



## BERICHTSFORMULAR

### Non-EU Student Exchange Programm

2018/2019

BewerbungsID 524

Nominierte Studienrichtung: 033/514 Studienrichtung Bachelorstudium Internationale Betriebswirtschaft

#### Angaben zum Aufenthalt:

Gastinstitution: Singapore Management University - (Singapur)

Aufenthaltszeitraum: WS 2018/2019

Aufenthaltsbeginn: 11.08.2018    Aufenthaltsende: 07.12.2018

STIPENDIUM	
Stipendium Uni Wien gesamt laut Zuerkennung: (inkl. Zuschüsse für Reisekosten und Sprachtest)	€ 2.100,00
Weitere Stipendien (zB Jasso, Studienbeihilfe):	Weitere Stipendien: Nein <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stipendium des Gastlandes:</li><li>• Bundesländerstipendium: nein</li><li>• Studienbeihilfe: nein</li><li>• Sonstiges Stipendium:</li></ul>
Summe weiterer Stipendien	€ 0,00
Gesamtsumme aller Stipendien	€ 2.100,00

KOSTEN DES AUSLANDSAUFENTHALTS	
Unterkunft:	€ 2.000,00
Art der Unterkunft:	Privatunterkunft
Reisekosten:	€ 820,00
Lebenshaltungskosten:	€ 2.000,00
Studienkosten:	€ 50,00
Versicherungskosten	€ 250,00
Visakosten:	€ 0,00
Gesamtkosten des Auslandsaufenthalts:	€ 5.120,00

Bericht veröffentlichen:



## PERSÖNLICHER BERICHT

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BewerbungsID: 524

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### Angaben zum Aufenthalt:

Gastinstitution: Singapore Management University - (Singapur)

Aufenthaltszeitraum: WS 2018/2019 304

### Verfassen Sie bitte einen persönlichen Bericht über den Studienaufenthalt

- Mindestumfang: 1 Seite DinA4
- Inhalt: Gastuniversität, Kurse, Prüfungen, Mitstudierende, Unterkunft etwaige Schwierigkeiten etc.

#### BERICHT ÜBER DEN STUDIENAUFENTHALT

##### **Exchange semester-The experience of a lifetime**

Studying abroad, especially outside Europe, provides you with the perfect opportunity to experience a completely different lifestyle on a both personal and academic level.

##### **Preparing for your exchange semester**

There are various aspects that need to be taken into consideration before the beginning of your adventure abroad. Before applying, you should take enough time to research different universities in different Asian countries in order to find the one that best suits your needs and wishes. The application process begins a year before your exchange semester. Therefore, to avoid any holdups, all the preparations and documents need to be done according to the requirements of the Non-EU Exchange Program and submitted before the deadlines listed on their website.

I suggest sending an email to the Non-EU Exchange team in case you have any questions regarding your application because they always do their best to help.

Moreover, attending events and workshops organized with the goal of preparing and informing future outgoing students is also a good way to get insights from both former exchange students and the organizing team.

Thanks to Singapore's convenient geographic position, travelling within South-East Asia is easy and affordable. However, you should consult your doctor about necessary vaccination or oral medication for the prevention of different diseases that might still be a threat in some Asian regions.



### **Accommodation**

Once nominated, I started looking for accommodation. After researching various options, I chose to stay in a so-called “condo”, a shared flat with five other exchange students. Even though the dorm rooms would have been about 100€ cheaper, I am confident that a condo was the best option. The prices for condos start at around 450€ and can go up to 900€ depending on the location and size of the apartment as well as on the accompanying facilities such as swimming pools, fitness studios etc. I opted for the “Sunshine Plaza Residences” because of the convenient location. It is a five-minute walk to the SMU and since the university is located in the heart of the city, it was very easy to get around on foot. However, the MRT (subway) station was also right across the street facilitating us to reach further destinations in the shortest time. In terms of the apartment, we had everything one can need — a balcony, kitchen appliances and utensils, washing machine and dryer, TV as well as pillows and blankets. There was a beautiful pool and BBQ area right in the yard, close to a small fitness studio. We shared our bedrooms and used to hang out a lot together in the living room. There are also very good condos at the Sophia Residences, 8 Mount Sophia, 8 River Suites and many others.

