

**Destination:** Nanyang Technological University, Singapore  
**Exchange period:** VT 2015

**Choice of the destination and courses:**

Recommendations from friends from other Swedish universities.  
Good reviews online and ranking on university.  
New exchange agreement between Umeå University and Nanyang Technological University. Wanted to go to a english speaking country, and Singapore is a really central point for business in Asia.

**Describe shortly the preparation process before the departure:**

The travel was easy, I booked flight 2-3 months before the exchange semester started. The visa and application was easy, everything online with good information and help from host university. All information you needed was provided so the preparation process was easy. The travel to Singapore was long, about 16-17 hours flight when I travelled via London.

**Contact with receiving institution:**

The contact was good. Fast reply when asking questions and helpful information was given. Both before departure and when arriving I think the information and contact was good.

**Support from Umea University:**

Yes, international office gave me information in the beginning of the process when I was given the nomination for my host university. Later I was only getting help from the host university. I maybe think international office could after you exchange contact and se everything went well and give a reminder of apply for accreditation of grades from the exchange studies.

**Arrival information:**

It was one orientation day with information for the exchange students. Yes but the most of the information I already know before I arrived.

**Accommodation arrangements:**

I was lucky and got accommodation at campus. It was by far the cheapest alternative and you lived at campus so you were close to the school and the campus life. You met a lot of local students. You shared room with one other student, in my case student from Singapore. Good safety at the campus housing with security, store, food, restaurants etc.

**Transportation:**

Within university and at campus you can take free campus buses(Campus is quite big and when it's raining or hot you don't like to walk far. No bikes haha!). I walked or talk the bus at campus. When leaving campus and travelling to central Singapore or within Singapore(since it's a small country and big city at the same time) we took the MRT and buses. The transportation cost was cheap with MRT and bus, around 1-3 SGD approximately. During nighttime a taxi cost about 28 SGD(7 when you split

with 3 other friends) to get city to campus. I think it was much cheaper home to use public transportation or take a taxi.

**Budget:**

The cost is quite similar I think. You don't cook food, except breakfast maybe. The food at campus and in food courts is really cheap. Much cheaper than a cheap meal in Sweden when you want to have a lunch. Real restaurants in central Singapore with international food is similar to Sweden in prices. Transportation is cheaper. I had cheaper rent in Singapore than in Sweden, but renting an apartment in Singapore is more expensive than in Sweden when you are an exchange student. I think you have lower living costs in Singapore, but even lower if you travel to countries around Singapore i.e. Thailand, Indonesia etc.

**Social activities:**

Some organised exchange activities with local food and events etc. Also a lot of non-organised activities with other exchange students. Parties, travels, visiting parks, tourist attractions, hiking, IKEA-shopping, eating food, shopping, sport activities, beach time etc. A lot to do if you want to!

**Recommendation :**

Yes, absolutely!

**Practical things to think about:**

Don't take small courses to get the right amount of AU. I almost felt that there was as much to study and course work load in the courses of 2 AU as in the course of 4 AU. Maybe that's not correct for all courses. But I would recommend if possible to read one course of 4 AU instead of two courses of 2 AU if you don't have to.

**General information about academia:**

**Courses attended**

*Course 1:*

Conditioning for physical fitness.

*Course 2:*

Principles of economics

*Course 3:*

Revenue management

*Course 4:*

Fundamentals of management

*Course 5:*

Technical communication

*Additional Courses:*

Engineering communication I

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

No

**Name:** Josefine Stener

**E-mail address:** josefinestener@gmail.com

**Possibility of future contact:** Yes