



## Singapore Management University

**2023-2024**

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
The exchange application process went incredibly smoothly for me. I found myself faced with the delightful dilemma of choosing between three countries. Reflecting on this experience, I would advise everyone to select their first pick without over-strategizing. In the end, embarking on an exchange journey is a remarkable opportunity regardless of the destination. Each country and university has its own unique beauties to offer and the experience itself is enriching beyond measure.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Unfortunately, the counselling and support provided at Utrecht University regarding exchanges outside of the European Union left much to be desired. While they were quite knowledgeable about European exchange programs, their expertise seemed to falter when it came to destinations beyond the EU. What they did offer, however, was the opportunity to connect with fellow exchange students who were also headed to the same country. Looking ahead, I'm hoping that Utrecht University will increase its support services and provide more information for students interested in exchanges in regions such as Asia.
academic preparation
I was aware from the outset that academic preparation for studying in Singapore would be challenging. Singapore's reputation as a highly developed country suggests that its education system would also be rigorous and demanding. The country's commitment to excellence in education and its emphasis on innovation and research indicate that academic standards would be high. Therefore, I anticipated that the academic workload and expectations would be intense.
language preparation
There are no language preparation for going to Singapore, but they do speak something that is called Singlish, which can be confusing from time to time.
finances
Singapore is renowned for its high cost of living and this extends to accommodation as well. Renting even a small place in Singapore can be quite expensive due to the limited space and high demand. Additionally, while studying in Singapore, there's a good chance you'll be tempted to explore neighbouring countries and travel extensively throughout the region. It's essential to be financially prepared for these additional expenses, including transportation, accommodation and other travel-related costs. Planning and budgeting wisely beforehand can help ensure that you make the most of your time abroad.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The study programme in Singapore is known for its intensity, both in terms of content and organizational structure. To fully grasp the material covered in classes, a solid foundation of prerequisites is often necessary. However, the university provides thorough guidance on what is expected, offering clarity on the path forward. Classes are typically divided into various components, including class participation, projects, midterms and final exams. This structured approach helps students understand the weighting of each component and prepare accordingly throughout the semester. One unique aspect is the bidding system, where students must choose and



bid for the classes they plan to take. It's essential to choose wisely and bid correctly to secure a spot in the desired courses. While there are undoubtedly some challenging classes, the overall experience is manageable. Surprisingly, the workload may even feel lighter compared to studying in the Netherlands, although this varies depending on individual courses and programmes.

**academic quality of education activities**

The academic quality in Singapore is truly exceptional, characterized by intimate class settings and close interaction with professors. With small class sizes capped at around 40 to 50 students, you have ample opportunity to engage with your professors on a personal level. This creates an environment where professors not only recognize you, but also share fascinating stories and insights that enrich your learning experience. One of the remarkable aspects of studying in Singapore is the diversity of the faculty. Whether they are native Singaporeans or hailing from various European countries, the professors consistently impress with their expertise and dedication to teaching. This diversity extends to the student body as well, ensuring that each class is a melting pot of perspectives and experiences. Engaging with such a diverse range of individuals not only enhances the academic experience, but also broadens your worldview. The knowledge and skills gained from these interactions are invaluable and will undoubtedly shape your future endeavours. Overall, the academic environment in Singapore offers a rich and rewarding experience that fosters growth, learning and personal development.

**counselling & support at receiving university abroad**

The welcoming and supportive atmosphere in Singapore extends beyond the classroom. Everyone, from fellow students to faculty members and staff, is incredibly approachable and eager to lend a helping hand. Whether you're seeking academic guidance, navigating campus life or simply looking for a friendly conversation, you'll find that people are always ready to assist with a smile. It creates a supportive environment where everyone feels valued and included. Whether you're a local student or an international student, they are quite helpful.

**transfer of credits**

As of now, the status of transfer credits is still pending finalization.

**STUDENT LIFE**

**welcome & orientation programme**

While the welcoming and orientation program in Singapore was straightforward, it fell slightly short of expectations. Despite arriving two weeks before the official start of the programme, many aspects of the orientation felt repetitive or unnecessary, as we had already familiarized ourselves with much of the information provided.

