

Tips for the exchange students @ National University of Singapore

Singapore, to my opinion, is a great location for exchange students; it is safe and very modern. The country's official language is English and it welcomes foreigners, it is easy to know yourself around since it is the size of a city rather than a country. The university is impressive; the MBA program ranked very high and allows you to meet many students from all around the world.

Accommodation

I chose to start with this issue since this is the biggest challenge, all the rest is easy.

If you think that to find a proper accommodation in TA is a challenge you are to be surprised, the real estate prices in Singapore are crazy.

First thing before you start your endeavor, take a few minutes to understand what you really looking for, are you an urban or suburban type of person, are you planning to party or to study. If you plan to party and to enjoy and explore the city life do yourself a favor - rent a room in the city anywhere near Orchard or Clarke Quay but most important a place that is a walking distance to the green line MRT (Singapore's subway) that takes you to NUS university, it is also recommended to live near a mall or a food court. Price range for a room in the city in a luxury apartment is about 5000 NIS for a room. If you wish to live near the university prices are also high and you will have to travel quite far to the party areas.

Many of the students share rooms or at least bathroom so prices could be as low as 2000-2500 NIS per room.

To find an accommodations you can use the major public internet websites and also the university board. Personally, I enjoyed living in the city and share the apartment with young professionals who were not student.

<http://www.nus.edu.sg/osa/housing/>

Night life

Attica club! There are many clubs you should try "Zouk", "Stereo Lounge" located at the Pan Pacific Hotel, "Butter Factory" (local crowd) located at the Fullerton Hotel, and of course the "New Asia Bar" located at the 61st floor of the Swissotel. But for the most energetic party with the mix of ex-pats (foreigners) and Asians - "Attica", located at the Clarke Quay, is number one.

In general, Clarke quay (pronounced "clarky" in singlish), is the place to hang out, there are many good restaurants, bars and clubs in this domain. Most of the students gather at the Clarke Quay bridge to drink some beers and then go as a pack to one of the clubs – usually the Attica.

Clubs admission is about 15-25 SD (40-70 NIS) 1 drink included.

Wednesdays are lady's night where girls pay no admission.

Alcohol prices are about the same as in Israel

Visa

Student visa issues are handled by the university, you are allowed to enter as a tourist and later on your student visa will be issued

Israelis are not required to issue tourist visa

<http://ica.gov.sg/page.aspx?pageid=96&secid=94>

Transportation

Taxis are cheap, MRT is cheap too, frequent and efficient and so is the bus option, at some of the bus stops GPS electronic boards are installed. Remember! The green line takes you to the university proximity

Please use <http://gothere.sg/maps> to find out how to get to places, it is an amazing site.

Studying

Try to take courses that you cannot take elsewhere, Business Asia etc. I enjoyed Risk Management and if you looking for a challenge please consider Analytical Tools for Managers.

I took the minimum courses required so I will have some more time to explore the city.

In addition I took some "one on one" Mandarin lessons in a local community center, the cost was about 75 NIS per hour.

Good luck and for any other question please feel free to email me:

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