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**Degree Program at TAU: Sofaer GMBA**

**Host University: National University of Singapore**

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### Exchange Experience

#### **About the country and city**

I greatly enjoyed my time in Singapore, especially the food, people, and warm weather. The temperature is around 32-35°C with high humidity. The country is small with only 6 million population and half of those are ex-pats from various European countries. The city is modern and known as the financial hub in Asia with a very strong economy.

#### **About the Host University**

NUS campus location is far from the city-centre. Usually, it took me 1-1.5 hours to commute from my internship office to the NUS business school. Regarding the facility, NUS business school equips a full room of 30+ Bloomberg terminals which were quite useful, allowing me to understand the operating system when I did my Applied Portfolio Management class. I didn't engage much with the social activities and student unions, but I heard that the career centre only serves full-time students.

#### **Courses and professors**

Courses and professors have decent teaching quality with up-to-date educational materials. I took 3 classes in total – Entrepreneurial Finance, Venture Capital, and Applied Portfolio Management, which are all electives. The professors all came from a related background and often hosted guest speakers from large investment or family business firms to share their inputs and to exchange information with the students.

#### **Accommodation**

I stayed in an Airbnb with a family near the Botanic Garden, a decent neighbourhood and a few minutes away from the MRT station. However, I would recommend the exchangers to find short-term stay accommodation through websites, such as Dash and MetroResidence for more quality rooms and reasonable rates.

## **Visa**

VISA was organized by NUS, which they gave clear instructions on how to proceed with the application and claim the VISA card for students at the immigration authority upon arrival.

## **Transportation**

Transportation is extremely convenient in Singapore. People usually take buses or order drivers on ride-hailing apps, such as Grab and GoJek.

## **Insurance and Health Services**

Health service is great but expensive. I wasn't covered by insurance so had to see a private doctor when I got flu. The bill came out to be US \$130 which was over the top. I would suggest going to Indonesia for health treatment to avoid over-spending on seeing doctors.

## **Living expenses**

Rent in Singapore is expensive as well. I paid US\$1,100 and was only able to live in a tiny room inside a US\$1.5M worth apartment. People need to pay at least US\$1,500 or above to afford a studio or a one-bedroom. Shopping and buying life essentials are average. Food can range from US\$5 to US\$500 per meal depending on the places you go to.

## **Food**

Singapore offers an array of Southeast Asia and North Asia food, including Indian, Vietnamese, Malaysian, Indonesian, Taiwanese, Japanese, and Korean. At the same time, people can find French, Italian, American, and Mexican food easily with a lot of assortments and options to pick. For two people it will usually cost around US\$30 for a restaurant meal.

## **Nightlife**

Nightlife is great, but alcohol is pricey. A shot will cost you around US\$10-15 depending on the area you go to. The most expensive nightclub is called Marquee inside Marina Bay Sands Hotel. The minimum cost per table is US \$1,400 and can go up to US\$7,000. Adults like to spend their time at Clarke Quay or MBS; these places have a high concentration of bars, lounges, and clubs, playing main-stream EDM.

## **Tips**

Being able to speak fluent English is a must. Singaporeans are often Chinese descendants but refuse to speak Chinese to each other when there is a chance. Their Chinese is not fluent so learning Chinese to get around in Singapore is unnecessary.

## **General experience**

My experience in Singapore was wonderful. I have built some connections with a group of finance working professionals outside of my exchange program. They are now my good friends and fund or portfolio managers at renowned-fund houses.