

Destination: Macau, China. Business and Administration
Exchange period: VT 2015

Choice of the destination and courses:

I wanted to go to Asia to explore that part of the world and came across Macau (a city which I hadn't heard about before). One main factor to my choice was that it was situated in the central of Asia, so I could have a chance to travel around and see a lot of Asia. One other important factor was my curiosity to China and its culture.

It was pretty hard to find courses that attracted me. The problem was that a lot of the courses that I could actually choose (courses that the university could guarantee was taught in English and not in Chinese) were intersecting with courses I have read earlier at Umeå University.

Describe shortly the preparation process before the departure:

The university in Macau (M.U.S.T) required a medical "certificate" from each of the exchange students before they arrived. This is something that took some time and had to be sent to the university a few months before going to China.

You don't have to worry about visa. You will fix that when you are in China.

I received a lot of information about how to get from the airport to the university and who to contact if something went wrong.

Contact with receiving institution:

My contact at the university in Macau was giving me all the information I wanted and needed and it was easy to reach my contact (via mail).

Support from Umea University:

I didn't get that good support but I didn't feel that I needed it.

Arrival information:

The information from the university was good. I also find some help/information from the previous exchange students in Macau which hadn't left yet (from the previous semester).

Accommodation arrangements:

You will have the opportunity to live alone, in a two bed room or in a four bed room. I chose to live alone (but that is more expensive, but worth it according to me).

You should know that the "kitchen" is only a microwave. I chose to buy an induction cooker so I could cook my own food. But that is up to oneself.

The room was good but it was pretty cold in it in the beginning of the semester.

Transportation:

You could take the free shuttle busses to go around to the casinos which are situated around almost the whole city. Otherwise you could take the local bus which costs approximately 5 sek. Taxi is also

cheap (compared to Sweden).

Budget:

I financed my time in Macau with both the subsidy and loan from CSN (approximately 9000 sek a month). It is enough if you don't have the plans to travel around (which I did!).

In January/February, China celebrates their new year which means holiday for 3 weeks. It is good to be prepared for that and take the chance to travel around during that time.

I think I spend approximately 60 000 sek during my five months in Macau.

Social activities:

It was not so many organised activities.

It is a lot of casinos in the city so if you are interested in gambling, Macau is the place!

If you are interested in training/sports, Macau isn't the place. There are some sport facilities at campus but they are not good.

If you get the Chinese visa you can go outside Macau and explore more of mainland China (outside the borders). You can also go to Hong Kong during the weekends when you are bored of Macau. The ferry only takes an hour.

Recommendation :

My opinion is that the studies at M.U.S.T are a bit too easy and the lectures are not so interesting which lower the motivation.

But if you are curious and want to know more about China, its culture and the people, you should really go to Macau.

I think it's important to be open minded and flexible when going to a new country, especially to a country like China. If you want to explore something new, I would truly recommend Macau.

Practical things to think about:

Be prepared of the moderate level of english speaking people. It's often hard to communicate with the Chinese people.

Chinese people are very curious about western people and they will sometimes treat you as a God.

General information about academia:

A big difference (which was not so appreciated) was that you have to attend almost all classes. You couldn't choose to study by yourself.

Another thing was that they require you to be active, raise your hand and ask questions during the lectures. The grade is partly based on this.

Courses attended

Course 1:

Fixed income securities.

The teacher couldn't speak English so I had to study this course totally by me own. Not so good. The content was still okey.

Course 2:

Human resources.

Boring lectures and too long (3 hours). The content was good but, according to me, taught in the wrong way.

Course 3:

Macroeconomics.

The best course that I chose. Good teacher and good teaching methods.

Course 4:

Performance appraisal and performance management.

The content was too easy, more like high school level.

Course 5:

Stress management.

Like the previous course, very low level of the content.

Additional Courses:

Business policy and strategic management.

The most workload of the courses I chose. A few presentations were included in this course which was good. The lectures were boring but the content was okey.

Did the university provide language courses? Could you receive ECTS points for them? What was your experience of such course?

Many students offered me Chinese lessons but I didn't have any points for that.

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