**accommodation**

The accommodation provided during my time in Singapore was quite satisfactory. We resided in a building surrounded by fellow exchange students, fostering a vibrant and inclusive community. Living with three other individuals ensured that we never felt isolated and we shared memorable experiences together. While the living space was admittedly small and came with a hefty price tag, its location in an older area of Singapore added charm and character to our experience. Being only a 15-minute metro ride away from the university made commuting convenient and efficient. For future students seeking accommodation in Singapore, exploring options with agents or researching various co-living spaces can be beneficial. Engaging with agents who specialize in student housing or considering a range of co-living arrangements can provide insights into different housing options available in Singapore.



leisure & culture

Transitioning from Europe to Singapore can indeed be a fascinating and somewhat challenging experience, given the vast differences in culture, climate and lifestyle. As you venture into this vibrant city-state located on the other side of the world, you'll encounter a modern metropolis that has managed to preserve its rich cultural heritage amidst rapid development. Singapore's dense urban landscape and tropical climate can initially feel overwhelming, especially for Europeans accustomed to milder temperatures. However, the city offers a plethora of activities and attractions, ranging from exploring its historic neighbourhoods to embracing its futuristic skyline. While leisure activities abound, it's essential to note that Singapore's nightlife and dining scene can be relatively expensive due to heavy taxes on alcohol and a significant VAT on restaurant meals. Nonetheless, indulging in Singaporean cuisine at hawker centres provides an affordable and delicious culinary experience, offering a glimpse into the city's diverse food culture. Interacting with locals may require some adjustment, as Singaporeans are generally considered introverted but warm-hearted individuals. Taking the initiative to engage with them respectfully can lead to enriching conversations and insights into their culture and way of life. Additionally, Singaporeans take pride in their country's achievements and exhibit a strong sense of nationalism. Navigating the city's efficient transportation system is a breeze, making it easy to explore not only Singapore, but also neighbouring countries in Asia. However, be prepared for the fast-paced nature of life in Singapore, where people are known for their efficiency and rapid speech. Overall, while the initial adjustment period may feel peculiar, immersing yourself in Singapore's dynamic blend of old and new, diverse cultures and culinary delights will undoubtedly make your experience both memorable and rewarding.

suggestions/tips

To make the most out of your exchange experience in Singapore, it's crucial to plan ahead and seize every opportunity for growth and exploration. Start by securing housing and selecting classes early to avoid any last-minute stress. Once settled, immerse yourself in the vibrant social scene and engage with fellow students. Remember, exchange experiences are not just about academics, but also about the connections you make and the memories you create. As you navigate through your time in Singapore, be sure to embrace every opportunity that comes your way. Attend events, participate in classes and don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone. One must-try experience is indulging in the diverse culinary delights Singapore has to offer. Whether it's a dinner at the iconic Marina Bay Sands or sampling street food at a hawker centre, Singapore's food scene is sure to leave a lasting impression. Challenge yourself academically by enrolling in courses like Business Consulting, even if the reviews are daunting. The lessons learned in these challenging courses can lead to significant personal and intellectual growth. And when it comes to exploration, don't limit yourself to just Singapore. Take advantage of your proximity to Southeast Asia and embark on adventures to nearby countries.

**CONCLUSIONS**

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

I wholeheartedly recommend Singapore as an exchange destination, because it offers a unique life perspective unlike anything I've experienced before. It's a place where you'll meet people from diverse backgrounds, immerse yourself in a different culture and perhaps even discover a new continent. The experience of living in Singapore challenges you to adapt to new environments, navigate unfamiliar streets and embrace the unexpected. You'll encounter a new educational system, which presents a fresh approach to learning and studying. But beyond the academic and cultural aspects, what truly makes Singapore special are the memories you create and the friendships you forge. The bonds formed during your time there can last a lifetime, connecting you with people from all corners of the globe.

do you have any additional advice or comments?



