



Singapore Management University

2018-2019

PREPARATION
exchange application process
After I was selected for the Singapore Management University (SMU) by the University of Utrecht, the application process at SMU began. Their application process is very clear, and the steps you have to follow are well described. They also update you regularly about the process.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Apart from the study abroad presentation I did not need any counselling for UU
academic preparation
Apart from choosing courses, I did not need to prepare myself academically. The process of choosing courses in Singapore is quite timeconsuming; you have to bid on courses with e-dollars, and only the highest bidders can follow the course. This means that you cannot just sign up and follow all the courses that you want to do.
language preparation
Because Economics & Business Economics is a fully English taught program, there is no need for any language preparation
finances
Before I signed up for the Singapore Management University, I knew that Singapore is very expensive. I took this into consideration when making my financial plan. The prices for rent are way higher than in Utrecht; I shared a condo with 6 persons and I shared a room with one other person and I still paid double of what I pay in Utrecht.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I went on exchange the first semester of my third year. Because I already follow a minor, and I did my exchange on top of my bachelor I did not have to follow third year courses. Instead of that I choose some finance courses to expand my finance knowledge.
academic quality of education activities
The quality of education was comparable to the quality in Utrecht, but the way of teaching was different. In Singapore we learned more about how to apply theory in practice. For almost every course that I followed, I had to prepare professional pitches etc.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Counselling & support at the university in Singapore was great. Professors responded fast, and there were special helpdesks. There is a medical centre where you can go if you have health problems and also a swimmingpool, gym, IT helpdesk and two libraries.
transfer of credits
For each course that you take in Singapore you get 7,5 ECTS. Grades will take around three months to arrive in Utrecht.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme



<p>One week before classes started we had an introduction week, where several activities were organized. There was, for example, a tour through Singapore and an activities fair. Some of the activities are compulsory and others weren't. These activities were very helpful for getting to know your fellow students.</p>
<p>accommodation</p>
<p>It was not very hard to arrange accomodation. All the exchange students that go to SMU were put in a Facebook group, through which you can come into contact with fellow students and arrange accomodation with a studenthousing agency. Accomodation was very expensive; I paid around 660 euro for a shared room in a shared condo.</p>
<p>leisure & culture</p>
<p>Singapore is a very multicultural country with mostly Chinese, Malay and Indian inhabitants. This makes Singapore, in my opinion, a very interesting city. Because so many nationalities live in one country, there is great food from everyone from the world. Going out in Singapore is very expensive. For most of the clubs you pay high entrance fees, and drinks are expensive too. Only on Wednesdays (Ladiesnight), ladies get some free drinks or free entrance.</p>
<p>suggestions/tips</p>
<p>Save enough money! Living in Singapore is expensive as well as leisure activities.</p>

CONCLUSIONS
<p>would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain</p>
<p>I would definitely recommend SMU as your exchange destination. The university is very well organized and courses are well thought. On top of that Singapore is a very pleasant city to live in since it is a really modern city. On top of that it is also quite a western city for an Asian city. Apart from that, you can travel very easily from Singapore to surrounding countries.</p>
<p>do you have any additional advice or comments?</p>
<p> </p>

2017-2018

preparation
<p>exchange/placement application process</p>
<p>The exchange process was quite time-consuming. We had to submit a top 3 of destinations which had our preference. After that, we had to submit a financial plan, a study plan and a motivation letter why the university should choose you. When I got selected for SMU, which was my second choice, I had to apply for the university there. The application for SMU was very straightforward and clear. The communication with SMU was very easy and everything was handled correctly.</p>
<p>counselling/support at home university</p>
<p>The support from my home university was very helpful. I made an appointment at the international office and everything was explained to me very clearly. They also send me many reminders for important dates for my application.</p>



academic preparation
<p>For academic preparation, I only had to register myself for courses which fitted into my bachelor programme. Registration for courses in Singapore is highly competitive. They have a bidding system where everyone gets 100 credits to divide over the courses you want. So you have to divide your credits wisely to get all the preferred courses.</p>
language preparation
<p>The spoken language at SMU is English. As we are following an international programme in English as well, there were no requirements for us to fulfil.</p> <p>However, if you are following a non-English speaking programme, you have to do a TOEFL test in advance to show your English is at an adequate level.</p>
finances
<p>As we had to write a financial plan during our application, I knew Singapore would be a really expensive place to live. As I was living in a condo with 4 other international students, we still paid like twice the rent of what I pay in Utrecht. Furthermore, the overall standard of living is a lot more expensive than we are used to here.</p>
study/placement abroad period
study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)
<p>I was going on exchange in my first semester of the 3rd year. Therefore, I had to follow level 3 courses to fulfil the requirement. In the beginning, it was pretty hard to distinguish which courses are level 3 courses and which are not. With some help from the student advisor here in Utrecht, I found 4 level courses, which is actually more than necessary.</p>
academic quality of education/placement activities
<p>The level of education was quite comparable to the level of education here. However, the courses were far more related to real world problems. We did not discuss a lot of theory, but mainly focused on how we can use the theory to solve those real world problems.</p>
counselling/support at host institution/organisation
<p>It was very easy to contact the university. If you would e-mail one of the profs, you would get a response the same day. The university had all facilities present at the universities itself e.g. medical clinic, swimming pool, library, sport centre.</p>
transfer of credits
<p>For each course you will get 7.5 ECTS. I followed 4 courses to get my 30 ECTS for one semester. It will take 3 months before the grades are send to UU.</p>
student life



