

Exchange Report

Fall 2023

Singapore Management University

Singapore

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Monthly Activity Log

Write a log of one paragraph for each month highlighting some of your interesting exchange experiences, activities, impressions & places of interest. Please describe your study, learning and life experience. This section should be at least 600 words long.

September

Due to my summer internship, I couldn't join any orientation activities but thanks to the Host Program and Buddy Program, I got to meet various people quickly. These programs are quite different as the Host program is when you get to meet an alumni from SMU while the Buddy program is when you interact with a student studying in SMU. Thanks to these programs, I got to understand Singapore much better and also got to meet different people outside SMU. During this month, I mostly went to Chinatown and Marina Bay Sands as both locations are located near SMU. SMU canteen is not that great, so I tried to utilize the location as much as SMU is located right at the center of the city.

October

October was being a tourist in Singapore! I visited every tourist attraction in Singapore like the Night Safari, exhibitions of Gardens by the Bay, and also went cycling to enjoy nature. Singapore is truly a vibrant city with so many things to do which is why I tried doing different things that I won't be able to do in Hong Kong. I also enjoyed going to Marina Bay Sands frequently as you not only get to enjoy the view but also in the shopping mall, there are lots of things to do such as shopping and eating.

October

Since October was also a month of Halloween, I went to different Halloween parties that my exchange friends hosted. SMU also hosted one that had different photo/game booths as well as good food which allowed me to definitely enjoy Halloween as much as possible. We also had midterms this season, so I was also quite busy studying at the library and especially I would recommend the Law Library to study.

November

I went to Malaysia this month with my exchange friends and visited Kuala Lumpur and Kota Kinabalu. In Kuala Lumpur, I mostly went shopping, ate good food, and visited different temples as it is much cheaper than Singapore. Kota Kinabalu was such a good place to enjoy the nature and chill which is why I stayed there for 2 weeks just to do more snorkeling and hiking. I recommend visiting various South Asian countries as Singapore is a convenient location to travel to these countries and it's also quite cheap to visit.

November

I also visited the National Museum of Singapore as well as the National Gallery of Singapore during this month. I was surprised of how big both places were and it took me a whole day to finish looking at it. The National Gallery of Singapore is just a 5 minutes walk from SMU so I recommend going there any time. National Museum of Singapore was definitely a must place to go as the vibe and the drawings were amazing. I really liked how they combined historical artifacts with modern art installations which made it more unique.

December

December was a difficult time as I needed to say goodbye to all my friends that I met through my exchange journey. SMU is unique as even finance courses constituted of final presentations which is why I was quite busy wrapping up these presentations with my peers. I met some good friends while doing these group projects which is why in this month, I especially spent more time with my local friends by eating hotpot and going to hawker centers to truly enjoy the local vibe. Overall, Singapore was such a fun city to exchange in as there were so many things to do as well as a safe country to live in which allowed me to think more about my future career in terms of where I would like to live after graduation. I felt like the people were super friendly and especially because there were no language barriers, I think that allowed my exchange life to be much more convenient as I could just adapt to the environment straight away.

December

December was also a month where I not only needed to study but also went to various places that I wanted to revisit. Singapore is a very diverse city as there are separate areas where you could truly feel the diversity such as Little India and Arab street. Especially as a person who has lived in India and Egypt, I truly thought that these areas resembled the country vibe which is why I visited different mosques and restaurants while going to these areas. I would highly recommend going to these Indian/Middle East restaurants as local people make amazing food here.

Please briefly describe the visa application procedures, including

- 1) Type of passport/travel document you are holding**
- 2) Type of visa you are required**
- 3) Required documents**
- 4) Visa fees**

- 1) I had a Korean passport, so applying for visa was relatively easier for me.
- 2) SMU conducts an online session where they tell you about the information about the Visa Procedures. In general, students need to apply for an In-Principle Approval (IPA) letter from the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA). On arrival, you would need to collect in person and SMU would also arrange this which made the process much more easier.
- 3) A passport copy and a copy of your own photo would be required during the IPA procedure.
- 4) The visa fees were about 90SGD.

What are the course(s) that you have enrolled at the host institution?

