IT University Travel Report

Dear Student, this is a template – the aim is to inspire other students who may wish to follow in your footsteps. You are free to give your report the shape you want and to go beyond the questions, as long as you cover the information asked for below. You are also very welcome to include pictures and contact information – but you need not. Remember that the report will be made available on the intranet.

Host University: Singapore Management University

Study Programme at IT University:
Digital Media and Design

Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad:
Exchange Agreement

Courses studied abroad:
International Business, Corporate Entrepreneurship & Innovation,
Research Methods in Political and Social Science, Project

Exchange Period: semester (autumn/spring) autumn year 2017

If you wish to give advice to other students regarding your travels, please state your contact info here: stim@itu.dk
Your stay abroad

What was it like to study at [the university] (including choice of courses, academic level, social life at campus)?

SMU was a school, that focuses on diversity – creating a community across nationalities and thus make it able to the students to learn from one another. Furthermore, the academic level and the teachers made it possible for exchange students to share their mind-set, and knowledge from home which created interesting discussions. SMU is a school that truly sees the world ad their classroom, where knowledge, society and values cab be discussed across national and international boarders. It was both very intriguing, and challenging to work with people different from me. The program at SMU and the courses I took definitely challenges me, and improved my skills within business and innovation. SMU is composed of six diverse schools, where each of them has different qualities and attributes. They recommend students to take courses from any of the six schools encouraging different ways of thinking. This creates a dynamic campus, with a lot of organisations and activities to join. Which gives the students a range of alternative learning opportunities. Their three schools, School of Business, Science and Technology and Information Systems offer courses, which I think was perfect for my education. SMU is known for their School of Business where the focus is innovative thinking. The choice of courses was done through a bidding system, it was challenging at first but it really gave you an insight into the society and school that you were about to visit.

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

My motivation for going abroad was that I wished to challenge myself. And I wanted the program at SMU to pave the way to improve my skills within business and innovation opening up new possibilities for me to understand and learn my fields in a new perspective, which was important for me in relation of future career. Furthermore, SMU was appealing to me because of my passion and curiosity for the digital and technological world. I thought that SMU could offer me the tools and techniques for developing my academic skills. Visiting Singapore only enhances my wish about going back. I was fascinated by the diversity, atmosphere and inspiring environment the city.

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 believe that SMU challenged me both educationally and personally. My exchange at SMU helped me narrow down my field of interest both in terms of what I wanted to do more and what I knew wasn’t something that I wanted to work with. I meet the most amazing people from all over the world, I got to see and visit many places in Asia. Singapore is the heart of Asia and it is very easy to travel from there to others places. Academically I got to work with some amazing and very competent teachers, and in Singapore the relationship between teacher and student is very close, so you have a lot of discussions and common work session which was very helpful and fun to try.
Arranging your stay

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

Found out who else from ITU was going to Singapore, and got in contact with them. We had a lot of good chats about the stay, money, travels, school, courses, accommodation and so on. It was really nice to have someone to talk to about the stay and what to prepare. Otherwise, find someone who already went on exchange and have a chat with them. I did that too, which was really helpful also to remove some of the anxiety about going abroad.

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

I used the travel reports from Study Guide, and then I contacted people I knew who had been on exchange in Singapore or other places just to get some initial help and guidance.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

I contacted a girl I knew who was on exchange in Singapore, and she put me in contact with an agent, who got me an apartment. It was very easy and my agent was very helpful and kind to help me and my roommates out.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

Studying abroad in Singapore is really expensive. You really need to take that into consideration. There is a lot of cheap food options, so in that way you can save some money, but activities, accommodation, alcohol and just living is really expensive in Singapore. Travelling is really cheap though, flight tickets from Singapore is really cheap. Accommodation you can do in different ways, campus house or apartment and in that way you can make you stay less expensive that getting a private apartment through an agent.

I paid what is equal to 4500DKK in rent each month. We were 8 people living in an apartment. And I would really recommend finding people from others countries than yourself. It was both challenging but also gave me a complete different experience than other exchange students from Denmark, only living with Danish students. And when are you ever going to be living with 8 different nationalities again?

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

Yes, I did apply for a lot of scholarships. There has been published a new book called: legat håndbogen, which I really recommend students to buy if they are going abroad. Though I think it is important to mention that ITU Digital Media and Design students, are not on top of the very know scholarships list.

Recommendations for other students:

Not really any thing else, that take the step and go on Exchange – if Singapore, then great! You are going to love it. If you chose someplace else, it’s going to be great too. Going on exchange is life changing and you never get this opportunity again.

1) Apply for scholarships early on. And find the ones most relevant for you, and use your time on them.

2) Look at the timeslots when choosing courses, you can place your courses from Monday to Wednesday so you go on weekend early (making more space for travels)