



### Personal Information

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**Degree Program at TAU:** MBA Finance

**Host University:** NTU

**Exchange term:** T2 – 14 weeks

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### Exchange Experience

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

Singapore is a small and interesting country. The fascinating combination between western economy and Asian culture creates an environment I never saw in different countries. I was surprised to find out how much Israelis have in common with the Singaporeans, and how our culture is similar in many ways (such as mandatory military service). The country is green and beautiful, full of touristic sites, restaurant and night life. Singapore is safe and easy. It is more likely to get struck by a lightning than be a victim of a crime. It's very easy to get along in Singapore, as their services are very advanced. For example, getting out of the airport can take less than 10 minutes since the arrival time. The rules are very strict in the country because they want to keep it safe and clean. You can get a fine for eating or drinking in public transportation, but it makes it feel nice and safe and not scary and intimidating as one might think. The cost of living considers as expensive around the world, especially in Asia. I found it less expensive than I thought, and food can be very cheap and usually is affordable.

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

NTU was AMAZING. The coordinator made sure I get all the information in my first day in Singapore. They introduced the exchange students to each other and told us how to get involved with the local students and gave us daily information about events and activities in the university. From the moment we came, till the moment we left we had plenty of events to go to including networking events, small parties for the MBA students, holiday parties, cultural and sport events. The main campus is beautiful and full of interesting buildings and activities but it is a little bit far from the city center. The campus has sport facilities, very advanced library and plenty of

comfortable study areas for the students. Although Singapore is small and everything is relatively close and accessible, if you live near campus you can be involved more in social life in campus but you will be far from social life in Singapore. For students who choose to live in the center of Singapore, NTU has a second campus with variety of courses in the afternoon. NTU usually does not have a housing solution for the exchange students.

The MBA program appointed students to be in charge of social and sport life. They have teams who play many kinds of sports against other universities in Olympics. The MBA program has a budget for events and parties. You can enjoy the events the other students plan for you or you can host an event if most of the students are interested. In addition to the students' budget, the management through many networking parties and events, and invite people from the industry and alumni so the students will get to know them, give resumes etc. They also make lunch with CEO's, lectures, and more. The university has a career center but I didn't use it.

### **Courses and professors:**

The variety of courses in MBA is not very rich because the MBA program in Singapore is relatively small. The courses I took were very interesting and I loved to hear another point of view for ideas I heard before and new ideas. The professors are extremely nice and I felt like they want to help me succeed and they constantly asked me if I understand concepts, wanted to know I'm interested, to hear my point of view so I felt very welcome and wanted. One of my professors was an ex-marine in the Singaporean army and fought the wars of Singapore independence, so he had interesting stories about the history of Singapore which made understand a lot about their culture.

NTU participate in case competition against other universities around the world. It considers as a course and it means you get a case from a big company and have to create a solution for them and compete against other students. The company choose the best solution and the students who created it win. (usually not in Singapore, and then the university pays all the expenses for travelling and participating in the competition). This is a great opportunity for networking even outside of Singapore, but you have to work hard and be professional. I think if you want to participate in case competition you should contact the university before you come to make sure they sign you for one because the schedule for them is not in the time table for the regular courses.

### **Accommodation:**

As I mentioned, NTU is not offering accommodation for the exchange students. They do have dorms but usually it is not available for the exchange students. They publish a list of apartments outside of the campus but there are no pictures and I found it hard to choose one from the list.

Nevertheless, finding apartment in Singapore is not very hard. They have plenty of campuses with well-equipped buildings, for reasonable prices. Personally, I used Airbnb to find an apartment and it worked perfectly. They also use real-estate agents to find an apartment. I think the best part of the city for NTU students is Jurong East (around Boon Lay MRT station), because it is between the 2 campuses and relatively close to the city center. Any place who is walking distance to a station on the green MRT line will be comfortable for NTU students (from outram park station and east is better).

### **Visa:**

The school help the exchange students to get a student pass (works like a visa). The students start with the process before they come to Singapore, and after the first entrance you have to go to ICA to complete the process and get a pass so you can go in and out the country. It's not very complicated and the school helps with everything needed.

### **Transportation:**

The main campus is big and far away from the city center. The university runs shuttle busses around the campus and to Boon-Lay station and back. If you live by the train station (any), it will be very easy and relatively cheap to get around. NTU provides a card you can charge and use for public transportation (and most of the sites and stores in town). Public transportation is not very expensive and you can use trains and busses to get anywhere in town. UBER and GRAB are very useful in town for night time and if you feel lazy...

### **Insurance and Health Services:**

In order to participate in the exchange program, you have to pay for insurance and health services when you come. The university clinic is very nice and the doctors are friendly. After your first payment for the insurance, you only have to pay 3 SGD for a doctor meeting. Usually they don't have a lot of doctors so you have to wait for a while to see a doctor. They have dispensary in the clinic which make it very comfortable.

### **Living expenses:**

The living expenses in Singapore considers as expensive around the world. I personally found it less than I thought. Goods are usually affordable but cars (for rent) and accommodation can be very expensive. You can get a very high level of life in Singapore for the same amount you will

pay for medium level of life in other big cities in the world. Food can be really cheap or very expensive but you can get a decent lunch for 10 SGD and even less. Life in campus are way cheaper than outside of the campus.

### **Food:**

The food in Singapore is ethnic. They have all kind of Asian food in food courts all over town. They have a lot of restaurant and food places (more than any city I've been to). The food is not very expensive, and I found it delicious and amazing. They also use UBER eats and FoodPanda for food delivery. I tried many kinds of new food when I was in Singapore, and it makes the experience even more interesting and amazing.

### **Night life:**

Night life in Singapore are mainly interesting on Wednesdays (every Wednesday they have girls' night) and weekends. The alcohol is very expensive (they have high taxes on alcohol), so it's not very affordable to go out a lot. Most of the clubs and bars have live shows so the atmosphere is amazing. I went out 3 times a week with friends from school and I found it pretty cool.

### **Tips:**

1. The students in the program sometimes live together outside of the campus, so before you come to Singapore, try to ask your contact person in Singapore about it.
2. Try to avoid any complication with the government and police, they have very strict rules.
3. Singapore is tiny, so usually the students are traveling around. They have beautiful touristic countries around, so take under consideration that you might want to do it.
4. If it's possible, come with someone and not alone.

### **General experience:**

The multiple culture in Singapore in general, and in NTU in particular (we had students from more than 30 countries in the MBA program) make the experience very interesting. I think this adventure opened my mind to understanding and acceptance. I learned about the business world around the globe, as well as human behavior in different countries and culture. I think part of my experience was the fact that I traveled around Singapore to Malesia, Indonesia, Thailand, India

and more. It made me realize how much we don't know about people and countries. I feel like I got tools to deal with the global business world, and in my private life.

**Photos:**









