
Exchange in Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

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BENG3-CE, Yr 4

My Blog

I treat my exchange life as an unforgettable experience in my life. Although this experience was full of excitements and pleasures, it was also filled with pressure and challenges. The environment and people in Singapore gave me deep impression and provided an indelible treasure in my life.

Just Arrived

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) provided an orientation day for the international students but did not provide any assistance on our arrival. I bought a SIM card in the Changi Airport with my friends and started my exciting exchange life in Singapore. I did not get a place in the student hall of NTU, and had to live off-campus. To me, the first challenge was to carry the heavy luggage all the way through the 2 hours MRT trip before I arrived the student hostel. When I got there, I was totally exhausted.

Orientation

During the orientation day, I was given several speeches by the representatives from the University and the Police Department. Through that I got better prepared for the coming study and challenges.

The University also provided an orientation lunch for all exchange students. I met a lot of new friends.

My Place

I lived in a student hostel, which is located near NTU – within 15-minute distance by taking bus to NTU. My roommates were all Hongkongers from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

The apartment was in fact not very comfortable but very costly. The ventilation was not good that we had to always turn on the air conditioner. Fortunately, there were supermarket and hawker centre nearby.

My First Class

The lectures at NTU are more interactive than that in CityU. The lecturers and students had more interaction during the lectures. Students were encouraged to interrupt the lecture when they had questions. They were also very active in answering questions. These provided an excellent learning environment.

People I Met

I attended all the courses without students from CityU or Hong Kong. This made me easier to make new friends, though I had to take the initiative.

My best friends there are from China and Singapore. They were the students in my Spanish and Italian courses.

The Singaporeans are very nice and disciplined, demonstrated by their willingness to follow the law and regulations always and their offer of seats to people in need.

Out of Classroom

There are lots of activities for students in NTU. Students have chances to participate in various societies, social activities and competitions.

For me, honestly I did not have time to join any of them because of the academic pressure. Also, I could not join any hall competitions since I lived off-campus. However I travelled a lot when I was free.

15 February, Singapore Airshow

I am an aviation lover. I was so excited when I know that there was Singapore Airshow. I went to the show with my friends. We watched the aerobic flying display and had chances to go into the cockpit. It was so great!

25 February, Career Fair

There was a career fair organized by the NTU. In the career fair, there were lots of international companies including the PayPal, the eBay, the Rolls-Royce and etc.

I got some useful information and I think these could help me a lot in the future.

29 March, Earth Hour 2014

The WWF organized a special activity in Singapore during the Earth Hour. They invited the main characters in the Amazing Spider-Man 2 to join the activity. I met Andrew Garfield and Emma Stone. It was so excited and everyone was enjoying the activity.

27 April, Football Night

I watched a football match with my friend in NTU, Liverpool vs Chelsea. When Chelsea scored, we yelled and celebrated in a group of Liverpool's fans. It was insane. Luckily, we were not beaten.

Money

The living cost in Singapore is quite high, especially in terms of accommodation and transportation. I was not eligible to apply for a student EZ-link and thus enjoying no discount in travelling in the city.

The accommodation cost was high as well. I paid for my accommodation S\$430 per month, excluding electric, water and trash bill.

Goodbye

Having exchange life was a treasure. I was curious about the world outside the door. Though I was stressed due to the high academic pressure, I felt excited about being a part of the NTU. This experience was so great and would be an unforgettable part of my life.

I miss you, NTU. I love you, Singapore.

Home Sweet Home

I had never studied so hard in Hong Kong but in Singapore, the study atmosphere was that competitive. I had to push myself hard. Besides, I have learnt to be more positive for better planning in life and facing any kind of problems and difficulties.

Sharing

The more you are prepared, the more comfortably you will be getting through when unexpected things happen.

Try to relax and take a deep breath when you are facing difficulties. Be optimistic, everything will be alright.

Study hard is very important, but go out and have fun if you are free.

Overall Rating

4 out of 5

