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UQ Program: Bachelor of Arts

My semester on exchange in Singapore was a completely new and different experience for me, not only did I get the opportunity to undertake courses that I would not otherwise have the opportunity to study, but also to travel around Southeast Asia and meet local students as well as other exchange students from all around the world. As an archaeology student I was also interested in getting involved in anything archaeology-related and soon found myself volunteering in the archaeology facility at NUS as well as in a month-long excavation of ancient 14th century CE Singapore, which was a lot of fun as well as an opportunity to gain further archaeology experience. Being in Singapore for six months allowed me to get to know the local culture and explore the country and all it has to offer, including cheap food, convenient transportation, and a bustling nightlife. Singapore, apart from being an island of constant activity, is also in a great position for travel; during semester I travelled back and forth between Singapore and Malaysia; exploring places such as Melaka, Kuala Lumpur, Penang, and Seremban, as well as taking a trip to Thailand during the mid-semester break. After exams were over in December, instead of heading right back to Australia, I took the opportunity for further travel to Japan, Vietnam, and Cambodia. Overall, my exchange in Singapore was an eye-opening and rewarding experience, which I would not hesitate to do all over again.



Ladies night

My top 5 tips for exchange in Singapore:

Be open-minded and embrace the unique local culture – these are essential in order to fully appreciate your time in a country very different from home.

Do make an effort to get to know local students – it's a great way to really experience the Singaporean way of life.

Try out the hawker centres – cheap and awesome tasting food await!

Definitely visit the ethnic centres; Chinatown and Little India are a lot of fun to explore and provide a contrast to the huge shopping centres in Orchard Road.

Travel! – take advantage of Singapore's proximity to other countries as well as budget flights.