### PREPARATION

exchange application process

Usually, the instructions given by e-mails is enough and clear, but if I did have any doubts, they were extremely helpful at each step and calling them is the best and fastest option.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The support at UU was somewhat okay. They lack a lot of information on the courses that SMU offers, it's not communicated well regarding course selection. I would advise not to take course content from SMU as face value. Some topics names may seem familiar, but are extremely hard at SMU, because they go in depth in each section. Choosing the correct course heavily influences the experience at SMU.

academic preparation

It depends on the course, generally was competitive environment and mathematical. Although with the right practice it is doable.

language preparation

None, everyone speaks English, but knowing Mandarin, Hindi or Tamil would be beneficial in your day to day life.

finances

Singapore is a very expensive place, but you can live cheaply if you live in "Sketchy" areas or eat in food courts.

### STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The content depends on the course, choosing anything with "Advanced" is much more advanced than a course offered at UU. It would be advised to choose courses number around 200, as it matches more from what we cover in UU 3<sup>rd</sup> year.

academic quality of education activities

I was very impressed by the quality of education they offer. It was very interactive and felt very professional. They offer lots of opportunities. I happened to choose a Business Consulting Course which is offered by another university. I found that to be one of the best experiences as I learned the most from it.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The teachers are very helpful as they understand you're an exchange student. Overall support was outstanding!

transfer of credits

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### STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

It's only helpful if you don't know anything about Singapore, but if you came in early and explored a few places, I believe it's not necessary.



accommodation

We used an agent to find our housing, they are helpful overall. But a few things to note: they only start helping you a month before you are arriving in Singapore, hence finding an agent early isn't much use as they turn you away. Finding housing 30 minutes near the campus is your best strategy, as the bus and MRT is always accessible anywhere. Try to not find houses at student dorm hostels, they are very small and unclean.

leisure & culture

Culture is very diverse, you get to meet so many people from different countries, although mostly from China and India.

suggestions/tips

Finding local friends is going to be your best bet as they know where the cheapest and best value is around Singapore.

**CONCLUSIONS**

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes, I loved the education system, people and the place. I would recommend anyone who is interested in business, economics, and networking to attend this university. You will make great friends and travelling is very easy from Singapore.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Don't choose any course which has "advanced" in the name, they are extremely advanced compared to courses at UU. The course content of the courses is also misleading. At UU we cover the basics of advanced topics, while at SMU they go deep into each topic and most of them are extremely mathematical and abstract. You also need to be extremely proactive at each class to understand everything.



## 2022-2023

<b>PREPARATION</b>
Exchange application process at Utrecht University
You have to fulfil the study plan form and get the signature from our study advisor. Then submit the application via Osiris -> study abroad.
Counselling & support at Utrecht University
Our study advisors are super helpful, patient and welcoming to ask questions. Whenever you have problems with the application process, you can write email to them and they will reply you in 3 working days (normally it takes 1 day).
Academic preparation
There are no specific requirements you have to meet, as long as you have gotten enough credits (90). For GPA it will depend on which university you have chosen, just try your best to get well grades.
Language preparation
Since all of our EBE courses are taught in English, there is no need to take an English test to show your proficiency. If the host university ask, you can write an email to the student office to get the certificate.
Finances (living costs)
I will say it depends on individual preference, since in Singapore the most expensive part is accommodation. It takes me around 850 EURO per month. But for eating and transportation, it is not expensive compared to Utrecht.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
Study programme (content and organisational issues at partner)
ECON
Academic quality of education activities
In SMU, they have lots of courses provided for exchange students, some are pretty similar to UU courses, in order to avoid overlap, you have to check if it meets the course level in UU. During the lectures, they have small groups teaching and you have to ask questions to get the participation points.
Counselling & support at receiving university abroad (before and during your stay)
After the nomination, once you accepted by the host university, they will send you the instructions in the attachment. Whenever you have questions, simply write a mail and they will answer it quickly. During exchange, they send many emails per day, including social activities and school sports.
Transfer of credits
When you finish the exchange program, SMU will send the digital transcripts to your school email, so keep your host university email.



## STUDENT LIFE

### Welcome/Orientation programme

The Orientation programme is very interesting, it will tell you how the school life in SMU is. It will take some activities during the programme. After that they will take you to walk around the school building to let you be familiar with your classrooms. There is also a city tour in the following which is not mandatory.

