Exchange Report

Introduction
I had my exchange in 2016 SP term at Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore. It is located in west Singapore (see the red dot on the left) with the Changi Airport at the other end (red dot on the right).

Preparation for exchange

Checking Graduation Plan, Knowing the Equivalent Courses at the Host University
Once you decide which school(s) to go for an exchange, here are the things you can get started to do. Firstly, you can complete the study-plan sheet(s) taken into consideration about your graduation plan – how many core courses and elective courses left and what they are. Also, what courses are they equivalent to at your desired university. Believe me, you will have a lot of questions about it, but since you are still here, you can get adequate help from our academic advisors, faculty staffs, international exchange office, and etc. Doing this will make your life much easier than you find out the problem while you are away.

Getting the Necessary Contact Information for Future Help
Still, there is a possibility that thing does not go smoothly like you planned. For example, at the point of enrollment, you find out the course(s) you like, mandatory for your graduation are not available for exchange students or all full. You may want to contact the academic advisor, who worked with you about your study-plan and know well about your graduation progress, to discuss the available options. Also, sometimes, NTU may require certain proof (e.g. this is the last term for this student and this course is required for his/her graduation) from your faculty.
**Packing Necessary Stuff Only**

I actually carried two large luggages with me towards NTU. I almost bring everything that may be useful for a daily life except kitchen stuffs. However, if I am going to NTU again, I will only bring one large baggage packed my personal stuffs, small pillow, bed sheets, pillow cases, two small blankets, and one laptop backpack packed my laptop and some important documents. For the rest, like shampoo, conditioner, soap... they are too heavy to carry, and you can get them at campus grocery stores (e.g. 7-eleven, Giant supermarket) or you can go out to shop at a mall by taking a campus free shuttle bus.

**Travel and Transportation**

![MRT and Bus Map]

Singapore’s transportation system is super convenient. MRT, like our Skytrain, covers most of the areas with its various lines (see the different colors), and there are bus interexchange nearby its most of the MRT stations. Ez-link card can be used to access to MRT and bus

**Financial Details**

Singapore is a credit card based society, I would say most of the commercial stores accept credit card. Others may prefer or require you to pay cash only, like some of the canteens on campus, and some small private grocery stores. The living cost compared to Vancouver is lower only if one is living on campus (S $1,080) and eat at campus canteens (S $2.5-5). Otherwise, it is same.
During Exchange

Arrival and orientation

I took a taxi to get Hall 10 Admin Office with two large baggage in my hand. It was January 6 at noon time, the staff in the Admin Office were out for their lunch break. During the waiting time, I also had my lunch at the next door canteen. The weather was hot and humid. I can barely breathe without air-condition during the first week. Around 2 o’clock, I received the keys (three in total, one for the door, one for window, another one for the little drawer inside the wardrobe). Orientation was on the next day of my arrival, Jan 7, after my breakfast, I went to the indicated lecture theatre. The orientation was well organized. It covered a lot of useful information, from local culture, weather, school life to health clinic, traveling tips, emergency contact information, and so on. I would say it is really deserved your time to be there.

Accommodation and Living

The Hall I was assigned is really beautiful and clean, with air-condition. We share pantry and bathroom, which are all kept in a very neat and clean condition everyday by the staff. I heard how clean Singapore is, but the Hall’s environment I was living in can be maintained so well is totally out of my expectation. Below is a Hall 10's picture.
**Academic Details**

NTU’s 1 academic unit is equal to SFU’s 1 academic unit as well, so no need to worry about the calculation of the unit ratio. The teaching style is very similar to SFU’s (at least to my faculty-Business). They have lectures, tutorials (group presentation and individual participation). The grade system is bell-curved across all the faculty or majors. Instructors are knowledgeable, approachable and caring for his/her students. Questions during the lectures or tutorials are encouraged. Further help is always available either right after the lecture or during instructors’ office hours.

**Country Information**

Singapore is a very international place. You can find people from all over the world and live in harmony. This is very similar to Vancouver. The only difference is Chinese people are the majority, who are very nice and can speak both English and Mandarin fluently. The weather at
Singapore is hot and humid. Rain comes quickly and goes quickly too. It is a small-sized country but very clean, organized, energetic, creative and safe.

**Activities:**

**Chingay Parade**

Every year around Chinese New Year, there is a national celebrating activity in Singapore called Chingay Parade, where Singaporeans from diverse backgrounds will come together to celebrate core values important to Singapore as they take the first step towards SG100. I see how nice people from different backgrounds can come and celebrate one thing that they all think it is important together: create a feeling of being united and sense of belonging.

**Reflection after Exchange**

This 4-month exchange experience gives me a lot. While I am there alone, I get lots of time to reflect what I have done so far, to listen others’ life stories, to watch local people’s daily routine life, and to understand other people’s perspectives. Just like the country Singapore, I want to be “internationalized” – to be open to people with various backgrounds and understand their perspectives instead of imposing my own perspectives on them, to become a platform that everyone feels comfortable to express their opinions to me without being judged but being respected and appreciated.

If you are planning on an exchange, it will be great. If you are planning on an exchange to Singapore, it will BE excellent. Singapore will surely bring your mind in a positive change, and this will further bring your life, your study, and your career in a positive change too.
Photos

My Marketing Lecture:

My Korean I class: classmates and instructor (In the middle with black dress)