



## My Exchange Evaluation

### Basic Information

<i>Host University</i>	<b>National University of Singapore</b>
<i>Semester &amp; Year of Exchange</i>	<b>Semester 2, 2018</b>
<i>Otago degree(s)</i>	<b>Master of Business Administration</b>
<i>Major(s)</i>	

### Academics/ course load

*Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?*

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent	Otago credit value
<b>Venture Capital</b>	English		15.00
<b>Operations leadership: Supply Chain and Service Management</b>	English		15.00
<b>Fund Management</b>	English		15.00
<b>Valuation and Mergers &amp; Acquisitions</b>	English		15.00

*Any comments about these papers?*

All papers were well organised with case studies, business visits, group projects and simulations. They showed practical relevance to contemporary business practices and application.

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

Unlike Otago MBA papers, NUS exchange papers gave more weightage to individual assignments and attendance. Group work carried less weightage meanwhile class participation weightage was heavy.

### Accommodation

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

I stayed at a private property, which is approximately 2 miles away from the Business School. The advantages are privacy and opportunity to experience new culture (unlike hostel/college). **But it was too difficult to find accommodation for just one semester as most rentals are available only for a full calendar year.**

## Money matters

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

Rent and living: NZD 900 (incl. utility, Wi-Fi) per month

Food and Dining: NZD 300 per month

Transport: NZD 100 (Home to University) per month

Flight Ticket: NZD 1,500 (round trip)

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

**I used credit card. However, Singapore is still a cash-dependant country for petty expenses. It would be better to open a bank account within the university. A lot of eateries, food outlets accept cash form of payment only.**

## Visas & Insurance

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

Insurance was included in host university charges. All information will be provided during their communication emails once a student is selected for exchange. Exchanger has to finish all payment formalities even before visiting the host university and furnish the receipts.

*Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?*

**Yes.**

## Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

A lot. Career development, Social activities groups (Dragon boat club,..), Cultural activities

*What was the university/ city like?*

NUS has a very good reputation and the university really takes care of the students very well. The university is very cooperative when it comes to assisting students in their needs. NUS is very diverse as many nationalities are represented in the cohorts. Singapore is one of the most livable countries in Asia. There is pretty good food everywhere and they are really inexpensive. A lot of other South East Asian countries can be easily reached for leisure trips and explorations.

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

1. Sentosa Island (Universal Studios, Sea Aquarium, Merlion Park)
2. Gardens by the Bay, Marina Bay Sands, Bay Front (Night Life)
3. Singapore Night Zoo, Botanical Gardens, Food outlets (everywhere – a lot of good food)
4. Little India, China Town, Raffles Place

From Singapore, you can visit neighbouring countries on week end and break times. (Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Hong Kong and Philippines to list). Please check visa conditions and make plans accordingly

*Any tips for future students?*

*Singapore is a well-connected city. It has good transportation means through buses, MRT (trains) and Taxis. All public transport systems are inter-connected. You can get an MRT travel card and recharge for using transport. I would advise students to stay in the U-Town (NUS Student accommodation) or nearby areas such as Clementi, Dover, Jurong East, Harbour Front, and Kent Ridge. I stayed at Clementi (20 mins by bus). Always carry your student visa (student pass) with you.*

Those who visit Singapore for exchange must be prepared for the tropical weather. Singapore is usually hot with frequent rainfall and thunderstorm. It is recommended to carry an umbrella with you always. Please carry sunscreen lotions or buy one. Singapore is a very safe place and there are literally no chances of stealing, snatching or harassment (**still keep an eye on your valuables**).

Singapore is a very discipline-enforced country. It retains its cultural heritage as well. A mild infringement might cost you more penalty (e.g littering public / eating in metro trains), It is advisable to understand the norms if you haven't been there. Check videos on Singapore do's and don'ts.

Singapore has a lot to offer when it comes to shopping and culinary experience. A lot of food centers can be seen literally all around the country. Shopping at Orchard road is one of the best experience. If you need to buy electronic goods, you should prefer Sim Lim tower and Sim Lim Square at Rochor.

### **Overall Experience**

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

I feel happy about my overall stay, my choice of electives, hospitality and miscellaneous activities during my exchange program. The university offered me a well-balanced academic and social life schedule. I actively participated in class discussions, projects and social activities. Lecturers and Professors were well equipped with course content and they demonstrated a high level of professionalism and empathy. Non-academic staff were helpful in making student life as comfortable as possible. Overall, it was an awesome experience when it comes to my student exchange at Singapore.

