

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

Date: 8/2/2016

Faculty/Graduate School at UTokyo:	College of Arts and Sciences	Year at the time of Study Abroad	B2
Program Attended:	IARU GSP Animals and the city	Host University:	National University of Singapore
Occupation after graduation (intended):			
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Research		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2. Specialist (Medical•Judiciary•Accountant)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Civil Service		
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. NPO		
<input 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 ranked as the best university in Asia. The campus I stayed was modern and was comfortable to live in.
Reason why you decided to participate
The world is more and more globalized and I wanted to talk with students from various countries and broaden my views of the world and academic things.
Preparation for the program
(1) Application process (please give any advice on dealing with the application process)
There are many instructions from the university to register the program and you have to read all the texts sent to you from the university very carefully.
(2) Visa application (type of visa, where to apply, processing time, any advice on visa application)
To study in Singapore, you have to get a student pass card. You apply on line for the visa before you go to Singapore. This application took me about 1 hour. After you begin to study in Singapore, you have to make an appointment and get the card in a building called ICA Building. So many people make appointments to get student pass cards and it took me more than 3 hours, so you should go to the building early.
(3) Medical check-ups (health check-ups before departure, inoculations, etc.)
None. Students who will study in Singapore for less than 6 months don't need medical reports. (This may change.)

(4) Insurance (information about insurance for travel/studying abroad purchased)
I got insurance designated by the University of Tokyo.
(5) Procedures required by your Faculty/Graduate School (any information about course registration, credits, exams, submission of dissertations etc)
None.
(6) Language preparation (language level before the program, lessons etc.)
I took TOEFL ibt test last January and got 92 score. I often listened to the radio and watched movies in English before going to Singapore.
(7) Items which should be taken with you from Japan and any other advice on things which should be done before leaving Japan.
You should rent aWiFi router or buy a SIM card. Though there is a free WiFi in the center of the city, the connection is bad.
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.)
The theme of the program was "Animals and the City," and we discussed animals in the city and the wild from anthropological, historical, and philosophical point of view. We had class of 3 hours for 3 days and one field trip in a week. We had from 3 to 5 articles to read as preparation study and 500-words reflection essay as homework every week, a presentation of individuals or groups of two in the last week, and 2000-words final essay. In class, the professor lectured about topics related to animals for the first 2 hours and after the lecture, we discussed what we thought about the articles we had read. We went to a museum in NUS, Singapore Zoo, a goat farm, and so on for field trips.
(2) Advice on aspects of academic/research work
In discussions, students talked about present conditions and histories in their home countries, so I advise you to know things about Japan as much as possible before the programs you will participate in will start.
(3) Problems experienced with language issues, advice concerning language, etc.
I had great trouble with understanding what other students said because they talked fast and they used words I did not know. As I listened to people and talked with them, I gradually improved my listening and speaking skills. It is important to speak as much as possible.
Aspects of life
(1) Accommodation (Type (home-stay, room-sharing etc.), cost, atmosphere/appearance of accommodation, how you found it, etc.)
I stayed in a dormitory of Tembusu College. There was one room for each student but I shared bathroom and shower room with the other 2 exchange students. In the room, there was a bed and blanket, a desk and chair, a wardrobe, and a LAN cable. The application for the residence was made by NUS staff. The cost was 750SGD.

(2) Living environment (such as climate, environment around the institution, transport facilities, food, managing your money (overseas money transfer, credit cards))

It is hot and very humid in Singapore, but air conditioners were working inside strongly, so I advise you to take a long sleeved shirt. There is a food court and a convenience store which is 24 hours open. It takes 10 minutes by bus from the nearest station to the campus. The bus comes at intervals of about 15 minutes but there are no time tables and no announcements of arrival in the bus, so you should be careful when you take a bus. Transpotations in Singapore are about half the prices in Japan. At food courts and hawker centers, you can buy Chinese, Indonesian, Vietnamese, Korean, and Muslim Foods within 6 SGD, though it cost around 15 SGD when you eat in department stores. The exchange rate in Singapore is much better than in Japan, so I recommend you to change only money that is necessary to live for a few week in Japan, take the rest of the money in Japanese yen, and change it in Singapore.

(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.)

It is quite safe in Singapore. You can go to medical health center in NUS when you don't feel good.

(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: 60,000 Insurance premium: 13,000 Visa fee: 10,000 Tuition fee 104,000 Residencial fee: 58,000 Food cost: 40,000 Transportation: 10,000 Recreation: 10,000 Others: 20,000 all in JPY. Total 325,000 JPY.

100,000 JPY from Santander. This financial aid was suggested by the University of Tokyo.

(6) Activities other than academic/research work (sports, cultural, volunteer/internship, weekend activities, etc.)

I spent weekends in doing homework and sightseeing with my friends.

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)
I asked to the professor when I had academic questions and I had troubles in daily life, too.
(2) Facilities (libraries, sports facilities, cafeteria, IT equipment and facilities, etc.)
There is a gym and pool which are free for NUS students and I used them for a few times. There is a Starbucks, a Subway, and some restaurants. Also, there is a recreation room and I played games with my friends after we finished homework. The campus was like one small city and it was so comfortable to live in.
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 could improve my English by putting myself in a situation where I had to speak English. Besides, I have friends abroad now. Students discussed academic, cultural, and economic matters even after class and they knew many things happening in the world. I was inspired by them and I thought I should learn more about Japan as well as the world.
(2) Your plans having studied abroad
I want to study medicine from next year and I want to work abroad as a doctor, so I am going to participate in a medical international program after I study the basis of medicine.
(3) Any messages or advice for future participants
I have got so many things while I live in a place where it is difficult to have people understand what I want to say and where all the people around me have grown up in a different environment and while I talk with such people. What is important is to do something.
Miscellaneous
(1) Websites or publications which were useful while preparing for or during your time overseas
The website of International Exchange Group in The University of Tokyo
(2) Please submit any photographs which may be used on the University of Tokyo websites or publications.
 