

Yang Shi: National University of Singapore (Semester 2, 2010)

UQ Program: Bachelors of Engineering/Commerce

Being able to experience a semester abroad has been a really rewarding opportunity and choosing Singapore was definitely the best option for me, and receiving the DEEWR grant has most certainly helped me financially. Not only have I proven that I can live independently but I have also learned to push the boundaries of my comfort zone. Singapore has the best of everything; delicious food from so many different surrounding regions, streets that are safe to walk in during the early hours of the morning, a really cheap and efficient public transportation system and great people who will lend a hand when they can.



Going on exchange near the end of my degree (Bachelor of Engineering/Commerce, 4th year) turned out to cause a little trouble and stress for finding suitable courses, however after much emailing, the approvals from both NUS and UQ came through allowing me to fill the study load requirement. I found class structures to be much the same as with UQ (2-3 hours of lectures and 1 hour tutorial a week per course). In comparison to UQ's Engineering courses, I found the level of difficulty about the same; however the amount of assessment was a little more than what I expected and with up to four pieces of assessment due in a week, stress levels got a little high. But thankfully, the local students were most happy to help with any troubles I had.

Of the offered accommodation options, I received yo:HA on Commonwealth (off-campus shared accommodation) where I lived with three roommates in a two bedroom flat. In the first few days, living so closely with three other people was definitely out of my comfort zone, but my housemates (all exchange students) were really easy to live with and the semester seemed to fly by.

With my roommates I went out and discovered Singapore, from Jalan Haji (a quaint boutique lane near the Arab quarters) to Pulau Ubin, a small island nearby where we hired bikes and went exploring for a day. And with my Singaporean friends I embraced the culture of eating, and as the food is insanely cheap at hawker stalls (about S\$2-4 a meal at uni and S\$3-6 out and about) how could I not? I recommend the grilled chicken set from the Indonesian stall at the Engineering canteen.

Some final tips: bring a light jacket if you're planning on going to the cinemas, the theatres can get freezing; beware the slippery floors around campus when it's raining (which is every second day) and try the delicious freshly made juices from any of the NUS canteens (I like strawberry and banana).

