



## My Exchange Evaluation

### Basic Information

<b>Host University</b>	National University of Singapore
<b>Semester &amp; Year of Exchange</b>	One Semester 2019 – August to December
<b>Otago degree(s)</b>	Bachelor of Commerce
<b>Major(s)</b>	Economics and Marketing Management

### Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

<b>Course title</b>	<b>Language of instruction</b>	<b>Otago equivalent</b>	<b>Otago credit value</b>
Consumer Behaviour MKT3702	English	MART329 Consumer Behaviour	4 MC = 18 PTS
Co-creation Value BSN3714	English	MART306 Innovation and New Product Development	4 MC = 18 PTS
Digital Strategy BSN3715	English	MART308 Integrated Digital Marketing	4 MC = 18 PTS

Any comments about these papers?

I took away many skills from these classes, not only upon theory but also upon group work/collaboration, Microsoft use, presentation skills and many more. These classes brought me an insight to the Asian market, that has benefited my learning and my development into the workforce. They also hold relevant insights into the current environment of the Marketing world.

How did the academic experience/ workload/ style of teaching differ from Otago?

- All the classes I participated in focused on group work. Other than the final test, all assignments and projects were done in groups of 4-7 people. This is quite different to my classes back home at Otago.
- The lectures were open to discussion during class time. They were very interactive which is very different to Otago where the lecturer speaks and the class listens.

## Accommodation

*What accommodation did you stay in? What were the pros and cons of your accommodation?*

I stayed in the Halls of Residence – University Town Residence.

Pros

- Lived on campus, close to class and free campus shuttle buses
- Subsidized food halls, with plenty of selection to choose from
- Easy way to make friends
- Maintenance was taken care of – water, wifi, power, cleaning of common area.

Cons:

- No air con in my room and Singapore is very hot!
- No kitchen where I stayed, only a microwave and kettle was provided

## Money matters

*Please detail your basic costs, e.g. accommodation, flights, visa, food, insurance*

Accommodation: \$3500NZD (for the entire semester)

Flights: \$2000NZD (AKL – SIN, SIN – AKL)

Visa: \$300

Food: \$200NZD-\$450NZD Per Week. (Depends if you eat on campus or off campus)

Insurance: \$650NZD

*What means did you use to access your finances? What would you recommend? (Credit card, Cash passport, foreign bank account, etc.)*

I used my ASB debit card and withdrew cash from ATM's in Singapore. Or alternatively, I used my ASB card directly to purchase things.

## Visas & Insurance

*Did you have to apply for a visa? What was the process?*

You apply for a Student Visa online through <https://www.ica.gov.sg/pass/studentpass/collect>

- Once everything is confirmed online, you have a temporary visa but you are required to book an appointment with the ICA office in Singapore, to finalise the student pass/visa
- You have to go to the ICA office with required documents to finalize your visa and receive the student pass card.

*Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?*

Yes – NUS offered a compulsory insurance but personal travel insurance was recommended.

## Extra-curricular/Social Activities

*What organised activities were available to students? What extra-curricular activities would you recommend to future exchange students?*

I like to keep active, so I went to fitness classes available to students like Yoga, Zumba, and Spin.

There is also a fitness centre on campus for any keen swimmers, basketballers and also many running tracks.

*What was the university/ city like?*

Very clean and modern. The National University of Singapore is a very big campus and buses are usually required to get to class (10min drive) from Utown to Business School.

*Any recommendations for things to do, places to visit, places to eat etc.?*

- Gardens by the Bay (and their light show)
- Haji lane
- Marina Bay Sands
- Arab Street
- Zoo and Night Safari
- Tree top walk – Windsor Park Venus Drive
- Singapore Flyer
- Wild Wild Wet
- Sentosa: Universal Studios, S.E.A, Palawan beach
- China town
- Art Science Museum
- National gallery
- Clarke Quay and Boat Quay
- Chijmes
- Jurong bird park
- Mount Faber Park
- Jewel airport
- One-altitude

Food places:

- Lau Pa Sat
- Newtown Hawker Centre
- Makansutra Gluttons Bay
- Genki sushi
- Sunday folks
- Potato head folk
- Wingstop
- Good food chimney
- Gram café
- Wang dae bak
- Apiary
- Paulinni icecream

*Any tips for future students?*

Not everything will go as planned and that's a part of the fun! Singapore is a perfect country to fly to other places, take advantage of the cheap airfares!

## Overall Experience

*Please write one paragraph (or more) about your exchange experience. Please include some photos!*



Without a doubt, going on this exchange has been a highlight to my university experience. I have made friends with people from all over the world and made memories that will last a lifetime. The National University of Singapore, Asia's top university, also provided world class hospitality and made me feel very welcome by their staff and local students. While on this exchange, I had the opportunity to travel to many other destinations in Asia, taking advantage of Singapore's cheap air and bus fares. (To name a few: Bali, Phuket, Chiang Mai, Taiwan, Batam, Kuala Lumpur and Lombok)

Singapore itself, has come to feel like home. As a Chinese-Kiwi, I have never felt so comfortable in a culture and country where both my western personality integrates with my eastern background. I have never found people so similar to me and where they understand the cultural mix.

This exchange experience has not only benefited my educational background but also

my personal growth. As cliché as it sounds, I really found myself on this trip and excited to use my experience and the things I've learnt back to New Zealand and start the next chapter as a graduate!









