

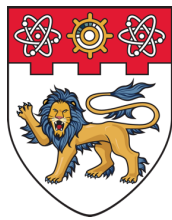


# **Nanyang Technological University**

Autumn 2017

Emilia Broman

In the fall semester (2017) I went on an exchange to Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. I had decided that I want to experience a totally different culture as far away from Finland as possible, so Singapore sounded like a suitable destination for me. NTU offered great courses in my study field, which made it even easier to decide to go on an exchange to Singapore.



**NANYANG  
TECHNOLOGICAL  
UNIVERSITY**  
**SINGAPORE**

I was lucky to get a shared room on campus, as this is the cheapest way of living in Singapore as an exchange student. The rent on the private market is skyhigh which does not make it suitable for a student. I lived together with another exchange student in a tiny room. Living in the same with a total stranger felt kind of weird in the beginning, but after a couple of weeks it was not weird anymore. The great things about living on campus were the cheap food and the free transportation to the different university buildings.

It was relatively easy to live cheaply in Singapore, as the food in the so called “Hawker Centers” or “Foodcourts” are very affordable and delicious. One of the things about Singapore that I will miss the most, is the fact that you don’t have to cook your food every day. I lived in a hall called “Hall 10” which consisted of several blocks of shared rooms with a shared kitchen and toilets for every floor. The kitchen was not meant for cooking, only for heating up instant noodles or making oatmeal if you are a Finn like me. You didn’t even have to heat up the water as there was boiling-hot water coming from a tap in the kitchen - how convenient.



NTU Hall 10

The NTU student organisations arranged all kinds of spare time activities for NTU students. There were different kinds of sport groups for almost any sport you can think of, and all the campus halls had their own teams for different sports, chess, dance etc.

Singapore is a great destination for people who like to travel. You can find a lot of cheap flights from Singapore to e.g. Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia etc. I tried to travel as much as possible when I was free from school work, as I wanted to learn as much as possible about the different Asian cultures and people.

I learned a lot during my exchange. Of course I learned a lot of stuff during my courses in NTU, but I have to say I learned the most during my travels. I have seen extreme poverty and extreme wealth side by side and I have realised how bad the conditions are for the people in some of the countries in Asia. I have learned to appreciate my own home country much more than I did before my exchange semester, even though there are several things from the Asian cultures that I will miss being back home.