welcome/orientation programme
SMU recommended that you would arrive 2 weeks before the start of the semester so you had enough time to discover Singapore for a bit. One week before the semester, we had a mandatory introduction week to get to know your fellow students. This was very helpful and many people I met there were my friends during the semester.
accommodation
Accommodation is very expensive compared to the Netherlands. I was staying in a condo with 4 other international students. The rent was around 600 euros.
leisure/culture
There is not a lot of cultural highlights as you would expect in Asia. Most of the city is very modern and very futuristic. Going out in Singapore is very expensive, which makes it a bit unattractive to go out every week. However, food is quite cheap if you go to food centres where you can get a meal for around 2 euros.
suggestions/tips
conclusions
would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain
Yes, I would really recommend SMU as your exchange destination. Singapore is a very modern city which makes you adjust very quickly. It is the perfect location to travel around and make trips to several countries in Asia. Furthermore, the university was very well-organized. All the facilities were there and the quality of education was present.
do you have any additional advice or comments?

preparation
exchange/placement application process
It is not as hard as it may look like. Indeed, you have a lot of documents to send, but it is not hard. It is rather challenging.
counselling/support at home university



UU was friendly and helpful at any request i had regarding any issues.
academic preparation
The knowledge and skills you gain in the 1st and 2nd years are more than enough to begin your exchange.
language preparation
English is widely spoken in Singapore
finances
I would not say Singapore is extremely expensive as an exchange destination. The only two things are exceptionally expensive — housing and alcohol (and tobacco). The rest is super cheap. You can easily get full for a whole day with 7 euro meal. Therefore it makes all the expenses more/less the same as you would stay in Utrecht.
study/placement abroad period
study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)
I enjoyed the wide range of classes to pick. Make sure you pick the right level course for your USE record. Also, if you're like paper work more, you can pick classes with no exams at all! (hint, that would make more time for you to travel)
academic quality of education/placement activities
It is exceptionally high. The quality is shown by every prof. (Singaporeans call tutors «prof»).
counselling/support at host institution/organisation
Organisation is focused on making everyone happy and comfortable
transfer of credits
student life
welcome/orientation programme



It was so much fun! We had tours all around Singapore, tried local dishes and studied a bit of Singlish
accommodation
It is a hard one. Expect to pay 700-800 euros a month for a shared apartment. I would advise to check Singapore Housing student agency.
leisure/culture
It is amazing. You have Kuala Lumpur 50mins flying time away from you. You have Sentosa. You have different cultural hoods.
suggestions/tips
Save money for travels. It is a must! We have visited 10+ countries and it is something that you would remember.
conclusions
would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain
If you want to go to cosmopolitan city of Asia and ready to take any kind of challenges - it is an option for you.
do you have any additional advice or comments?

2011-2012

Preparation
exchange/placement application process
I was quite late for the application of this exchange because I decided to go on exchange in February 2012. My home university asked me to write a financial and study plan. This was all fine and I could do the application for Singapore right away. The application for Singapore Management University (SMU) was very straightforward and clear. Reminder: In my opinion Singapore is one of the best organised countries in the world and I have noticed this in all kind of ways. I have never doubted of anything during the whole application and the communication with SMU is perfect.
counselling/support at home university
The support from the exchange officer at Utrecht University was also very helpful. Especially information and the help I received on which courses to choose was useful. And if I had any questions I received an useful answer right away.

**academic preparation**

The only academic preparation is that I had to choose the right courses that fitted in my bachelors programme. Make sure that you choose your courses in time, because the places in different courses at SMU are limited. Also make sure that you have plenty of courses to choose from because placement system of the courses is highly competitive so there is the chance that you have to choose other courses.

language preparation

The spoken and written language in Singapore is English, so this gave no difficulties since the language of instruction at UCE is also English.

