

National University of Singapore (NUS)

Overall I had a great experience and I would definitely do it all again. In general the university and studies was even better and more interesting than I expected, the teachers were great, but it was tougher and more hours studying than I did expect. The climate is very hot and humid, but it is nice to walk around in just shorts and T-shirt for 5 months. Fall semester starts in early August and ends between late November and mid-December. It is generally quite expensive, but many things, like food, was cheaper than I expected. It is clean and safe, easy to find information and travel within Singapore, and the Changi airport (Singapore's airport) can take you around the region quite easily (but usually not that cheap as rumors says).

University:

The university is ranked one of the best in the world (usually top 25) and the best university in Asia. Take the opportunity to study courses you actually want to learn from, since the studies are great. It is much more practical and connected to business life (at least it was for me, since I was studying business), teachers were great and had a lot of experience, not only from academics but also from outside the universities, which I found very helpful and interesting. All my teachers were great at motivating, teaching, and making their subjects interesting. I really learnt a lot. The atmosphere is very friendly and international, both students and teachers come from all around the world, but they all help you achieve as good results as possible, give you information about Singapore, and help you out when needed which makes it easy to make good friends.

Different from Sweden, NUS have all courses simultaneously, you study all of them parallel to each other. I would say that each course is more than the 7,5hp we have at home, and at NUS we had to take 5 courses, meaning that we did 37,5hp but the feeling was rather making 45hp or something like that. Anyway, it is quite easy to pass and you will find school interesting, but probably intense too. Group projects are frequent and that can sometimes make it stressful, since most group members will have 5 different courses which makes it hard to find time to meet up. But again, students are friendly and it's easy to get along with your groups, and the projects will make you learn and eventually bring new friends. Don't get a negative feeling, school is really good, and I would rather like to study there for more than one semester, but be aware that it is tough, which makes sense for a university among the best in the world.

The first week of the semester is no school, but you must apply for courses which takes time. Then there is a recess week in the mid of the semester, where there is time for travels and get some energy back. Last month is mostly for exams, and depending on when you have your exams you might finish your semester up to 3 weeks before others.

Accommodation/Campus Life:

The campus is nice and there are lots of activities, although quite hard to find out about. I participated in lots of sport activities and they have all from tennis, volleyball, floorball, badminton, football, frisbee, gym, swimming, and much more. There are also other activities and lectures with different subjects which can be interesting. To mention some examples, I was listening to one of the Singapore ministers about Singapore's development and another lecture about entrepreneurship talking about entrepreneurship and Venture Capital in the Asian region.

There are busses all around campus and easy to get everywhere, and the buses are for free. There is a pool in Utown, and one pool, for swimming only, at the sports center. There are lots of gyms and food courts, with really cheap food (usually around 20-30kr/meal) and most of your friends will probably stay on campus, which I would recommend as well.

There are two different kind of campus accommodations, rooms or halls. In halls you share meals and do activities with the others living there (you still live in a room yourself) but with rooms, you just have your own room in a shared apartment or in a corridor, and plan your meals and activities as you want yourself. Depending on what you want, either one could be good. For rooms there are 2 different parts of the university, Prince George Park Residence or Utown. I would suggest Utown, which is newer, has more food options, better gym and a swimming pool. It is hot to sleep without AC, but doable as you get used to it.

Welcoming activities or arranged activities were almost non-existing, so you have to find out about the activities that exists and try to join them yourself (unless you stay in a hall and have some shared activities). But there are many things going on at campus if you find it. I would recommend staying at campus since it is much cheaper, closer to school and provides a lot of sport activities and everyone else is hanging there.

Singapore:

The city is cool, and I was quite amazed of the buildings, the city center, the roof-top bars, the easiness and cleanness in the city. Metro runs all day all the time and takes you wherever you want to go for a small amount of money and at nights or when you feel lazy you just get an Uber which is super easy. Climate is hot (!) and humid all 24 hours, and you are lucky if it ever goes below 26 degrees Celsius. However, it is not that sunny, usually cloudy and 1/2 days has rain. There is a beach at Sentosa (about 30 min travel from campus). Otherwise, the areas Clarke quay, boat quay, esplanade, marina bay, and the area in front of financial district by the water, were my favorite ones. You can find cheap food outside campus (like the worlds cheapest Michelin star restaurant) but usually it gets quite expensive, especially alcohol. The city is giving you the best views during nighttime, and I just loved to walk around in the city center. But be aware of the heat & humidity and of the rain. Further, the air sometimes gets polluted by winds from Indonesia, but it never happened during my stay there, but apparently could be problematic.

Travels:

It is possible to travel to a lot of countries nearby. There are some busses into Malaysia that are comfortable, but crossing the boarder takes forever, so flying/going by boat might be preferable. I had heard a lot of rumors of cheap flights, but to be honest it is hard to find return tickets for less than 1800-2400 SEK if you travel over weekends or popular weeks like recess week. So flights were not as cheap as I hoped, but to some specific locations in Thailand and Malaysia you can get super-deals with return tickets around 600 SEK, but it's not as easy as I thought it would be. But travelling is more or less a must, there are so many beautiful places! I would recommend Malaysia and Indonesia rather than Thailand, more experiencing, less touristy, great nature, water and beaches, cheaper, but a bit more complicated travelling and to find the good spots. Then further abroad, but still within short distance, is Borneo, Vietnam, Cambodia, Hong Kong etc.

I would recommend anyone to go to Singapore, I really enjoyed my semester abroad and I am very happy I went to NUS and Singapore. You will get an amazing experience! But be aware of:

- The heat and humidity
- Intense School
- Sometimes air pollutions
- Some things are quite expensive, but in general cheaper than I expected
- Long process for Visa and application to school, but there are good instructions (but make sure to take time and read through carefully more than once). They are friendly and helpful so do send them questions if you don't understand.