Finance & Banking**

NMobile payment and card payment are common in Singapore, and you can also choose to apply for a local bank card. But the application process may be a little bit complicated, and you need to wait for some days to get the card. Cash, WeChat pay and Visa card are enough for me, so I didn't use the banking service in Singapore, such as withdrawing money or applying for a debit card.


- **Climate**

Singapore is hot and humid almost all year round. It is usually above 30 degrees Celsius in the daytime. However, indoor rooms, such as libraries and classrooms, will be relatively cold, just like the temperature of the library in HKUST.

- **Health & Safety**

I think Singapore is a relatively safe city and I don't meet unfriendly people when I run at night or go out alone near where I live in Singapore. But there are some places in Singapore that can be a bit dangerous, like Geylang, so try not to go there alone.

If you go to see a doctor, there is a clinic called University Health Center on NUS campus or you can also go to National University hospital next to NUS.





Part II. General Exchange Information

- **Food**


There are many canteens on NUS campus with various cuisines, such as Chinese, Malay, Korean, Japanese, and Western food. The PGP canteen is near the business school, and it only takes a few minutes to walk from University Sports Center to YIH Canteen. Frontier canteen is located near the faculty of science, while you can choose the Deck or Techno Edge canteen if you have arts & social science or engineering classes. Terrace canteen located between the school of computing and business school and University town also has some canteens.

Many local residents would like to eat at Hawker center, which also serves a wide variety of food, usually near residential areas.

Restaurants in malls are also a good option because they are cleaner than Hawker centers, but they may be relatively expensive.

- **Transportation**

Singapore has a good public transit system, and it is very convenient to travel by bus and MRT. You need to have an ez-link card to take the MRT and bus, like Octopus in Hong Kong. For the bus, you have to ring ahead of time if you want to get off at the next stop, so I recommend downloading Google maps to remind you that your stop is coming if you're new to Singapore. Meanwhile, Singapore has shared bikes that can be rented.





Part II. General Exchange Information

- **Communication**

You can buy pre-paid SIM card cards at 7-Eleven. It has different call and data package options and can be extended with top up.

- **Sports & Recreation Facilities**


NUS University Sport Centre has a lot of sports facilities, such as playground, gym, swimming pool, basketball court, squash court and so on.

- **Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities**

I joined the NUS karate club, where students highly welcome exchange students to join, and our regular training is full of joy. In addition, I also met some other exchange students on campus. We explored Singapore and traveled to other countries together.

- **Cautionary measures**

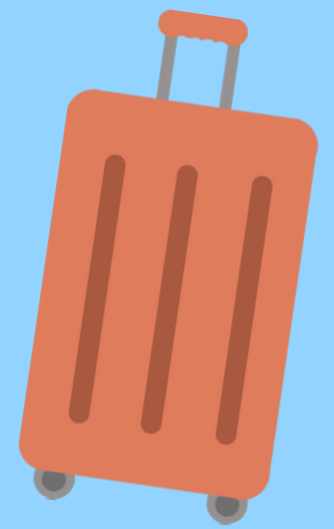
Watch out for mosquitoes, which may transmit dengue fever. Pay special attention to the risk of mosquito bites when waiting outside for a bus.





Part III. Items to Bring

- Passport, IPA Letter, ID photos
- Cash, Bank card
- Clothes, Umbrella, Stationery
- Mobile phones, Laptop and other electronic products
- Medicine



Part IV. Useful Links and Contacts

- Modules & Timetable: <https://nusmods.com/>
- LumiNUS: <https://luminus.nus.edu.sg/module>
- Canvas: <https://canvas.nus.edu.sg>.
- Education Records System (EduRec):
<https://myedurec.nus.edu.sg>

