

**The University of Tokyo Study Abroad/Student Exchange Program Report Form
(for programs from a week to 3 months)**

Date: 08/02/2017

Faculty/Graduate School at UTokyo:	College of Arts and Sciences	Year at the time of Study Abroad	B2
Program Attended:	FASStrack 2017	Host University:	National University of Singapore
Occupation after graduation (intended):			
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Research		
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Specialist (Medical • Judiciary • Accountant)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Civil Service		
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. NPO		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5. Private sector (Type of industry:)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Entrepreneurship		
<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Others ()		

Outline of the receiving institution overseas

National University of Singapore is a prestigious university and ranked as one of the world's top universities. It accepts many exchange students and its campus is very large.

Reason why you decided to participate

First of all, I wanted to meet and interact with students of different cultures, background, and values. I was eager to exchange opinions with them and engage and immerse myself in a larger world. Secondly, I had a strong interest in Singapore. I wanted to learn about the dynamics of Singapore which accepts influences from many races, cultures, and religions. Thirdly, I wanted to develop an identity as an Asian. It was my first time visiting Southeast Asia, and I wanted to see what other parts of Asia look like, and get to know people there.

Preparation for the program

(1) Application process (please give any advice on dealing with the application process)

The procedure is complicated, and it is sometimes confusing because you have to do the applications for both the UTokyo and NUS at the same time. However, if you do them in advance and follow the instructions, you will be fine.

(2) Visa application (type of visa, where to apply, processing time, any advice on visa application)

NUS required us to apply for Student Pass. You have to complete registration part1 and part2 when you are in Japan, and you will need to go to the ICA building to pick up the card in person after the program starts in NUS.

(3) Medical check-ups (health check-ups before departure, inoculations, etc.)

None

(4) Insurance (information about insurance for travel/studying abroad purchased)
I signed up for the insurance the UTokyo provided. I was also part of the NUS insurance while the fieldtrip to Indonesia.
(5) Procedures required by your Faculty/Graduate School (any information about course registration, credits, exams, submission of dissertations etc)
I took all the degrees I needed when I was a freshman, so I did not have to go through them.
(6) Language preparation (language level before the program, lessons etc.)
I watched TED, some news, and comedy shows such as The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallons and The Graham Norton Show to keep up with my English and latest topics.
(7) Items which should be taken with you from Japan and any other advice on things which should be done before leaving Japan.
If you are not planning to buy a SIM card or a router, you should bring a wireless travel router, a router that transitions from a wired to a wireless network. Since there is no wifi inside the dorms, you cannot use your cell phones in your room. Also, you might want to consider bringing some Japanese snacks...they are always the easiest way to start conversations with your new friends! Last but not least, you should bring some medicine, especially for diarrhea, because many students got stomach problems in Indonesia.
Information on the academic/research program
(1) Outline of the program (Style of the lessons/preparation study/review study, thing which left an impression on you, etc.)
I took two modules. One module was held from 10:00 to 13:00 on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The other one was from 14:00 to 17:00 on Monday and Wednesday. We did readings in preparation to the class, and we mainly discussed during the class.
(2) Advice on aspects of academic/research work
Before I joined the program, I re-learned Southeast Asian history from my high school textbooks and some books which were quite helpful. Also, if you have time, you can find the readings you will have to do in the program in the B2F of Komaba library. It is especially important to be prepared to state your opinions as a Japanese on the Japanese invasion in Southeast Asia during WW II .
(3) Problems experienced with language issues, advice concerning language, etc.
I needed a little bit of time to get used to the Singaporean accents, but it was alright at the end. Because everyone had their own accents, I never felt insecure about my own which was quite a unique experience for me.

Aspects of life
(1) Accommodation (Type (home-stay, room-sharing etc.), cost, atmosphere/appearance of accommodation, how you found it, etc.)
We stayed in UTown, which is a dorm for graduate students. It is a suite and we have the maximum of four roommates. There is a refrigerator in the living room. Each of us gets their own room, which has a bed, a desk, a wardrobe, a pillow, a blanket, a bed sheet, an ethernet cable, a fan, and an A/C. It was comfortable.
(2) Living environment (such as climate, environment around the institution, transport facilities, food, managing your money (overseas money transfer, credit cards))
It is very hot and humid in Singapore. It is about 15 minutes bus ride to the nearest MRT station, Kent Ridge. It is sometimes easier to take the bus from Clementi if you want to go to the city. We used Uber quite a lot but you need to have a Singaporean number to do so. There are two food courts in UTown, and there are some restaurants around NUS too. If you ran out of cash, at least when I was in Singapore, the exchange rate in Clementi Mall was the best one around NUS.
(3) Aspects of risk and safety management (safety of local region, condition of medical facilities, any action taken in maintaining your mental and physical health, etc.)
I felt safe in Singapore.
(4) Details of expenses (breakdown of costs, such as airfare, program fees, cost of required books, rent, food, travel cost, money spent on entertainment)
airfare: 80000YEN program fees: 2,590SGD field trip fees: 1,800SGD field trip allowances: 100SGD (It was the recommended amount from the uni.) accommodation fees: 1300SGD readings: 0SGD (they are online readings) food+travel cost+entertainment: 600SGD
(5) Financial aid (if you were receiving financial aid/scholarships, please give the name of the source of the aid, amount, and how you found it, etc.)
I received 200,000 yen from the Santander Foundation and 200,000 yen from JASSO.
(6) Activities other than academic/research work (sports, cultural, volunteer/internship, weekend activities, etc.)
I was touring around Singapore with my friends. When we did not want to have food on campus, we went out.
Environment of the receiving institution
(1) Support facilities for students taking part in the program (such as language, academic, living support mechanism and counseling services)
The unofficial facebook group was used to keep us updated. I believe the support facility was reliable, although I personally never used them.

(2) Facilities (libraries, sports facilities, cafeteria, IT equipment and facilities, etc.)
MAC Commons was open all day and the wifi environment in NUS is very good. Two cafeterias, many restaurants, two convenience stores were amazing. You can take the bus to the library. Last but not least, there were a pool and a gym!
Looking back over the program
(1) The significance of the program and how you have developed by taking part in it, any other impression from having studied abroad
I enjoyed and loved every single moment of this program from living in dorms to intense classroom discussions. The people there were great; so kind, so humorous, and very intelligent. We often talked overnight about casual things, such as university life, academics, and romance... and also culture, religion, history, and politics. It was a privilege for me to be able to share my opinions with them, and they inspired me a lot as well. It was awesome!
(2) Your plans having studied abroad
The experience gave me a chance to rethink about my identity as a Japanese. It seemed to me that students from other countries were more aware of their culture, values, and history and they were well prepared to present them persuasively in the class. I felt the necessity to learn more about the modern history.
(3) Any messages or advice for future participants
This program is not a language program, it is an academic class. You do need a decent amount of English skills to be fully engaged in this program. If you are yet to decide whether you want to apply for the summer program, do not hesitate - just do it and take it!
Miscellaneous
(1) Websites or publications which were useful while preparing for or during your time overseas
http://www.u-tokyo.ac.jp/ja/administration/go-global/program/experience.html http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/fasstrack.html http://www.iaruni.org/for-students/global-summer-program
(2) Please submit any photographs which may be used on the University of Tokyo websites or publications.
 