

STUDENT REPORT

Name: Hakan Narci

University: Nanyang Technical University (NTU)

Exchange semester: Spring 2009

Nanyang Technical University:

NTU is located in a residential, garden campus located in the south-western part of Singapore, near the Jurong West Extension area. It is also near the Boon Lay bus interchange and the Boon Lay Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) station. NTU is one of the major universities in Singapore and it is located at one end of the island. Campus is very large. There are food stores, cafes, tennis courts, swimming pool and everything you might otherwise wish for the sports facilities, large lecture halls and libraries.

Administrative

Most of the things is done by the book and they won't allow any short cuts to solve the problem. Everything is decentralized, so that the library, e-mail address, payment of residence, registration of courses, and academic or international contact has been made in different places, scattered around the campus. But they are clearly used to it, for it will go smoothly if one sticks to the book and not ask for things that are not common.

Registration of subjects: Even if I put down some work in terms of planning, so I would recommend that you have everything ready before you leave Norway. Most of the exchange students spent the first weeks searching around to different agencies and offices. The

main problems were that some of the subjects we had chosen turned out to not be offered both semesters or that the exams crashed, which we could not know at the time when we selected subjects. Therefore I recommend you to choose 6-8 courses and get them approved by BI before you leave, if not, and your exams crash you have to find new courses and then get them approved by BI before you can apply for it.

Accommodation:

Accommodation is offered by NTU If one were to choose to live on campus, this is a great opportunity to get acquainted with people from all over the world. If you choose to live outside campus it will be very costly since Singapore is beginning to become an expensive country to live in, and rents go up each year. The market price for rent is almost the same as Norway, There are two alternatives if you choose to stay outside campus; HDB's municipal apartments who maintains a good standard, but do not have additional facilities like swimming pool and fitness room. While condominium apartment have all the facilities mentioned above but it's much more costly, therefore I recommend to live at campus. Some of the exchange students were traveling every week, to different countries one of the reasons they could afford it was because of the cheap rent prices at campus. If you choose to stay outside campus I recommend that you live between Jurong East and Choa Chu Kang area. Here you will find nice apartments and it is close to NTU.

Subject:

Each course is normally two hours of lecture and two hours of tutorials, homework consultation. Tutorial is something we do not have in BI, and is very different from what we're used to. You have to be prepared for lots of tasks and presentations to almost every week. It is more like being back in high school in Norway. Make sure BI

approves all the subjects you have chosen, if you can't find the right courses don't hesitate to ask International office at BI, they are very helpful to find and recommend courses for you.

Laws and Regulations

On Campus, there were lots of rules and regulations about everything. According to regulations in school, it was not allowed to wear singlet, shorts, mini skirt, or shoes without a strap around the heel but they stayed in school. This was a rule that was not maintained. The opposite sex in the room was not allowed. If you had a visit both the doors and windows had to be open. If you get caught you have to leave Campus. It is also not allowed to have overnight guests in the room, if they are not studying at NTU,

Otherwise it is a lot of laws and regulations throughout Singapore. Chewing gum is forbidden, it is forbidden to throw the paper on the street, it is forbidden to spit on the street, it is forbidden to drink and eat at all public transport. I can continue for quite some time to. There are quite a lot of civilian police in Singapore, so you should be careful.

Good advice

Begin to work in advance so you have the opportunity to some shopping, and travel outside of their studies. There are many opportunities to see Asia as there are many low-cost airlines(Tiger airways, Jet airways etc). Since you are so far away it might be nice to experience the culture also.

How do you think the exchange experience will affect you from a cultural and social viewpoint? One of the main reasons why I went to Asia and Singapore was because I wanted to learn more about their

culture and their way of thinking. After spending about 5 months there I feel that I have learned a lot about the Singaporeans and Asia. I now consider myself to be more open minded and I feel that I have a good overview of Asia as a whole after traveling around in some of the countries. There are about 150 Norwegian companies established in Singapore, so the opportunities to get a part-time job should be present also for others. There is, in other words possible to work alongside their studies while they are in Singapore. What I recommend, some because of money man gets, and that the course provides experience.

How do you think the exchange experience influences your future career possibilities?

*Since Asia and China is developing faster and faster and are taking over more and more of the business in the world I feel that understanding how people at this side of the continent think and act will be a great advantage for me when I leave will apply for a job. If you have any questions or any thoughts about going abroad two Singapore do not hesitate to contact me. E-mail:
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