MGMT 205 International Business
FNCE 201 Corporate Finance
FNCE 217 Wealth Management and Advisory

Please briefly describe the course registration procedures, such as

- 1) When did you receive the course registration details**
- 2) What is the course registration procedures**
- 3) Where can you access information related to course registration (e.g. websites)**

- 1) I received a month ago before the enrollment starts and SMU provided an online session along with presentation materials that were useful in understanding the bidding system.
- 2) SMU's system is called BOSS-bidding where each exchange student is given \$100 in e-tokens where we bid the money to choose the courses we want. SMU also conducts an online session regarding this but it was quite difficult to bid on some courses that I wanted to take.
- 3) The information mostly useful is from the email that SMU sends out.

Where did you live during the program?

Private apartment

Please briefly describe the accommodation at the host destination, including

1) What type of accommodation

2) What is the application procedures (If you are staying at accommodation offered by the host institution)

3) How did you search for the accommodation and where did you book your accommodation (If you need to arrange your own accommodation)

4) Facilities in the accommodation

SMU doesn't provide halls to exchange students which is why we need to find on our own. However, SMU does send out a list of accommodations and the pricing which was useful. In the end, I got to find a house from a Korean housing website but some of my exchange friends chose to live in one of the accommodation hostels that SMU provided.

Please briefly describe the health and safety support provided at the host institution, including

1) Whether there is health centers or clinics available on campus

2) Any safety matters that you are concerned about

Singapore is a safe country to live in and SMU further provides medical consultations in their own clinics on campus.

Finances

How much did you spend (in HKD) on the following items? (Please input "0" if not applicable to you)

Air ticket between the place of departure and destination (round trip)

HKD 5,900

Accommodation (for the entire study abroad period)

HKD 30,000

Program fee (if applicable)

N/A

Personal expenses

HKD 41,000

Others, please specify

N/A

My Top 3s

Please share with students some of your top 3s. If it is best to provide the information in the language of the host destination, please do so, but provide an explanation in English.

Courses at the host institution

MGMT 205 International Business: I really liked the professor as she was very engaging and she actually launched her own business a few years ago which was inspiring to hear about.

FNCE 201 Corporate Finance: I loved how the professor always did a market update in the beginning of class which made me understand finance much better.

FNCE 217 Wealth Management and Advisory: I liked how the professor invited real bankers who were alumni and allowed us to interact with them.

Favourite Food

Malatang: There is a street filled with restaurants near SMU and definitely I went to this chinese restaruant once a week.

Arabic Food: Since the Arab Street is famous in Singapore, all of the restaurants are owned by a local Arabic person which is absolutely amazing.

Singapore shrimp noodle soup: When you visit the hawker center, there is always a noodle soup which is so good.

Hang-outs places on campus

Library:

I think I hanged out most outside the library where there are cafes and places to sit.

Garden:

There is also a garden in SMU near the School of Accounting.

SMU canteen area:

I forgot the name but there is a place at SMU where there are multiple take away restaurants where students can grab food.

Must-dos in the city

Marina Bay Sands:

I always visited this place as it's so near SMU and it's quite good to just take a walk around this area.

Gardens by the bay:

The exhibition is amazing and even if you don't pay any fee you could watch the laser show.

West Coast Park:

It was amazing to go cycling around this area as you could enjoy every view of Singapore

Not-to-dos in the city

Just make sure that you don't chew gum and throw stuff as Singapore is very strict on these things.

NA

NA

Useful local apps or websites

https://www.visitsingapore.com/editorials/10-must-dos-in-singapore/?cmp=SEM_STB-DC23-1015-SG-SEM_HK_DC_ENG_NA_NONE_NONE_PM-Activities-NA_NA_GOOG_SEA_AO_Cross_XTG&gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCKQiAoeGuBhCBARIsAGfKY7wQPVL4_iiM28fUJCq9Z1b6_y-sPffbyQsNh29d3U_u9TjNOLmjvI0aAvqnEALw_wcB&gclsrc=aw.ds

https://www.visitsingapore.com/editorials/10-must-dos-in-singapore/?cmp=SEM_STB-DC23-1015-SG-SEM_HK_DC_ENG_NA_NONE_NONE_PM-Activities-NA_NA_GOOG_SEA_AO_Cross_XTG&gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCKQiAoeGuBhCBARIsAGfKY7wQPVL4_iiM28fUJCq9Z1b6_y-sPffbyQsNh29d3U_u9TjNOLmjvI0aAvqnEALw_wcB&gclsrc=aw.ds

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<https://www.singsaver.com.sg/blog/prepaid-sim-card-singapore>

<https://www.timeout.com/singapore/restaurants/the-50-best-restaurants-in-singapore>

Words to describe my study abroad experience

Amazing

Fun

Diverse