

Travel Report *Nanyang Technological University, Singapore*

Content

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, Autumn 2018, Psykologprogrammet

Singapore

Singapore is a modern, diverse city which has a big city feel to it even though it is very close to nature through its many hiking spots, some of which are in the center of town. Singapore is a very multicultural society, with groups from Chinese, Tamil, Malaysian, European and other backgrounds. Singapore is generally viewed as being Westernized whilst having many diverse Asian elements and so the different city areas and the cuisines are a reflection of that. Famous tourist hot spots include Little India, Chinatown and Haji Lane in Bugis where it is possible to see the physical traces of the different cultures in for e.g. the architecture and places of worship. Singapore has a rain season during the late autumn during which it rains heavily most days although the humidity and temperature still remains high.

Nanyang Technological University (NTU)

NTU has a good reputation as a school which I think it lives up to. From what I've gathered from local students, studies here can be very demanding depending on your course load. Grades in all courses are supposedly graded against the Bell curve, meaning your own grade depends on how others performed on the test. In my experience, my classmates were very high performing with a high class average, meaning that if you aim for an A+ you will have to be prepared to put a lot of effort into your studies. Students are usually allowed to take up to 5 courses (depending on the number of credits they are worth); given my own experiences and what I've heard from others, I would say that 3-4 is reasonable if you still plan on exploring the city or travelling during your exchange. The autumn term has two one-week long breaks, one before midterms and one before finals. Compared to my classes in Lund, there was a stronger requirement for class attendance and class participation also counted towards the final grade.

The university has very good facilities, including a free swimming pool and gym, and also has a walk path that loops around the entire campus in close proximity to parts of the jungle (from which wild boars occasionally emerge). There is a vibrant student life, with many student clubs, in particular focused on sports and dance which can be joined for a small sum of money.

Arrival

I felt that the guidelines provided by the school were sufficient for me to make my way around campus. My hall (studentkorridor) arranged an orientation for exchange students which I strongly recommend attending. Halls also organize other activities, especially in the beginning of the year, which can be worthwhile attending in order to make new connections.

HP3801 Psychology in the Workplace

The course was taught by Professor Kenichi Ito and included lectures, group activities during class, a group project composed of a presentation and report, as well as a midterm exam and final exam both consisting of quiz questions and essay questions. I felt that this course is useful for anyone who wants to gain insight into organizational psychology, and that I left the course with more knowledge on the subject.

HP3901 Cultural Psychology

The course was taught by Professor Albert Lee. The course was made up of lectures, group activities called tutorials, a group project, a midterm quiz and a final exam of both quiz and essay questions. I found this course particularly interesting because it looked at a broad range of psychological phenomenon, including morality and love, and how they are viewed in different cultures.

Accommodation

I lived on campus in a shared room. I think this is a recommendable option as accommodation was very easy to arrange via the school as well as more inexpensive compared to living outside of campus. There is the option of having a single room, although I believe these are harder to get. The only downsides to living in a hall was the mold and the fact that kitchen facilities were pretty limited. Fortunately, each hall is in proximity to a food court where you can purchase meals at a fairly cheap price. However, this can be pretty expensive in the long run, meaning you will have to factor in food costs into your budget.

Fun and Leisure

I recommend joining a student club. I personally tried Latin dance, which I found challenging but from which I learnt a lot of skills as a fairly unskilled dancer in a short period of time. In my free time I travelled, as Singapore is in close proximity to countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia and Cambodia. In Singapore there are a lot of activities to get into, including hiking, going to Sentosa beach or Universal studio.

Costs

The cost for renting a room were lower than for the typical student room in Sweden, however, as mentioned, food is a considerable expense, especially outside campus. Transportation with a student card discount is fairly cheap. Other costs I believe are roughly at the same level as in Sweden.

Other

Singapore differs from Sweden in political ways, which can be worth being aware of. There are some limitations on freedom of expression, including for foreigners. For e.g. in the visa application you sign a form stating that you will not participate in demonstrations or political activities.