IT University Travel Report

Host University: Singapore Management University

Study Programme at IT University : Global Business Informatics

Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad: Exchange Agreement

Courses studied abroad: Intercultural Communication, Interpreting and communicating with data, Supply Chain Management and Asia Pacific Business

Exchange Period: Autumn year: 2015

My stay abroad

What was it like to study at SMU?

Singapore Management University also known as SMU is extraordinary and an university that I never will forget. There are different campusus located in the center of Singapore, where underground roads connects the different campusus. I had courses only at the business campus, but visited the others while doing group work. At SMU you can feel the competitiveness, the semester has not even started before the library is packed with student who are eager to learn. I didn’t get my first priority of courses, so some of the courses where very different from what I have expected. If you choose to get courses at the Business campus you can expect that the classes have much more math included in the lectures, and because of this some of the topics became more difficult (at least for me), but getting the math refreshed was an advantage and when you first get that, the academic level was definitely to cope with. As i mentioned SMU is extraordinary, you can choose never to leave SMU because there is SO much going on all the time, so if you like being social you can sign up for a club of what ever you like, and when you have a late evening class SMU students are dancing in the underground so you never feel alone.

What was my initial motivation for going abroad?

When i startet at ITU it was my dream to go abroad on exchange, the reason for this was mostly to improve my language skills in english and gain new experience from another culture both educationally wise and socially wise. I must admit that the expectation that I had for going abroad was fulfilled, but of course I had some downsides especially when it came to getting the courses that i wanted and learning to deal with group mates who did not understand to communicate in the way we do at ITU.

What I got out of my stay, and how do I expect it to contribute to my further studies?

Everything what I had expected from going abroad did actually come true - experiencing a new culture and improve my english. One thing that made me grow was the fact that you were being all by yourself not having your closest friends nearby or family. But what I am really glad to have experienced is how studying is in another country and how lucky we are
studying at ITU, at least from my perspective. I came back home with an appetite to learn more and are looking forward to beginning my bachelor.

Arranging your stay

The process of arranging your stay:

The deadline for applying for a semester abroad was there of a sudden, and it was a bit stressful. But when I got the answer that I was accepted to SMU, everything started to take form. I did a sublet for my room, which is quite easy when you are in Copenhagen and everyone needs a place to stay. Then I tried to fix all practical stuff, as insurance, flight tickets and did everything SMU required (they will send mails explaining everything). I was so lucky that I contacted some Norwegian on Facebook for an apartment, and they chose us to live there, so I actually had most figured out before arriving to Singapore, except the courses that I wanted.

What resources did I find helpful in planning your stay and which people did you use?

The Facebook page that was made for exchange students at SMU was really helpful and then I also used the travel reports from previous exchange students to see what advice they could give.

How did I arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

As mentioned earlier I was really lucky and wrote to some Norwegians who already found an apartment, and luckily they chose us to live with them. But I know that it is okay to find a place to stay, and much easier when you are in Singapore. So don’t worry if you don’t find a place before arriving in Singapore.

Expenses and Financing

What about the expenses connected to my stay abroad?

I did actually choose Asia as I thought my expenses would decrease compared to Australia and the US. Indeed they did decrease compared to the above mentioned, but what I didn’t take into consideration was the rental prices in Singapore, I made it affordable by sharing a room with another girl. Another thing that surprised me was the doing grocery shopping, in the long run it was Danish pricing, and milk, cheese and cereal was more expensive. Normal restaurants was also Danish pricing, but the food courts was really nice and cheap. So all in all Singapore is an expensive city, but you can make choices to keep the expenses down. But I would recommend you to go travel in south-east-asia, it is really worth the money!

Did I apply for scholarships and any recommendations?

I did apply for 8 scholarships but it was quite difficult to find some suitable for my studies and being a bachelor student. I received one scholarship, which was from my previous business college. My advice is to begin way before you expect you have to begin. Because the process of finding relevant scholarships can be troublesome and writing good applications isn’t something you can do overnight.
Recommendations for other students:

A recommendation to other students is to look at the previous bids in the course bidding, I overbid a course with 20 $ and I did not dare to drop it because i needed it, but this led to me not getting the courses that I really would like to have had. Another fact is to go experience Singapore, ask your local classmates because they know places you never would have found by yourself. And lastly go travel if possible during your studies, south-east-asia is so different compared to Singapore, and the last last thing enjoy every minute of you stay!