It was very easy to find flat mates in the Facebook group made by the SMU for all the incoming exchange students. After this group of students asked me to join them, we got in contact with a real estate agent who brought many options to the table leaving us a great deal to choose from.

### **Living in Singapore**

**Food:** Singapore is a multicultural city, which makes the international experience all the more dynamic and overwhelming. In terms of food, Singapore is the perfect tasting spot for all Asian cuisine. As budget friendly options count all their food courts and hawker centres, where they offer a wide range of Asian dishes— Chinese, Malaysian, Indian, Thai, Japanese and local. The price range for a meal is between 2€ and 6€. Therefore, it is rather unnecessary to cook on a daily basis, especially since groceries tend to be quite pricey in supermarkets.

**Transport:** Their public transportation system is very well organized and quite cheap. The best option is to just buy an ez-link card which you can top up whenever you need. This card can even be used as a payment method in some stores on campus. In Singapore, people often use “Grab”, which is an app just like Uber and it is usually cheaper than a normal taxi.

**Strict laws:** Singapore is known for its impeccable cleanliness and low crime rate, all due to the country’s regulations. Some laws might seem odd to us, however, after visiting other Asian countries, I understood that having high fines and penalties is the only way to make and maintain the country as clean and safe as it currently is. Some things to keep in mind is that visitors are not allowed to bring chewing gum into the country, that smoking is banned in all indoor and certain outdoor areas and that littering can be considered a felony. The death penalty is still an option when it comes to drugs and other crimes. The police is authorized to run random drug tests on both locals and visitors and it does not matter whether the drugs were taken within the country’s borders or abroad.

**Language and people:** Singapore hosts people of multiple nationalities and religions, which makes its inhabitants very open to foreigners and new cultures. Most of them



speak “Singlish” which is basically the local version of the English language. At first it might seem hard to understand because of both the strong accent and the unusual word positioning. They add the particles “lah” or “leh” to complement almost every sentence in a conversation. These particles come from Mandarin and they don’t have a clear meaning.

### **Studying at the SMU**

The campus has everything one can need. There are various shops and places to eat, including a big food court called “Kou-fu”. There is also a clinic and a dentist where you can get medical support for free or in case of the dentist, at a lower students price. The SMU offers free access to a swimming pool and a fitness center on campus for all SMU students. Moreover, you can choose to join a sports club and either learn a new sport from scratch or improve your current skills. There are endless sport clubs such as biking, SMU track and field, football, muay thai, karate and the dance or even arts club. Even if you are not a sports person, they have academic clubs such as the business analytics club, the investment club and many others. This is a good way to make local friends but you need to keep in mind that it can be very time-consuming. With regard to the wide range of courses, I would recommend only taking modules such as management or social sciences.

The SMU has implemented very interactive teaching methods, which can be beneficial on one hand and quite demanding on the other hand. However, the content of the courses was not particularly hard to understand. What makes students so ambitious and sometimes unwilling to help their peers is SMU’s competitive grading system, which implies that your grades depend on the test results achieved by other participants. Professors are allowed to give out a limited number of A+, A, A- etc. The courses that I took were: Macroeconomics, Leading New Ventures To Growth (LNVTG) and Mandarin.

### **Macroeconomics**

This course is part of the economics module. It is taught at the School of Economics (SOE), where most participants are economics students. I did enjoy the course to a certain extent, but I felt like the material taught in class wasn’t a good indicator of the difficulty level of the exams. Therefore, I found it more time-consuming compared to the others.

### **LNVTG**

This is an interactive management course, which focuses on various issues encountered by startups. Every lecture was dedicated to a case study. At first, we discussed the case of a startup in class and, after splitting into groups, we had to prepare presentations on various startups. The main goal was to come up with a solution to an existing problem by keeping in mind the countless limitations of a startup. In order to increase their participation grade, students are expected to ask questions after every presentation.

### **Mandarin**

This is the only Mandarin course the SMU has to offer. It is meant for students with no background knowledge, however, many exchange students struggled with the fast pace of teaching. My case was a little bit different, because I had already taken a Chinese course in Vienna. The Mandarin course at the SMU provided me with the perfect opportunity to improve my current knowledge in terms of both their language and culture. I recommend doing the same if you truly wish to learn Mandarin.