

at very obscure times when comparing to ITU. Groups will often meet in the evening at like 8 or 9 pm to get work done because this works around when people have classes or other things going on.

SMU has so many clubs that you can join in the beginning of the semester before classes start there is a fair where all the clubs set up stands and it's this big event – kind of comparable to career day at ITU but bigger. I joined the football club but sadly had to quit quite soon after because I broke finger but even then, the uni helped me through that with the insurance that is required through the uni, that all students must get, and explained how the hospital system worked. I can highly recommend joining a club though.

In the beginning of the semester make sure to be social, attend events and say yes to whatever else is going on as it allows you to quickly find friends as everyone else is also trying to find friends.

What was your initial motivation for going abroad and did your stay meet your expectations?

I wanted to study abroad as it seemed like a fun experience, but I also wanted to make sure that I got a good education from wherever I ended up studying. I picked Singapore as my first choice because I know it has high education levels but also would allow for cheap travel. Even though Singapore is quite expensive, it's easy to travel to surrounding countries where it's very cheap. Studying abroad in Singapore was very fun both because it was easy to travel, the study environment was good, and the other students were all very nice.

Please describe what you got out of your stay, both personally and academically, and how do you expect it to contribute to your further studies?

I got a lot out of studying abroad. Although I have lived in Asia as a child living abroad as an adult was a completely different experience and understanding the local school system was also different from going to an international school through my childhood. Academically I really enjoyed the way they organized classes with mid-terms, class participation, group projects and final exams as it allowed me to learn throughout the semester instead of cramming at the end of the semester to understand the course. Because you pick your own classes group work can sometimes be hard to schedule leading to odd hours for group work. I really enjoyed all 4 of my classes and learnt things that I believe can be brought back to ITU to further my education.

I joined the Exchange Student Ambassador (ESA) Program which was a 6-week program to learn different skills, some were more useful than others. I mainly used it to meet a whole bunch of students and make friends that I otherwise wouldn't have met. Also, we got free lunch and snacks which was a motivator.

Arranging your stay

Please give a short description of the process of arranging your stay:

I didn't have to figure out accommodation because I have family living in Singapore who I could live with, so I therefore don't know much about the process. However, SMU have resources to help, and all exchange students are put into a group chat where you can chat with each other and figure out housing situations.

What resources did you find helpful in planning your stay and which people did you use (if any)?

N/A

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

N/A

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

Singapore is not cheap. From what I heard regarding housing I was told that people paid around 1000 SGD and stay with 4 other people. Eating out can be quite cheap, but grocery shopping is quite expensive, so I ended up eating out for most of my meals. A meal could often be found for around 10 SGD when eating at a hawker center which is what they call food courts. For transport everyone takes the MRT unless you're out past midnight as the MRT (metro) don't run between midnight and 6am. So, during these hours people take Grabs which is like Uber but used in Southeast Asia. The MRT is very cheap costing between 1-2 SGD depending on how far you go. You can pay using your credit card on your phone, the physical card or an EZ-Link Card. I got Revolut as recommended by students who had previously gone on exchange, and I highly recommend it as you don't have to pay exchange rate when changing valuta also if you travel with other classmates from different countries who also have Revolut your able to transfer money almost as easily as with Mobilepay.

Traveling in Asia is very cheap even when booking last minute travel which is what I ended up doing most of the time because I wasn't great at planning ahead with my travel. But all my travel was still cheaper than traveling in Europe. Also, once in the other countries everything was extremely cheap from food to accommodation (the most I paid for a very good hostel was 35SGD in Taiwan for a week). I went to Taiwan, Vietnam and Malaysia.

Did you apply for scholarships and would you recommend any ones in particular?

I only applied for the ITU Travel Pool and got that, but if you just look up grants there's so many to apply for. Make sure to start early as they often have early deadlines. Also a reason why I didn't get to apply to many other grants.

Recommendations for other students:

- I'd recommend joining "Den Danske Sømandskirke i Singapore" on Facebook if your Danish. They arranged an event for the exchange students who had arrived in Singapore which was very fun and allowed me to meet other Danes as I was the only one from ITU who went this semester
- Say YES to everything in the beginning it allows you to quickly make friends and meet people.
- Get an E-SIM it's so simple and easy to use.
- Make sure the passport picture you bring if you need one has a completely white background or they will make you re-take the picture. I had to pay 12 SGD for a new picture because my background wasn't white enough.