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: Strategy; Data Mining and Business Analytics; Asia Pacific Business; Business, Government & Society
Exchange Period: Autumn year: 2016

My stay abroad

What was it like to study at SMU?

It was a completely different experience from ITU, first the university is a combination of 6 different faculties, each with their building but all in the same area in downtown, as opposed to NTU and NUS.
The building is connected to each other by a basement level and there’s even a metro stop arriving right inside the campus!

The lectures were held in classes made by no more than 45 people, this allowed the class to be more participant and often the students were asked questions during the class and most courses had either weekly assignments or group presentations which motivated the students to also collaborate with each other.

The final mark was not only based on the final exam, usually it makes 30% of the mark and some courses even don’t have a final exam; the rest of the mark is represented by a combination of participation, assignments, and group project based on a proportion decided by the lecturer.

Despite the amount of study was higher than at ITU, the students were also very organised for extra-curricular activities, there were more than 20 student associations ranging from sport, hobbies, or language and cultural groups.

What was my initial motivation for going abroad?

Generally I wished for an exchange opportunity in Asia, and after having studied Global Project Management I found out that Singapore and Denmark are both low on corruption rate, share the same population size but have completely different history and political system, so it would have been interesting to spend half a year and study more about the city-state’s history and hear opinions from local people.

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

It is surely a good experience to have lived in a country that has three cultural groups, especially in this period in which Asia is a growing market and has lots of opportunities.

Arranging your stay
The process of arranging your stay:
In the beginning, it was difficult to find suitable courses that would be transferred for the ones during on the 3rd semester, but the study & career guidance has been helpful in the process.

I didn’t find the process of matriculation difficult but it was difficult to obtain the courses I wanted to choose because of a virtual currency bidding system.
What resources did I find helpful in planning your stay and which people did you use?
I used the Facebook page in which I found other incoming students with whom I was going to search accommodation, but I also asked some questions to Gabriele who went to Singapore on the previous year.

How did I arrange practicalities such as accommodation?
It was very hard to find an apartment with other students to share together because the law doesn’t allow to rent for less than 6 months usually but I managed to find accommodation through the group “FindYourRoomInSg” and I quickly received two offers, one in Bras Basah and one in east coast area.

Expenses and Financing
What about the expenses connected to my stay abroad?
The rent prices are similar to Copenhagen, I spent around 4500kr to rent my room. Groceries are cheaper than in Denmark if you adapt yourself to the local products, otherwise the food courts were the cheapest option, we also had a food court on campus with the cheapest meal for around 14kr.

For transportation, I spent around 50kr a week but even taxis are cheaper than in Denmark, 40kr for 20 minutes travel.

Did I apply for scholarships and any recommendations?
I already have a freelancer part time job so I didn’t feel the need to apply for a scholarship.

Recommendations for other students:

Be careful about the course bidding system although OGL can always help you with applying for a course that otherwise would not give you alternative to receive credits, don’t stick with just other Scandinavian people but try to meet some local people, even better to know people from nearby south east Asian countries so that you can get to know some less touristy places from the Asean region and might avoid being charged more for something, like happens especially in Bangkok.

Take advantage of the long break between exams end and ITU’s beginning of the spring semester, my exams finished the 23rd November and I planned a trip around Thailand, Korea and Japan;
there is also a midterm break in October, in which I went to Bali and Yogyakarta.