If you are a student without an English thought programme, SMU asks you to do a Toefl test in order to show that you have sufficient language skills.

finances

Since I was pretty late with my application for Singapore, I didn't have that much time to save money or anything. I



<p>was lucky that my parents could help me financially where needed. Keep in mind that Singapore is one of the richest countries in the world. If you like to party and do cool stuff, Singapore is expensive. But this is completely up to you.</p>
<p>study/placement abroad period</p>
<p>study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)</p>
<p>Since I was going on exchange in my 3th bachelor year, I had to follow four courses at level 3. At SMU they work with different study programme as here. It is pretty hard to distinguish 1th from 3th year courses. But if you want any information about courses, contact me!</p>
<p>academic quality of education/placement activities</p>
<p>Most of the profs had much experience in the real business world and so they tell a lot about their own experiences which makes the lectures quite interesting. Furthermore the level of the courses was similar the education offered at USE.</p>
<p>counselling/support at host institution/organisation</p>
<p>They were easy to reach en answered all your question instantly. SMU has everything within the campus, from a swimming pool to a health clinic for students.</p>
<p>transfer of credits</p>
<p>For each course at SMU you will get 7.5 ECTS. The transcripts will be send to UU 3 months after the end of the semester.</p>
<p>student life</p>
<p>welcome/orientation programme</p>
<p>SMU asks you to arrive two weeks before the start of the actual semester. I thought this was very useful because in these two weeks you have plenty of time to discover Singapore. I recommend to go to all as many as possible parties and clubs during these weeks and get to learn many other exchange students. This will pay off during the rest of the semester!</p> <p>One week before the semester SMU organises an introduction day. During this day they will tell you everything about the university and how everything works. They also try to scare you about the massive workload that you will be facing during the semester. Don't listen to all of this! The workload is fine, as long as you attend all the classes and participate actively you will get a sufficient grade.</p>
<p>accommodation</p>
<p>The campus of SMU is in the heart of the city centre, so there is no accommodation on the campus.</p> <p>I choose to search for an apartment during the first week of my stay in Singapore. Many exchange students went to the same hostel during this week, and from here on we formed groups and searched for apartments.</p> <p>SMU offers you to stay at Commonwealth hostel outside the city centre. Personally I do not advice you to go there. First of all because you are outside the city centre so you have to take a cab every time you go home at night. From what I heard about other students who stayed at Commonwealth, it is not clean and pretty strict.</p>
<p>leisure/culture</p>
<p>Singapore lies in the middle of south-east Asia, from here you can travel a lot to all kind of destinations. During my</p>



exchange I have travelled to Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia, Pulau Tiga in Malaysia en to two different islands in Indonesia. At the end of my exchange I went to Shanghai for two weeks. So you have plenty of time to travel. Besides travelling to other countries, there is much to do in Singapore itself. From clubbing on a 300 m rooftop to hiking in the jungle or relaxing on the beach.
suggestions/tips
Just go, you will have an awesome time!
Conclusions
would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain
Definitely! Besides that it was the best time of my life so far in the sense of partying and travelling, it has also enriched me in the educational part. Most of the Profs at SMU are successful businessman and women who want to share their experience and knowledge with you, this makes some of the courses and lectures very interesting. One of my profs even ran for president in Singapore during the last election. During my stay SMU organised lectures from people no less than Hillary Clinton and Paul Krugman.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
If you have any more questions, don't hesitate to contact me.

2011-2012

Preparation
exchange/placement application process
It might seem complicated, but it's easier than it looks like. The only problem I encountered was the choice of my course. In Singapore you can't register for the courses you want to follow in advance. Courses are assigned on a first-come-first served basis. Be flexible, choose demanding course that you might expect USE to recognize.
counselling/support at home university
Excellent support.
academic preparation
No need for preparation. One of the courses I took "Public International Law" was designed for fourth year law students. I didn't really fulfil the entry requirements, but the Professor didn't mind. Professors just assume that you are smart enough to be in that course. In my case they didn't bother asking me what courses I had taken at USE.
language preparation
All classes are in English. Class participation contributes to your final grade. You should be able to talk fluently.
Finances
You have to keep in mind that Singapore is the perfect destination if you want to explore South East Asia. This means that travelling will be very, very, very tempting. Unless you're an adventurous traveller who prefers hitchhiking to organized tours, you're going to spend money. Take this into consideration when calculating your budget.



A beer in a bar or club can cost up to 15SGD. Expensive compared to Dutch standards.

Eating out on the other hand is very affordable.

Housing prices start from 350EUR for a shared room (3 people in one room.)

study/placement abroad period

study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)

I took the following courses:

Major related electives: Behavioural Finance, Global Financial Risk Management, Political Economy of Globalization

Law Minor: Public International Law.