### Accommodation

I find a small room with the help of my friends it takes around 850 euro, it is close to SMU, except my roommates, all are good. If you want to live alone, it's better to live in a hotel even it is expensive but the environment is good, it has gym and swimming pool. You also have the option to live in campus, but it has too many competitions.

### Leisure & culture

In SMU it has multi-diversified culture, you will know lots of things which you never ever heard about. In Singapore, the temperature is high, daily temperature around 30 degrees for the whole year. You can enjoy the sunshine and go to the beach.

### Suggestions/tips (need to know)

My suggestion is to manage your time well in SMU, you will have more pressure than UU and it is more competitive in SMU, so you have to study hard.

## CONCLUSIONS

Would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? Please explain why (or not)

If you want to explore and know more about Asian culture, come to Singapore, if not, you'd better to choose another destination.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?

Whenever you have troubles with application, do not hesitate to ask for help from UU! They are always there for help!



2021-2022

PREPARATION
exchange application process
<p>The main process features were the following (this does not include COVID-related aspects as these are not relevant anymore)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Application via the home university: This is done in Osiris. You need to make SMU as your choice destination. The application will consist of information provided in Osiris in the “study abroad” section such as: start and end date, level of course, study plan and motivation letter. After the request has been made,</li><li>2. Application procedure to SMU: Is done within a SMU-based platform. Requires the following documentation; passport sized photo in jpeg format taken no less than 6 months ago, photo identification with passport that has no less than a 6 months expiration, financial plan, latest academic transcript and English language proficiency (if course is in English, this is not required, which is common within UU),</li><li>3. Applying for Student Pass (Visa): After application procedure has been successfully admitted and accepted, information for how the student pass is applied for is provided by SMU. The application is done via the ICA (Immigration and Checkpoints Authority).</li><li>4. Course picking and bidding: SMU you have a unique process for picking your courses where you get 100 virtual dollars to bid on 4 total courses based on what you want to take. You have multiple rounds meaning if you are outbid for certain courses, this money is returned to you, and you can bid again until you have 4 final courses. Courses have prerequisites so take note of this. Courses should also match a course journey that is required by UU to be fulfilled to graduate. Finally, take note that some courses at SMU are pass/fail and some graded, while some consisting of final exams and some not.</li></ol>
counselling & support at Utrecht University
<p>The main support I received was through the study advisors, mainly Janneke Noles. She is a very useful advisor for any information needed regarding the exchange and application. I would suggest setting up multiple meetings with her in advance as her schedule is usually very busy. I would then collect questions over time to be asked, where urgent questions can be emailed to the study advisor email with a reply within two-three days most common. One question I would ask her about is regarding the academic journey required to graduate, and present the courses you have chosen within SMU for advice on if this first the requirements. Also make sure to take note of prerequisites for each SMU course.</p>
academic preparation
<p>4 courses are done in SMU. The intensity at SMU is much higher than UU. The classes are 3:15 hours, with every course I took consisting of multiple grading channels, such as presentations and exams. Preparing for this intensity should be done, with keeping up with the content of the courses being extremely important as they are 13 weeks long, meaning being behind can be much more detrimental than in UU. Also prepare to contribute a lot to class discussion, as grading consists of class participation, usually being 15-20% of the final grade, a high weight.</p>
language preparation
<p>English is spoken in Singapore therefore not much language preparation is needed. I would suggest to research Singlish, a Singaporean type of English with phrases that you will have never heard before. This includes phrases such as “can-can” said very fast, meaning it is possible. Take note that the accents may also be hard to understand, so do study the pattern of speaking amongst Singaporeans before going.</p>





finances

Singapore is extremely expensive. Be prepared, especially during the first weeks when exploring the city, to spend a lot of money. It is possible, however, if you want to, to live cheaply in Singapore. Examples can be eating at hawker centres (food courts) which are extremely popular in Singapore. For living costs, to get the cheapest living situation I would suggest living with 2-3 people, as this will majorly reduce costs, with very nice accommodation still being available. I would recommend having around 2000- 3000 euro a month total including living costs. For exchanging money, ask locals where to do so, as there is only one area where they give good rates.

**STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

study programme (content and organisational issues)

As mentioned, the courses are intense and consist of many different areas for grades, presentations being very common. The content of the courses consists of 13 weeks where every week, content is built upon the previous weeks. The content consists of theoretical and applicational. There is a bigger framework for every course that the content weekly is built around, teaching this bigger picture. The courses usually consist of the theoretical study and then real life situations for weekly readings.

Organisational issues I found were the classes being much too long to concentrate the whole time, being 3.25 hours. Another issue was assignments and presentations were quite broad in objective, making them quite unclear in what the end goal was. Each class, however, has a helper who is a former student, so make sure to ask them questions when needed, which will definitely come up.

academic quality of education activities

The quality of education activities was very high. Three of my courses consisted of real-life CEOs of companies coming to present for our assignments, where we would have to recommend what can be improved based on the content of the course.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Support/counselling is also of very high quality and abundance at SMU. As mentioned, each class has a former student as an assistant for questions. SMU also has a service office for different matters, including IT and even a school doctor.

transfer of credits

I am still in the process of transferring my credits. You will receive your grades for the courses by mid May. By July, an academic transcript is provided which should then be sent to UU's exam commission for the transferring of credits, as well as uploaded in Osiris. If July is too late, right after grades are received, an academic summary can be requested for to provide to the UU exam commission for the transferring of credits.

**STUDENT LIFE**

welcome & orientation programme

Unfortunately, due to Corona, my orientation program was online. However, it consisted of 1.5 hours of information being presented based on every topic that needs to be known about the exchange, including what to do now and after the exchange is over.



You are also provided with a SMU email for not just contact with teachers, but information about programmes and societies for integrating, as well as other activities. The beginning month also consists of activities for meeting people, such as a city tour.

#### accommodation

Accommodation links are provided to you by SMU. Accommodation in Singapore can consist of apartments and student together-living, which is where I stayed. It was called Lyf Funan, and Lyf themselves have multiple locations around Singapore. This is however the more expensive option but provide many services along with the accommodation, such as a study area, washing machines and kitchens. Apartments can be shared, where an example of a student I knew was living with 4 people, two rooms of two people, for around 700-800 euro. Therefore, cheap options are there, but if you want to live alone or have your own room, it can price around 1200-2000 euro.

#### leisure & culture

For leisure, Singapore is abundant with activities, as well as SMU-organized activities received in your email. Singapore ranges in activities from aquariums and zoos to beautiful scenery such as the central pier, gardens by the bay, parks (botanical gardens, where monkeys among other animals can be seen in the wild) and beaches. The nightlife is also spectacular, with beautiful bars all around Singapore, where hubs for this are places such as Clarke Quay and Boat Quay. Singapore also have expensive, yet some of the best bars voted in the world. Ce La Vi for example, a bar with A view of the whole of Singapore.

Culturally, Singapore is like other Asian countries. Respect and discipline are very important, where Singaporeans respect these rules and tell you off if you do not. Crimes are massively looked down upon, with whipping and the death sentence are still in place. Besides this, Singapore is a working culture, where I was told by Singaporean students they do not even go out on the weekend and stay home to work. Singaporeans are also very to themselves, being quite introverted.

#### suggestions/tips

For Singapore, I would suggest, in the first month, to explore as much as possible as there is so much to do. I would make a to do list of all the greatest attractions and definitely take the nature in as much as possible, as it is one of a kind. Many parks and nature reserves are abundance in flora and fauna, where monkeys, kimodo dragons and turtles can be found outside exploring freely.

I would also suggest to still, while enjoying Singapore and its uniqueness, keep up with the content. You have 4 courses with presentations, final exams and essays. It is not hard to stay up to date, you simply need to just take notes in class and read the content weekly and take notes, which should not take more than 2 hours per class in fully concentration.

