



Tips on Studying Abroad at the National University of Singapore in Singapore

Want to know what it's like to study abroad? Want to know what your peers think? Your fellow Georgia Tech students who have previously gone on this exchange program gave their opinions so that future participants have the inside scoop on their host institution and host country.

Preparation & Getting Started

- One semester worth of credits should be easy to find.
- Definitely awkward at best - I got all of the courses I wanted, but couldn't say the same of my colleagues, especially language courses. Be prepared to not get all the courses you want. Get more classes approved beforehand than you need.



Housing

- The housing application process is tricky and it's not guaranteed. Pay attention and ask questions if you feel unsure about anything.
- Do not apply to PGP if you are concerned about location.
- All dorm rooms are singles.
- Cost is approximately 250 USD/month.

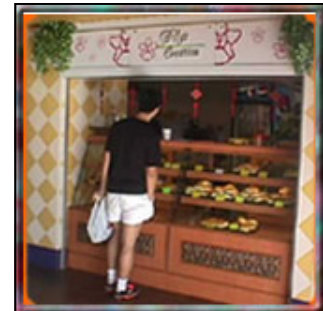


Classes

- Classes are large, sometimes more than 500 students.
- Professors are world class and speak very good English.
- Student body is diverse; they're from India, China, and South East Asia.
- Difficulty is comparable to Tech.
- 50%-70% of your grade is determined by the final exam.
- Language classes are hard to get in to; you should ask NUS staff.
- Grades are based on a curve.
- Most exchange students have 6-12 credits in a semester.

Finances

- 3000 USD is one student's estimate of how much he spent, not including housing, plane tickets, or tuition.
- Estimated weekly cost for food and entertainment is 200 USD. This varies considerably based on individual spending habits.
- Cash is the best way to pay for purchases. Credit cards can be used for larger expenses.



Cultural Differences

- Singaporeans identify themselves based on race & ethnicity more so than on nationality.
- Stereotyping is prevalent.



Food

- Food is excellent and costs about 2 USD/meal.
- The Business Canteen is the best place on campus for food.
- You could cook for yourself, but you'd need to use the common room kitchens.



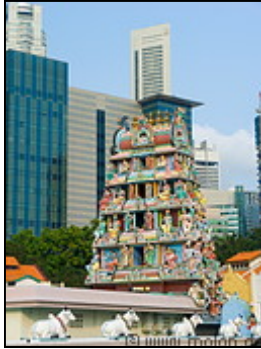
Transportation & Travel

- Local transportation is stellar.
- Make sure to visit Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Seoul (South Korea), and Japan.
- Myanmar and North Korea are hard to gain access to for Americans.



Communication

- If you're using a cell phone, make sure you have a GSM 3-band.
- Wireless internet connections are abundant throughout Singapore, but campus connections are not great.
- The time difference makes it hard to call home.



Lifestyle

- You have to work hard to make friends with locals. Americans are used to going out (to clubs or restaurants) for fun, whereas locals are more reserved.
- Ask about going to church—it's really popular with local students.
- Nightlife in Singapore is unbeatable.
- Church groups are a great way to make local friends.

Packing

- Definitely keep an umbrella on hand; it's always monsoon season.
- Have one light jacket for traveling.
- Buy some clothes in Singapore to help you fit in better with the locals.



Participant Profiles

Please see information of contributing students below. If a blog or website is listed, feel free to take a look! Also, if an e-mail address is listed, you may contact that student if you have any questions about their study abroad experience.

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*These comments do not reflect the views of GT's Office of International Education. They are based on students' individual opinions and are, therefore, not necessarily representative of all student experiences.