Enrolling for courses at SMU is like gambling. Don't expect to get the courses you like. Courses are assigned on a first-come-first-served basis.

academic quality of education/placement activities

Classes are demanding. Several elements of the class will contribute to your final grade (Class participation, Assignments, Presentation, Final Exam)

counselling/support at host institution/organisation

Excellent support for international students on exchange.

transfer of credits

student life

welcome/orientation programme

I had to attend the mandatory introduction day. After it you should be able to find your way around the huge campus. There was also the possibility to enrol in the "buddy program" and get to know local students.

Accommodation

Accommodation in Singapore is expensive. See "finances" above

leisure/culture

Going out in Singapore is expensive, but this doesn't mean you won't have fun. You can eat cheaply at food courts. Singapore is not known for being a culture capital. Most of the city is centered around shopping and working.

suggestions/tips

Conclusions

would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain

I recommend this place if want to gain a new perspective.

Initially I had planned to go on exchange to Australia, but then I thought:

"Why should I go to Australia? I already know what the western lifestyle feels like. I want to experience something different."



Despite the rapid economic development and rapid westernization, Singapore is still home of different ethnicities (Chinese, Indians, Malaysians, Vietnamese). That's what brought me to Singapore essentially.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

2010-2011

Preparation

exchange/placement application process

Applied via the exchange student application forms, was informed within 2 weeks about the status of my application and that it was successful. Corresponding follow up was done both with SMU and Utrecht University regarding registration, visa applications, courses schedules and so on. Overall, the process is very convenient, easily accessible and quick to respond.

counselling/support at home university

My exchange advisor, Andrea Naylor was of tremendous help and support throughout the entire procedure. Being the first student to attend SMU and represent the Utrecht University she did everything to ensure the process was carried out smoothly.

academic preparation

Since I had completed all my required courses at my home university I wasn't required to do any additional preparation at home.

language preparation

English is the language of instruction at SMU so there was no need for any language courses.

finances

The standard of living in Singapore is lower than in the Netherlands, including the accommodation (if this is provided at the subsidized rate by the university) costs of living are approx. 900\$ SGD. However, if you have to live on your own, accommodation tends to be rather expensive and costs of living can range from 1000\$-2000\$ SGD.

study/placement abroad period

study programme

Optional Course Profile: I took classes in

1. Ethics and Social Responsibility
2. Economic Analysis of Multinational Firms
3. Democracy – Political Science

academic quality of education

The quality of education at SMU is of a very high and demanding standard, typically classes comprise of a number of fragments each representing anywhere between 5-50% of your total grade. This includes, group projects, class participation, reading online journals, presentations, homework, class assignments and examinations. Thus constant work and attendance is encouraged, and often pays off with high grades.

counselling/support at host institution

SMU has a great support system, and buddy's (full time SMU students) are provided to exchange students to help them buying books, looking for tutoring support, joining a club or a sports facility, social events, cultural tours etc...Additionally the international office have a number of officers who help out with administrative and academic issues.

**transfer of credits**

1 SMU Credit = 7.5 ECTS

So often, one course usually the full time courses are the equivalent of 1 SMU credit makes up one course at Utrecht.

student life**welcome/orientation programme**

The orientation programme is very well organized and though it takes place for one day, is packed with activities and interaction that you end up very well accustomed to the happenings at SMU. Additionally, the International Student Exchange Committee, organizes year round events that constantly keep you in touch with your peers and give you an option to meet new faces.

accommodation

SMU assists in providing housing for exchange students, this depends on how timely your application is and more importantly on the availability of rooms. Have lock is a well situated and convenient housing block offered to students at a special rate of 450\$SGD. These apartments are typically shared with 3 other flatmates and are comfortable. The alternative if this housing option isn't available is to rent condominium apartments which are in abundance in Singapore, often students get together in groups of 6-8 and rent these to economize on rents.

leisure/culture

Singapore although a small island has plenty for students to do, there are beaches and theme parks in addition to museums and asian cultural festivals that run all year round. What is even better is that it is a great hub for students to travel to neighbouring countries to explore other parts of South East Asia. On campus, there are over 100 clubs and societies that exchange students can join and there are fairs called Vivace that introduce students to the opportunities available on campus. Examples are: Ice skating, wakeboarding, salsa dancing, literature book club, debate society and Business Acumen.

suggestions/tips

Start studying from the start, it pays off well.

conclusions**would you recommend this host organisation to others? please explain**

I would definitely recommend this exchange programme to anyone interested. Singapore is a country that has an eclectic blend of both the west with its high expat population and the east with its Chinese influence and Asian blends. SMU is a very well organized and run educational institution that really encourages interaction, perception and hard work.

do you have any additional advice or comments?