## CONCLUSIONS

#### would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

I would recommend it, yes! I met amazing people, had some beautiful experiences unique to just Singapore and took courses with assignments that would not be found anywhere else (making and presenting about your own product made physically too, being presented to by majorly inefficient companies to come up with recommendations presented to these clients and very interesting unique courses). Singapore offers the widest range of courses I have ever seen, meaning finding something to study that you like is inevitable. Besides studying, Singapore has so much to do, and make everything with style and uniqueness, always taking it to the next level. Examples being Universal studios and the night zoo being memorable ones.



**Utrecht  
University**

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Additional advice would be to prepare for the cultural shift to be experienced. You will be with fellow students most likely from somewhat similar backgrounds so this will make it easier, but the strictness, intensity of work by Singaporeans and uniqueness of the outlook of the city is something nobody would not feel weird by.



**2019-2020**

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
It was very clear what information was needed
counselling & support at Utrecht University
My study advisors were really supporting with all my questions, even over email they responded very quickly
academic preparation
There was not really any specific academic preparation needed
language preparation
None since my bachelor is in English
finances
I had to save a lot of money beforehand, since Singapore is very expensive

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The courses I followed were very interesting and more based upon real-life, which was very nice. For the courses we needed to conduct interviews with managers at companies, and I even wrote a business report for an existing company. This made the courses a little more practical than theoretical, which was a nice change for once. SMU works with a Bidding System, of which you need to be aware. Because of this system, I was not able to follow four courses, which I initially wanted. A lot of other exchange students I met had the same problem. It might be useful to look into the bidding statistics of the previous years of the courses you want to follow, to place a good bet.
academic quality of education activities
Good
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
This was also good, they sent emails before departing with clear instructions of what you needed to prepare beforehand and also during the exchange they were very informative over email. However, after my exchange period I quickly lost access to my email account while I still needed to receive some documents. The help of the International Office and professors was not very good with this problem.
transfer of credits
I have not yet received any transfer of credits, but they stated that they will send this in Februari

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome & orientation programme
Was nice, SMU had a lot of information they shared on the first day



accommodation

Very little accommodation was given through SMU so I used an agency, which was a very nice place but very expensive

leisure & culture

You can easily take trips to the rest of Asia from Singapore, which was very nice. Also, the culture of Singapore is nice as they really love shopping and eating. You have food courts on almost every corner, serving really delicious food

suggestions/tips

Try to live as close to the university as possible, since this will save a lot of travel time every time you go to uni and it is close in the city center

**CONCLUSIONS**

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes, the city is easy to adjust to for the time you are studying abroad and the university is good

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Do not use Singapore Housing Company as an agency as they keep adding costs that have to be paid, making you have to pay even more than they already asked.



## PREPARATION

### exchange application process

The application process itself is easy and straightforward. In fact, only basic documents (passport, transcripts, etc) are required. It is very important to read carefully all the information provided regularly by email and to make sure to complete all the tasks within the deadlines.

The only concern I have is that it may take a bit of time before receiving the official confirmation from SMU and the relative Acceptance Letter.

### counselling & support at Utrecht University

Utrecht University has been very helpful in the first stages of my application process. First of all, the meetings organized have been very useful, because I had the opportunity to speak with students who went on exchange in Singapore before me. They shared with me their experiences and clarified some doubts I had.

Moreover, the members of the staff of the International Exchange Office have always been available and open to answer all my questions, both by email and telephone. For instance, when I needed some documents urgently, they provided them to me within a small amount of time.

### academic preparation

I had to choose 4 courses fitting my study programme; so, I first made a preliminary study plan which was approved by UU. However, getting the courses at SMU is relatively hard, because it is based on a bidding system. Because of it, my preliminary plan had to be completely changed. Exchange students are indeed allocated 100 SG\$ and they have to split them into the classes they want to take. Moreover, some courses have pre-requisites: in this case, you have to email individually the teacher with your transcripts.

### language preparation

As my Bachelor degree is in English, I did not have to take any exam. However, I had to provide a document signed by a UU staff member to certify it.

### finances

Life in Singapore is expensive in terms of housing and European (i.e. imported) food. However, it is relatively cheap regarding local food, transportation and leisure. I would recommend you to book your flight as early as possible.

## STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

### study programme (content and organisational issues)

As my bachelor is in Economics and Business Economics, I chose 2 classes from the School of Economics and 2 classes from the School of Business. While the classes of the School of Business last 3 hours and 15 minutes and take place only once a week, the ones of the School of Economics take place twice a week and have a length of 1 hour and 45 minutes. So, tutorial and lectures are merged.

Usually classes contain around 45 students, who are asked to have a sign with their names. In fact, attendance and class participation is very important at SMU, and teachers usually call students out to answer questions.

A lot of importance is given also to group projects, such as reports, presentations, facilitations and group-homeworks; each course I followed had at least one. Those projects are very useful to exchange ideas with local and international students, as they help to have a better perspective on the world. However, they require a lot of time to spend and sometimes group meetings of different subjects may be overlapping.

### academic quality of education activities

Overall, the quality of the classes I have taken was high and can be compared to the standards of UU. The teachers were coming from different countries and had very good academic backgrounds. Because of this,



teachers always try to give more broad insights on the topics explained, mainly focusing on a “real world perspective”. The material was deeply analysed in class, where we did a lot of practice by solving exercises.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
SMU is very efficient to help exchange students to cope with all kind of problems. In the first weeks, meetings are organized to answer to the most common questions. Subsequently, students can contact staff members via email or by telephone. Moreover, students can show up in the Student Hub office, where local students and proper staff members are available during week days. In terms of education systems, teachers have always been open to support students and clarify their doubts; this was done both in office hours and in booked appointments.
transfer of credits

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome & orientation programme
SMU is really concerned about welcoming exchange students and integrating them into its academic environment. Because of it, the University organises a lot of events in the first weeks of the academic year, in order to help international students to meet each others. The University offers also optional programmes such as the Buddy Programme and the Host Programmes, to help students to get into contact with the Singaporean culture.
accommodation
I stayed in the Residence provided by SMU. It is called <a href="#">Dwell@Selegie</a> and it is a big building hosting a lot of exchange students. Despite the building is very simple, it contains all the things you may need (e.g. kitchen, laundry, study room, chilling room, etc). Moreover, it has an optimal location, as it is in the city centre and only 10 minutes walking distance from SMU. I was sharing the room with other 2 girls and I was paying about 500€/month.
leisure & culture
There are a lot of outdoor activities organized by the clubs of SMU, which are managed by students. Those are usually free of charge and take place in the surroundings of the university. Beside the events organised by the University itself, there are plenty of events organized in Singapore. In fact, every day of the week there is something to do, for all the tastes. It could be an open door concert, an exhibition in a museum, a sport tournament or a cultural/religious celebration...
suggestions/tips
Travel as much as you can! After staying in Singapore for the first weeks to discover the city itself, it is very nice to discover the nearby countries. Taking the plane or the bus to reach them is in fact very fast and cheap. Besides weekend trips, I would suggest you to plan a “big trip” in the Recess week, which takes place after the Midterms.

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would definitely recommend both Singapore and SMU as destination for an exchange. In fact, it has been very important for me to get in touch with all the cultures that are living together in Singapore. Moreover, working with so many international students and experiencing a different teaching system has been useful from an academic perspective.



**Utrecht  
University**

It is also important to mention that Singapore is very safe, well organized and the majority of people speak English.

do you have any additional advice or comments?





## 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 chose 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

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.

### accommodation

It was not very hard to arrange accommodation. 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 accommodation with a studenthousing agency. Accommodation was very expensive; I paid around 660 euro for a shared room in a shared condo.

### leisure & culture

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.

### suggestions/tips

Save enough money! Living in Singapore is expensive as well as leisure activities.

## CONCLUSIONS

### would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

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.

### do you have any additional advice or comments?



**2017-2018**

<b>preparation</b>
exchange/placement application process
The exchange progress 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.
counselling/support at home university
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.
academic preparation
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.
language preparation
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.  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.
finances
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.
<b>study/placement abroad period</b>
study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)
I was going on exchange in my first semester of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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.

academic quality of education/placement activities

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.

counselling/support at host institution/organisation

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.

transfer of credits

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.

**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

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**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?



<b>preparation</b>
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.
<b>study/placement abroad period</b>
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?